

### A Profitable Form of Patriotism

T. G. Raynor, B.S.A., Seed Division, Ottawa

OUR papers these days are full of war news. Although very little of what is really happening on the field of carnage filters through, yet the daily press makes the most of the few cablegrams in enlarged headlines and columns of imagination, purely the invention of the newspaper editors. How eagerly all this dope is read and commented upon each of us know from experience, for most of us are guilty of paying more attention to the daily papers than is really wise and profitable when there is so much good reading matter going to waste—in the farm and religious papers, for instance. It is the old story of losing the substance by grabbing at the shadow.

There is one thing that the war is doing, much as it is to be deplored, and that is, it is demonstrating to-day as never before the practical brotherhood of man. How everyone seems to be vying with another to see how much they can spare this year for the comfort and aid of those in distress and need! This is as it should be. It is commendable in the race. It is one of the fruits of the principles taught by the church which has seeped into fraternal societies and has even got out in a large measure into the world practice to-day.

#### Patriotism and Seed

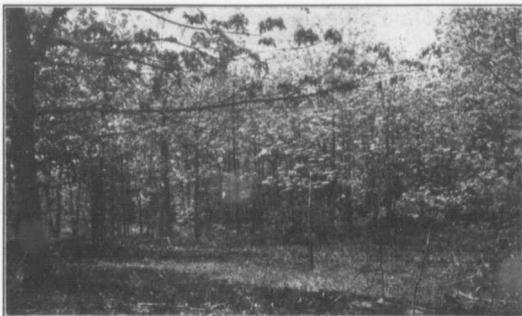
There is another form of patriotism, however, that attention may be called to, and that is that while many are going to the front, it is necessary that many stay by the goods and provide for the wants of those who are fighting for our liberties. Have the farmers thought, especially those who are growing field roots and large vegetables, that their supply of seed which is largely produced by many of the countries at war, is likely to be almost entirely cut off? Germany, France and Belgium gave us these seeds. Now we will have to look elsewhere for our supply. May we not get this supply at home if we try? I believe it to be quite possible. Of course the supply for next year 1915 is practically assured. It is already in the hands of dealers. But the crop of 1916 must be provided for. Just now the Seed Branch in the Department of Agriculture is trying to get a number of farmers who have mangled this year to save a quantity of their half-grown or less in size roots, pit them for storage, with a view of planting them next spring as early in April or May as possible in hills three feet or more apart each way, and cultivate them as they would corn.

The yield of seed per acre ranges from 500 pounds to 1,000 pounds, and the obtainable price will be about 12 cts. a pound from the dealers, plus a subvention from the Government of three cts. a pound, or 15 cts. a pound in all. Home-grown seed as compared with foreign-grown seed is very much better in vitality, so that much less seed per acre will be required. In Canada it is estimated that we will want about 500,000 pounds of seed. This will need a planting of 1,000 acres. Who will be patriotic enough to grow an acre or so? Seed has been and is being successfully grown in Ontario. The Long Red and Yellow Intermediate are the varieties the Seed Branch recommends to be saved and planted.

#### Plowing to Control Army Worm

By G. H. Lamson, Entomologist

WHERE the succession of crops permits, fall plowing will be particularly advantageous this fall, as it will destroy large numbers of insects that do damage to staple crops. Cut worms, corn earworms, may beetles, click beetles (the adults of the wire worms), grasshoppers, and army worms will be greatly reduced in numbers by fall plowing. This is accomplished by turn-



The Bad Results of Grazing are Here Made Manifest

In the foreground of the picture a wire fence has been erected. The one side has been grazed clean, while on the other ungrazed side the good reproduction to be noted further back has sprung up.

—Cut courtesy Canadian Forestry Journal

ing out those insects at a crucial stage of development and exposing them to the frosts and rains or in breaking open the cells in which they are transforming.

Late fall plowing is best, but early fall plowing followed by a thorough harrowing will be helpful in controlling these insects. This is good practice each year, but it is especially recommended this fall in view of the presence of an unusual number of "white grubs" in the soil and the fact that the army worm has been so numerous during the summer. Since the natural enemies of the army worm increase with the increase of the pest, it is not usual for this pest to be as destructive the following year; yet it would be advisable for farmers to take every precaution with a view to subduing this insect.

