

KEEP THE COLLEGES FULL

One of the effects of the war has been to seriously reduce the number of graduates turned out by our universities and colleges. The military spirit has run high amongst students with the result that enlistment has been very heavy. With such an urgent demand for men this has been looked upon by many without concern or even with satisfaction. Suggestions have even been that some of our colleges should be closed until after the war. The shortsightedness of such a course and the necessity of a country at war refraining from depleting the ranks of its students to too great an extent has been well pointed out by President Wilson. In a recent letter to Secretary Lane he says:

"It would seriously impair America's prospects of success in this war if the supply of highly trained men were unnecessarily diminished. There will be need for a larger number of persons expert in the various fields of applied science than ever before. Such persons will be needed both during the war and after its close. I therefore have no hesitation in urging colleges and technical schools to endeavor to maintain their courses as far as possible on the usual basis. I would particularly urge upon the young people who are leaving our high schools that as many of them as can do so avail themselves this year of the opportunities offered by the colleges and technical schools, to the end that the country may not lack an adequate supply of trained men and women."

The conservation of student resources is still more imperative in Canada than in the United States. Our war efforts will have been comparatively greater and in the industrial struggle that will succeed the war we shall face greater difficulties owing to our less advanced stage of development. The demand for trained men in all lines of endeavor will become increasingly urgent. In no branch of national activity will the need for experts be greater than in agriculture. On agriculture the greater share of maintaining the war and of recuperating from its effects must neces-

sarily fall. On our agricultural efficiency, therefore, we must largely depend. Our agricultural colleges will soon be enrolling their students for another year. Everything possible should be done to encourage all that can be spared to attend the agricultural courses. The extension of the district representative or county agent system, the plans for the education of returned soldiers for settlement on the land, the extension of agricultural work generally and most of all the need for more specially trained men on the land requires that the agricultural colleges be kept running to capacity. Urge the boys to attend.

A DEPLORABLE ELECTION ASPECT

One of the most deplorable aspects of so many Canadian elections is the bitter appeals to racial and religious prejudices and provincial partisanship. If Canada really is a nation and desires to continue as a united confederation, the direct attempts that are so frequently made at election time to set one part of the country directly against another ought to cease. Far too few seem in the heat of an election to be able to give the other man credit for any honesty of thought and purpose, and race hatred, recriminations, the vilest of epithets, etc., are hurled at one another in a manner that would not even be becoming to a drunken street brawl. In 1911 a disgraceful exhibition of this spirit permeated a large section of Canada. Canadians who favored freer trading relations with a neighboring country and the building up of a more friendly feeling between English speaking nations, for so reciprocity must have resulted, were vilified in a most insulting fashion by part of the opposing press and speakers. The seeds of discord were also sown in a most blatant fashion in Quebec and part of the whirlwind is now being reaped. Even provincial politics and election decisions have been pervaded by

the cry of race animosities for no purpose but the acquisition of temporary power. It is disgraceful that the true opinion of the people of this country cannot be registered without appealing to the baser emotions, without setting province against province and neighbor against neighbor, without petty political truckling. Why cannot our appeals be made on a lofty and more reasonable plane, in a manner becoming to citizens imbued with a true national spirit? Already this dangerous appeal to prejudice has begun and it promises to be carried on with a rancor never before approached in this country. Let us stop and think where much of this may lead us. By setting a high standard of thought and discussion we need not discount our arguments in the slightest, indeed an appeal should be the more forceful to all of the best Canadians. A great issue, rather great issues, are at stake, but these will not be magnified or diminished in the slightest by the base appeals with which they will be supported or discounted by some sections of the press or by some public speakers. Let us view this matter as reasonable and patriotic citizens, not as sowers of gross discord, and we will not be sorry for it in future.

Sir Joseph Flavelle recently gave the Toronto Canadian Club a lecture on the extravagant use of food. Judging by the cost of living commissioner's report, Sir Joseph knew something about what he was talking.

In Canada the parcels post system is restricted to 11 pounds, in the United States to 50 pounds, in New Zealand to 28 pounds, and in some other countries as high as 200 pounds.

An extension of the parcels post system in Canada is one of the very greatest needs of the country.



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