

siderably higher than can be paid by the farmer. We are an ambitious people, and unfortunately that ambition has largely turned towards dollars and cents; it is not well balanced. The get-rich-quick idea affects our youth as it does that in other countries.

These are digressions, but I have purposely introduced them that you may have a clearer view of what the conditions in agriculture have been and are to-day. My hope is that we are about to enter upon a new era in our agricultural life. The war has shown us many things and with respect to agriculture it is giving us saner, sounder views. It is impressing upon us as a people the dignity and high status of agriculture as an occupation—its vital importance to the stability of the country. We are coming to realize that it is "the source and foundation of our national strength". It may not be a calling that offers great monetary returns, compared with some other occupations, but it is one that will call forth all the intelligence and mental ability that a man has, no matter how clever he may be, and give him a healthy, wholesome life with a fair recompense, provided he applies himself intelligently to its problems. There are problems in soils and crops and livestock that require knowledge and thought as well as labour to solve. I know of no occupation that provides better opportunities, more scope, for study, clear thinking and successful action. Let it not be thought that the farming of the future will consist merely of hard, physical work (though there will always be plenty of that) indeed the most successful farmer to to-day is the one working on advanced and rational lines, and who is using his head more than his hands, proving, adopting and adapting to his own conditions the findings of science and experience. It is all this that the war is bringing home directly or indirectly to the people at large. Further, the war is making very clear the value of scientific research in Agriculture. Our governments are recognizing, as they have never done before, the importance, the vital importance of scientific work if real progress is to be made towards improving farming in all its phases and branches. The British government has been most active during the past two years in enlisting the assistance of the best scientific ability in the land. This is most hopeful; our Government will follow and we may confidently expect that in the next decade great strides will be made in the science of agriculture which must react beneficially on practical farming.

Very early in the history of the war it was foreseen that there would be an extraordinary tax on the supplies of food stuffs at the command of the Empire, and that every effort must be made not only in the home land, but in all the colonies to meet it. There is no necessity I am sure to enlarge on the reasons, the conditions, that led to the urgent and