#### The Importance of Good Seed

A PROMINENT winner of crop competition and seed grain awards at Canadian fairs is Mr. Jno. McDiarmid of Lucknow, Bruce Co., Ont. Mr. McDiarmid writes Farm and Dairy of his methods of seed selection as follows:

"It is of the utmost importance in the first place to select a good variety of grain for seed, a variety with good straw and that has proved to be a good yielder. I have used the same variety, Abundance, the last six years, and I think it is improving every year. In cleaning my seed I use a long-meshed screen that takes out all small grain. I sow nothing but the large grain. By so doing I get a stronger plant, which will stand more drought. I treat my seed for smut every year, and I know it pays well, for I get better crops.

"I have won first prize in the field crop competition four years in succession, and never was outside the money since the first time I competed eight years ago. I have also won on the grain at Toronto, Guelph, and Ottawa several times. I have sown seed oats every year for the last six years, some of which was shipped 160 miles. I have always received a good price.

"Mr. J. Lockie Wilson deserves the thanks of the farmers of Ontario for inaugurating the field crop competitions in connection with the agricultural societies of this province. I believe it has done more to introduce good, clean seed than anything else. I know it has paid me well for all extra work in selection and preparing the land."

The fall is a busier season than it used to be, and it is not always possible to get all of the work done on the land that we would like. We should aim, however, to get a maximum amount of work in conditions considered.

#### More Fall Work on the Land

J. T. B., Brant Co., Ont.

I DON'T believe that land can be worked too much for the good of the land and for the crop that follows. We must, however, consider profits, and the best farmer is the one who gives his land a maximum amount of work that at the same time is profitable. It is out of the question to give land as much work as it can profitably take in the spring of the year, and I have come to make more and more strenuous efforts to get the most of my work on the soil during the fall.

I find that it costs me at least \$80 to maintain a horse for a year. They must be kept constantly busy if they are to be made to return that \$80 to the farm. This is one of the things that I attain by making a speciality of fall work. My soil is a heavy loam that responds well to work in the fall. Of course on very light soils it might be advisable to leave the soil in sod until spring to avoid erosion.

When I first came on the farm the land was very weedy, and I adopted after-harvest cultivation as a method of clearing out the weeds. Just as soon after harvest as the land could be plowed I turned it over, worked down with a disc harrow and then allowed the weeds to grow. I alternately plowed and disked and allowed weeds to grow right up to the freezing weather. Now that the farm is practically clean I do not plow so early. I prefer to allow a good aftermath to grow and turn this in for humus. After plowing I roll and then harrow. Plowing in itself is not enough. There is too much moisture lost.

#### Preparation of Root Land

Land that is intended for roots the next year, I have for four years made a practice of working thoroughly with disk and drag harrows in the fall and then running it into ridges about 29 inches wide with a double-mould board plow. Such ridging gives the frost of winter an exceptional opportunity to get in its work, raking the soil friable and, I believe, making plant food more available.

Last spring I had a fine example of the value of the same kind of work on land intended for small grains. As all will remember who live in this county, we had a very wet spring. I had one field ridged up and when the rain did cease for a time the ridges dried out very quickly. I ran the spring tooth harrow crosswise of the ridges, drawing the dry soil into the furrows between and had a nice dry seed bed already for the seed drill. My oats were in the ground a couple of weeks earlier than they otherwise would have been, and the result of this early planting was very evident in the superior yield of grain this fall.

## Dairy F

MIDDLESEX Ontario but it is on the way. admirably as a home is good and corn and a growing local products in the city of There are several excellent factories in the county farmers in every part made dairying their their reward.

When in London I wheeled out to visit dairymen who are doing is a profit making. The 150-acre farm of visited. Mr. Byers the time, but Mrs. information. In this in the home block have been purchased are milked. Mr. By other city milkmen, of buying cows to however, he has found secure good cows at he has started to breed from his best cows, of his choice.

In the Dairy A visit to the big barn revealed that admirably equipped the production of clean milk and the comfortable and sanitary housing of the stock. There were tie-ups for 25 cows in two rows facing each other. Although space devoted to window space would have been sufficient to satisfy a rigid inspection, the interior was glistening with white wash, while in part used for the window space. Of the easy carrying of the removal of manure was the 40-feet which Mr. Byers cleans annually. The milk way to a solution with machine with equipment at a time.

Mr. Byers is living the present farm is two generations. W



More Subst Buildings such as the than elsewhere. Mr.