

FARM BULLETIN.

War Comment.

By Peter McArthur.

During the first weeks of the war I was often annoyed by the lightness with which many people regard it. Wherever I went I found it used as the theme for jokes and idle comments which seemed to me inhuman. But on second thought I am inclined to think it is a wise provision of nature that denies the majority of us the necessary imagination to realize the awfulness of disasters that do not immediately concern us. The work of the world must go on, and the outlook would be much darker if it were not that in spite of the terrible war most of the people have their minds centered on their daily round of duties, and are busy with the crops that will provide food for another year. By the fact that they are not overwhelmed by what is in progress the workers will continue to produce necessary things, and in the end their work will be as valuable to the Empire as that of the soldiers who are going out to fight. Still I think it would do no harm if we all tried to understand more fully the calamity that has befallen us. If we would take the trouble to interpret the war news we read so eagerly into its hideous facts it would have a sobering effect on even the most frivolous. It stirs our blood to read of deeds of heroism and gallant charges by the soldiers fighting in our defence, and the list of the killed and wounded means little. We read over the numbers lightly without realizing the tragedies hidden by a little statement of fact. Few of us have missed knowing what it means to lose someone who is near and dear to us—someone who was cut off in the bloom of youth rather than in the fullness of years. Then why not stop to realize that every death caused by war means a home somewhere that has been desolated. We know the suffering and sorrow caused by one death in our own immediate circle, and should try to understand that almost every day that suffering and sorrow has been brought to thousands of homes by the war. The young men who are being slaughtered—and they are almost all young men in their twenties—are leaving parents, brothers and sisters and sweethearts who mourn them even as we have mourned those whom we have lost. The "5,000 killed" that we read off so glibly means as much sorrow as if one son in every family of a city of twenty-five thousand had been cut off in one day. If you add to this the fact that fully as many more have been horribly wounded and probably crippled for life you can get some faint idea of the accursedness of war. Just try to realize what a city of sorrow it would be that had suffered such an affliction, and you can understand better the misery entailed by even the most glorious victory. I can see nothing to joke about in war.

It is not often that a prophet lives to see his predictions verified, but we now have abundant evidence that Mr. Norman Angell was right when he argued that war is "The great illusion." He said that a war would mean ruin to both victors and vanquished, and already ruin is in sight. No matter who wins, the European civilization that has been evolved through centuries of effort is a thing of the past.

"The pride and pomp of yesterday
Are one with Nineveh and Tyre."

When the war is over the impoverished nations will have to begin the work of civilization over again. Judging from a recent interview Mr. Angell does not take any pride in his indication, but foresees greater disasters:

"In three months from now the democracies of Europe will be crying out for a return to normal conditions. The war fever will have spent itself. The war lords will be confronted by their outraged and maddened victims. What will they answer? Men will want work, they will want wages, they will want food. Europe will ask for these things, and the war lords will be driven to answer. Which of them, with all his wisdom and strength, will be able to restore three centuries of human progress? Normal conditions! These normal conditions are the fruit of 300 years of evolution, 300 years of normal and intellectual evolution—a labor not of yesterday nor of pigmies. Destroy normal conditions and you destroy to-day, yesterday, and all the yesterdays of European civilization. Expect, then, a bewildering to-morrow.

"Armaments have broken the back of the laborer; and with the fall of the laborer all things fall, all things come to earth. Because of the war lords, and only because of the war lords, the man of science is paralyzed, and civilization stops. Humanity has been fooled. Too late it discovers it.

"Remember this, too. Among the young conscript soldiers of Europe who will die in thousands, and perhaps millions, are the very flower of civilization; we shall destroy brains which might

have discovered for us in ten or twenty years easements for the worst of human pains and solutions for the worst of social dangers. We shall blot those souls out of our common existence. We shall destroy utterly those splendid burning spirits reaching out to enlighten our darkness. We are destroying the brightest of our angels."

Elsewhere in his interview he describes the war as one with "everybody fighting and nobody wanting to fight." That is really the most hopeful feature of the situation, though Mr. Angell does not develop it. When peace comes the war lords will have to deal with a be-fooled people who are not the ignorant serfs who formerly were used as "food for powder." The schoolmaster has been abroad in the world, and the men to whom the war lords will have to answer will be educated men, who know their rights and will insist on justice. Whether they win or lose the pretensions of the war lords will be found out and the war lords must go. The massed intelligence of the common people will reveal itself, and though the price that is being paid for freedom is terrible a wider freedom than the world has yet known seems the inevitable outcome.

At the present time the cities of Canada are acquitting themselves nobly in contributing to the Red Cross and Patriotic funds. Arrangements are being made to carry the campaign into the country, and I hope the farmers will rise to the occasion. I wish particularly to commend to their generosity the Red Cross fund. This should appeal to everyone, whether they are in favor of the war or not. Its purpose is to care for the sick and wounded without distinction of nationality. Try to realize what it would mean if someone dear to you were lying wounded and mangled on the field of battle. The money you contribute will send surgeons and nurses into the hell of war to relieve suffering and save what may be saved of the human wreckage. No matter what may be your opinion of this war in which "nobody wants to fight," your heart should go out in sympathy to its victims. During the next few days you will probably have an opportunity to give, and all should give to the utmost of their power. If we cannot stop war we must do all we can to relieve the misery it causes. Give! Ekfrid, September 2nd, 1914.

