

THE O. A. C. REVIEW

"THE PROFESSION WHICH I HAVE EMBRACED REQUIRES A KNOWLEDGE OF EVERYTHING."

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A New Year's Message

By W. J. Black, Agricultural Commissioner

THERE is no higher form of service known to the human race than that in which an individual offers his life in support of the ideals of his country. In such service upwards of four hundred thousand Canadians have voluntarily enlisted. Others will follow. Until their great task is done and victory is complete, large responsibilities will rest on those who remain at home. Of these responsibilities the most important will be to see that adequate provision is made to deal justly and honourably with the men who are so gallantly fighting our battles and who, we hope, will be spared to return.

When peace comes, many, no doubt, will be quickly absorbed by the business life from which they came; others will have to make a new start. They all will deserve much at our hands; but few, doubtless, will expect more than a fair chance to make good. Fortunately that is the spirit of our best manhood at all times.

Apart from individual needs, which will be dealt with, our duty to the returned soldier can be discharged no more efficiently than by exerting our best efforts toward insuring a large degree of prosperity in Canada after the war. If there is a time in the affairs of men that leads to fortune, there is also a time in the progress of nations when the door of opportunity opens wider than usual. Indications point to that time being close at hand for Canada.

The part this country has taken in the war, not only in supplying men and munitions, but in producing for export large quantities of food supplies, has shown to all the world the boundless possibilities we possess. It is apparent on every hand that the end of the great struggle will see the beginning of a greater Canada—a country with its national ideals more fixed and apparent, and with a spirit that shall express itself in rapid industrial development and in educational and social advancement.

Looking forward, we see Agriculture pre-eminently the business of the nation. From the soil, our most valuable national storehouse, must be taken, mainly, the wealth that will be required to meet the country's obligations; but in order that the farming business may be as profitable as conditions warrant, and as the needs of the country demand, a higher standard of efficiency in farming operations must be attained. In meeting this need lies the great opportunity of those who today are privileged to study in the Schools and Colleges of Agriculture in the Dominion. The task of placing the basic industry of Canada where it belongs calls for the counsel and leadership of men trained to think, to organize and to direct. Efficiency will be the test of the future, but it will be efficiency for service.

There remains for those who, by reason of age or other cause, have not been able to respond to the call to arms, no