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Canada, and so democratic in its construction that it is common knowledge that its ranks are filled with men who in very many cases can claim greater personal sacrifice in serving than their officers commanding. There is not the plea in this consideration of unequal compensation that an officer has been subjected to an expensive equipment or a life's training with the stiff competitive examinations hitherto existing in the regular service. A commission with its responsibility carries its daily reward. Why then the proposed discrimination in the matter of pension? In deciding this question of equal or unequal award which in its far reaching results is of momentous importance we must keep in view that they who have given and are giving so much which made a life worth living gave for the maintenance of justice and right, and we ask who are those who would discriminate with two standards of reward for the human wreckage which shall return to us and deny them at home what they fought for abroad? Is it forgotten that these badly wounded men, officer or private, belong to but one gallant brotherhood, which suffered voluntarily for a common cause? Their self-sacrifice was equal, the treatment they are to receive from their country should be the same.

FRANK LAWRENCE.

Pine Lake, Alta.

THE RURAL REVOLUTION

Boys' and girls' clubs in Manitoba are not a new thing, tho in truth they date but from yesterday. But it was a new thing for practically all the schools of a rural municipality as large as Rockwood to hold a joint gathering such as was held at the Gunton Consolidated School on Friday, September 29. Ten schools united. Three of these, Teulon, Gunton and Balmoral, are consolidated schools. Two others, Stonewall and Stony Mountain, have each several teachers, while the remaining five are one-roomed schools, viz., Tecumseh, Rockwood, Grassmere, Centre and Greenwood.

Movement's Rapid Progress

The boys' and girls' club movement in Manitoba is just about four years old. It embraced at the start some seven hundred pupils. With the furiosness of geometrical progression the number has doubled every year, indeed more than doubled, until there are now between 11,000 and 12,000 Manitoba boys and girls between 10 and 18 being educated in this way, namely, by doing things themselves. Thruout the province there are now about 120 annual fairs embracing an average of six or seven schools apiece.

Manitoba is just now in the season of these school fairs. What does it all mean and why was the minister of education moved to say, "A great object lesson and a great inspiration?" It means assuredly one of the biggest factors in the revolution in country life which is in strong ferment at the present time and which is vastly going to change conditions during the next quarter of a century.

Fundamental Factor

Consider the thing. Eleven or twelve thousand children in this one province, a number rapidly increasing, are being given or are gaining the greatest and highest interest in the soil that it is humanly possible to give or to obtain. They are being educated—as far as these boys' and girls' clubs go—thru the soil. They are getting training of eye and hand, the power of judgment, the discernment of the better and the best, good taste, patience and honesty, and other qualities almost indefinable, by and thru the resources of the home and place in which they were born and brought up. Agriculture, horticulture and livestock raising are being used as the means of their education.

This seems so simple a thing that to call it a revolution has an air of extravagance. Yet there is a fundamental spiritual change involved. Disguise it and conceal it as we may, there is today a deep-seated and wide-spread conviction abroad that the country does not offer the same life values as the city. No pious aspiring, no lecturing, or cudgelling, will alter the fact that young people are leaving the farms because they find more spiritual satisfaction in the towns and cities. It is the joy of living as they see it and feel it that attracts them to the large centres. And simply to write this attraction down as wholly evil is simply to beg the question.

School fairs are going to help materially in changing the present ill relation between



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