Rains Have Done Good in Ontario County.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The summer of 1914 has been very dry and most of the grain was put in the barn in very nice condition, but the few who were late found it impossible to get the harvest in in anything except a wet state, and consequently it is badly damaged. The recent rains have been much appreciated. It is surprising the amount of feed that has come on the pastures, which are surely making up for lost time. The writer's cows, which before the rain would eat up the corn given them clean, now refuse to little more than touch it. Grain of all kinds is turning out remarkably well, although the straw is short. Several car-loads of baled planer shavings have been shipped to the district to use as bedding instead of straw, one of the largest dairy farmers of the district has used three car-loads and is quite pleased with them, claiming they keep the stable quite sweet and will absorb the liquid satisfactorily. When asked as to the effect on the soil he said he believed clay soil would be benefited to some extent, and thought no serious results would come from using on sandy soil.

Corn is looking remarkably well, and mangels and turnips are growing rapidly; a few of the latter were injured by grasshoppers.

The southern part of the country experienced a visit from the army worm, and where the worm did show up there was no doubt of its visit, it did its work well.

Apples will be at least an average crop, the dry weather caused some to fall, but unless something unforeseen occurs the fruit will be unusually free from blemish.

The horse market is rather depressed. It was thought the extra demand that would be created by the need of army horses would stiffen prices generally, but buyers did not pay fancy prices, and we cannot see any tendency to a higher price.

A keen demand is made on seed fall wheat. Each and every one thinks it necessary to help supply the needs of the British soldier.

Ontario Co., Ont. F. H. Westney.

British Live Stock Notes.

"The Farmer's Advocate" is in receipt of advice from Hickman & Scruby, Court Lodge, Egerton, Kent, live stock exporters that although the export of live stock from Great Britain has been prohibited, this order does not apply to pure-bred, pedigreed stock which can be exported by special license.

The Fourth Dominion Conference of Fruit Growers.

Fruit growers from all parts of Canada met at the Fourth Annual Conference, at Grimsby, Ontario, on September 2nd, 3rd and 4th. It had been generally expected that the Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, would preside over the conference sessions, but owing to the extreme pressure brought to bear upon the cabinet by the conditions existing throughout the British Empire, he was unable to fulfill his presidential duties. However, the conference had the pleasure of his company at one of the sessions, when he delivered an inspiring address relative to the fruit-growing industry and the duties devolving upon Canadians in this trying time. Under the guidance of Dan. Johnson, Dominion Fruit Commissioner, many important matters pertaining to the welfare of the industry from the Atlantic to the Pacific were thoroughly discussed. The sessions of the first day were devoted to a discussion of Transportation as applied to Fruit, which was led by Geo. E. McIntosh, Traffic Expert of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association; to an examination of the cold-storage warehouse recently erected by the Dominion Government, and to a discussion of Pre-cooling fruit led by J. A. Ruddick, Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa. Mr. Ruddick gave a clear and concise explanation of the Gravity Brine and Mechanical Systems of Refrigeration, pointing out the more important features of each system. In referring to the cold storage plant at Grimsby, the Commissioner pointed out that the objects in view were to illustrate the Gravity Brine system of refrigeration; to illustrate and demonstrate the value of pre-cooling of fruit and that the Cold Storage Branch was now given the opportunity to conduct experiments in the storage, packing and shipping of fruits. The warehouse, in charge of Mr. Smith, has already handled and tested the following fruits: strawberries, cherries, gooseberries, blueberries, blackberries, early varieties of apples as well as tomatoes.

The second day of the conference was devoted to a motor ride through the famous Niagara fruit belt, and was one of the most pleasant, interesting and instructive features of the conference. The Inspection and Sale Act, and the standardization of packages formed the subjects of discussion on the closing day.

The following is the Report of the Committee on the Inspection and Sales Act, which was passed at the Fruit Growers' Conference:—

1. That fruit districts in the different provinces shall be divided into sections.
2. That a sufficient number of inspectors shall be appointed so that each inspector shall have a certain section under his charge, so that he may be enabled to make at least weekly visits, and when instruction is required to either impart such instruction himself or, when time does not permit, that he be authorized to employ for such purpose and such time as may be required, a competent assistant.
3. That in all cases when the pack is not consistent with the Fruit Marks Act, the offender, after receiving not more than one warning, or when it may be deemed advisable by the inspector to allow the offender to grade his fruit down, that on every occasion when the warning is not heeded the full penalty of the law be inflicted, and for every additional offence the fines be inflicted in accordance with the law.
4. That all packers and shippers of fruit be compelled to register with the Chief Inspector of the Division in which he resides.
5. Ever since the coming into force of the Fruit Marks Act there has been a growing desire for some kind of report of the result of inspection which could be used as an assurance to the purchaser that the fruit in that shipment which had been inspected was up to the standard of the Fruit Marks Act. We recommend that so far as the plan can be worked out without injury to the work of inspection that such certificate of inspection be given to shippers requesting same; such certificate to be plainly stamped or printed in such a way as to indicate that it only applies to the packages inspected which may, if found desirable, be stamped "inspected" on such parts of package as seem likely to best serve as an intimation that such package had been inspected.

Among the resolutions passed were the following:—

That the Department of Agriculture should take the necessary steps to keep Canadian growers in closer touch with the importers of fruit, if necessary by the appointment of special commissioners, in Great Britain, Europe, South America, Australia and South Africa; and that the Department should set aside a sum of money for trial shipments on a commercial scale for the development of additional markets.

That whereas, certain countries require, either by law or custom, that fruit imported be contained in packages of a fixed size, thereby pre-