



LII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JANUARY 25, 1917.

1270

EDITORIAL.

Let our governments show the way in thrift and saving.

Fewer luxuries and more universal service are needed this year.

The cards have been filled in and the country is ready for the next move.

He who would have a fertile farm in years to come will retain his live stock now.

He who would run away to another country and shirk his clear duty at this time is a coward.

Some seem to think that national service means making more money at the expense of the country.

The man who quibbles over signing his service card surely doesn't understand what is at stake in the great struggle.

It is the *small* man who generally thinks his own work most important and fails to recognize the efforts of others.

Averaged results in experimental work are not always so important as individual results based on soil, cultivation, fertilizing, etc.

The Entente note to President Wilson should convince the neutral world that the Allies are fighting for democracy—aye, for humanity.

The young farmer of to-day is seeking practical information as evidenced by the large number attending the various Short Courses at the O. A. C.

"Whip's" articles on the common diseases of the various classes of live stock are worth preserving. See what he says about sheep in this issue.

The Dairymen's Association make their programs for makers and factorymen and then wonder why farmers do not turn out to meetings and become members.

The problem of the producer cannot be solved by exhortation. We agree with Prof. Day when he says that helpful information is needed, not city-made advice.

Party politicians have not lost their "pep", but their platitudinous palaver has lost its old-time persuasive power when it falls upon the ears of the thinking people of the present day.

While Big Business builds up reserve funds and busies itself to cover up profits, those engaged in it are asking the common people to save. As a general thing the latter, after getting a fair living, have little left to save.

Hurrah! Thirty-two girls in a Western Ontario town cultivated a plot of potatoes 32 feet by 33 feet last season. The problem of agricultural production is solved. At this rate it would take 1,312 girls to work an acre and 131,200 to work a hundred-acre farm.

The Farmer has Stood for Much.

The Canadian farmer, if he were not a forbearing creature, would have long ago risen in wrath and rattled together the empty pates of a number of city blather-skites whose tongues waggle from platform to platform about the little the farmer is doing to win this war.

At the Dairymen's Convention, recently held in Napance, Ont., A. A. Ayer, a Montreal cheese exporter, made some statements which ill became him, but we take it that intelligent farmers are beginning to look upon such as this man more with pity than with anger. The rural community says of such: "Oh well! He doesn't know any better, poor fellow!"

Listen to this from Mr. Ayer's address: "It is the shedding of blood which is bringing wealth to the farmer with comparatively little extra expense to him. . . . I am afraid the farmers of Canada do not realize how little they have done for the war and that while every other class of people with the exception of the farmers and day laborers have been taxed, they have been left severely alone and not had to bear hardly any part of the financial burden".

After getting much of this piffle out of his system Mr. Ayer exhorted farmers to work harder and longer hours, and his address throughout was one long diatribe against the farmer and laboring man.

The only regret the Canadian farmers have at this time is that they cannot do more to help the war. Intensive farming is impossible with the men at the front. And who are these men? Of those who were Canadian born a very large proportion were born on the farm, and if they did enlist from cities to which they had gone before the war, because of inducements held out by protected industry, they were none the less sons of the farm. Then, too, every country community has sent of its best, and the homes and districts from which they have gone are deserving of no such slurs as the magnate from Montreal passed out to them. To hint that the Canadian farmer is making capital out of the spilling of his fellow countrymen's life blood is going a bit too far. To say that the farmers do not realize how little they are doing is nonsense. They would like to do more, but they have done well. To ask them to work harder and longer hours is ridiculous. We would like to see Mr. Ayer doing the work of the average farmer at these times. He would know more in a few years than he now appears to. And when it comes to taxes, the farmer has always carried more than his share of the burden and is doing so again. We would like to see Mr. Ayer compare the returns from the average 100-acre farm last year with those from the same amount of money invested in big city business.

Just one thing more. Why do audiences composed, at least partly, of farmers swallow in silence such insulting slush?

Cut Out the Luxuries.

No distinct line of demarcation can be drawn between what are known as luxuries and what the people call necessities, but there are so many apparently unnecessary things purchased in these times of affluence to the few and crisis to all that speakers are beginning to make the cutting down of luxuries the keynote of their addresses. Strange to say, many of these addresses are directed at the farmer and the laboring man, the two classes who spend least upon luxuries. We have heard of newly rich munitions makers buying \$1,000-diamond rings for Christmas presents, and of others purchasing expensive limousines and touring cars for the same purposes, but we have not heard of any farmers doing anything of the sort on last year's returns. True, many farmers have purchased cars, but most of them have been of low-priced models and on the whole the country districts show more evidences of thrift and economy than do the cities. The laborer goes to the

picture show and there his luxury ceases, for it takes the bulk of his earnings to live, even though he is getting a scale of wages beyond that which the farmer can pay. Let us all start to save. Let the governments show the way, the cities follow, and the country districts cut down as far as possible. Men by the thousands are working at the making of luxuries, when they should be doing more important work on necessities at this time. While some buy more luxuries than others, now is a good time for all to do without those things not absolutely needed. Extravagance is rampant in the cities and even the country people could do without some things which they are buying freely. Eliminate the luxuries and help win the war.

Athletics and Physical Development.

Athletics as a means of developing the human race are all right so far as they go, but they can never do the greatest good to those who need physical development most. It is because of this fact that many favor universal military training in schools and colleges. The boy or man who plays baseball, football, lacrosse, basketball, hockey and the more strenuous games is not the sickly fellow with narrow chest, lack of muscular stamina, and all-round deficient constitutional development. Athletics are for the strong, the robust, those bubbling over with pent-up reserve force, while the weakly boy whose physical condition would be improved by games stands on the sideline and "roots" for his home team. Those who get the most good out of games are those who take part and those who take an active part are comparatively few. The school has a ball team, but it represents only a few of those in attendance. It may have a track team, but only one in ten can run fast enough to get a place on it, and thus ultimately benefit from it. The boy or girl not proficient at sport does not get into it, therefore athletics do not accomplish much for those who need their benefit most. Something is needed to take in all and particularly those who hang back a little from games and it is for these that certain people advocate some sort of training to "set the children up" in their early days. Unless play or sport can be so organized along the lines suggested in a recent issue by Alex MacLaren of the O. A. C. so as to take in all, those proficient and those who are backward in athletics, it cannot do the greatest good to those who need physical development most. These things are worth thinking over.

Average Results Not Enough.

Experimental work in agriculture on a large or small scale can never be completed. One experiment leads on to many others year after year, and so new avenues for excellent and valuable work are ever opening up. Our experimental stations have done and are doing much valuable research work in the finding of new varieties and new methods in crop production. The Experimental Union has carried out, over this province, more than eighty thousand distinct experiments and it all has worked for a bigger and better agriculture. The Ontario Agricultural College Experimental Department has originated varieties of barley, oats, spring rye, wheat and other crops which have meant many millions to this province annually, because, after originating them, they assisted in disseminating them through the "Union" over the province. And so the good work goes on. We cannot help thinking, however, that average results of experiments are not always most valuable. Reports sent in by the "Union" members are all averaged together for each experiment, and the results are tabulated according to averages. It is a well-known fact that a variety which does best under a certain set of conditions will not do at all under other conditions. Soil, climate, fertility, variety, fertilizer, etc.—these are all contributing factors. With fertilizer experiments