

all honor our Alma Mater and feel proud of the fact that we have been tutored by these same men, and that we are connected in some small way with such an important national movement.

Because in production per man the Canadian farmer leads the world, the Allies expect food, and clothing in greater proportion than men and munitions, as our contribution to the cause of freedom and democracy. Our grain growers of the West and our stockmen of the East are second to none in the world. Truly the Canadian farmer has just cause to be proud of his occupation.

As far as the individual is concerned one man has as much right to go and fight as another, but when the welfare of the state is considered in order that national efficiency may reach the highest point, and that the State may put up the best possible fight, the man must make himself observant to the will of the State. Canada is being called upon as never before to produce the staples of the farm. If it is as necessary to produce as we believe, and as our Food Controller in this country believes,—and as the Food Controller in the country to the south of us believes, and as no less an authority than Lloyd George proclaims, then all the men who know from study and experience how to make the farm land produce, should not be classed as "Slackers." We have no use for the individual who will stay at some work other than farming up till the last minute and then pose as a farmer or farm laborer to escape military service. But this much is certain—an army cannot fight unless it eats—and if it is for the country's welfare that the farmer stays on the farm to produce, he should be given credit for doing a national service.

Practical farmers have heard much about taking the men off our farms and replacing them with men physically un-

fit for military service, with women, with the boys and girls of our cities; but farming is a man's job and cannot be carried on by our old men, by our women and by our boys. The long battle which lasts from spring till fall, from 5 o'clock in the morning till 8 o'clock at night, is not a job for the physically unfit man. The long strain has broken down many of our strongest men. It is a battle in which the individual and not the battalion or division fights an untiring foe, a battle that takes more courage and staying power than the battlefield, because in farming there is not the cheery voice of the comrade or the bravery born of numbers to help the farmer. He must fight it out alone.

When the Government first considered conscription of labor for farms, the organized labor bureaus immediately sent a deputation to Ottawa to express their disapproval of such a scheme. Why did they do it? They did not want to be forced to work the long hours under the same conditions and for the small salary the farmer receives, even when it was a patriotic work, and when no physical danger was attached to it. This clearly shows that the city man is not any readier to make sacrifices for his country than is the farmer.

Although the present war has clearly demonstrated the value of the private soldier and the farmer to their country, the old antipathy felt for them before the war still exists in too large a degree. How often have we seen our returned men who have given their best that we might enjoy the freedom of Canadians, men without a V.C. or D.S.O., also without an arm or a leg—men who were sacrificed before they had time to distinguish themselves or win their commission on the battlefield, real heroes every one of them—how often have

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