

JUNE 18, 1914

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

1178a

To-Day.

We shall do so much in the year to come,

But what have we done to-day?
We shall give our gold in a princely sum,

But what did we give to-day?
We shall lift the heart and dry the tear,
We shall plant a hope in the place of fear,
We shall speak the words of love and cheer—

But what did we speak to-day?

We shall be so kind in the after-a-while,
But what have we been to-day?
We shall bring to each lonely life a smile,

But what have we brought to-day?
We shall give to truth a grander birth,
And to steadfast faith a deeper worth,
We shall feed the hungering souls of earth—

But, whom have we fed to-day?

We shall reap such joys in the by and by,

But what have we sown to-day?
We shall build us mansions in the sky,
But what have we built to-day?
'Tis sweet in the idle dreams to bask,
But here and now we do our task,
Yes, this is the thing our soul must ask:

"What have we done to-day?"

—Selected.

The Modern "Seven Wonders of the World."

According to a vote recently taken by a magazine, the greatest scientists accord to the wireless the enviable position of being first of the modern seven wonders of the world. Following it come the telephone, the aeroplane, radium, antiseptics, and antitoxin, spectrum analysis and the X-ray.

This order was evolved from nearly seven hundred replies from as many noted men of science in various countries. Wireless received 244 votes, as against 185 for the telephone, its nearest rival. The X-ray received 111, although 100 were cast for the Panama Canal.

This list is interesting when compared with that made up by Antipater, the Baedeker of Sidon, some two centuries before Christ.

He heads his selection of wonders of the world he knew with the Pyramids. Following these come the famous Pharos lighthouse at the entrance of Alexandria harbor, the hanging gardens of Babylon, the statue of Jupiter by Phidias, the mausoleum of Artmeisia and the Colossus of Rhodes.

Of the seven wonders of the modern world, all are of incalculable benefit to man; all mark great steps forward in his march of triumph.

A comparison with the ancient list is an eloquent demonstration that the advance of the race has been along the lines of the greatest good for the greatest number. Luxury was the password of the ancients, usefulness that of the present.—Onward.

The Roundabout Club.

My Friend the Lumberman.

Written for Study IV., by
"Taps", Wentworth Co., Ont.

"What is the charm of the lumber-camp? I don't know. It is one of those elusive, indefinable things that are so hard to catch and explain. But whether explained or not the fascination of the life in a lumber-camp is so keen that one can hardly keep from going back. I know, too, because I spent ten winters in the woods myself, seven of those bossing a camp." The speaker who was a chance acquaintance of mine was the head carpenter of the concrete construction gang on the new railroad that was being pushed through our country. We happened to meet one evening and after talking a little we soon discovered many things that interested us in common.

That was how he began telling me of his experiences in the lumber-camp. If he reads this he will be rather surprised to see his own adventures in print.

"Yes: it is hard to describe the fascination of the life. Every spring when I came back from the bush I would swear that it would be my last winter there, but then along in the fall a fellow would begin to get rather uneasy. Still, I made up my mind that I wouldn't go; but mother would say to the girls, 'We might as well get Matt's things together soon. He'll be off before we know it.' It was only a day or two until I brought home word one evening that I intended leaving the next morning and they really didn't seem as much surprised as I was myself. That's just the way it goes," he finished up with a laugh. "I guess it's the work itself that holds one. Out in the forest all day and working with the big logs, then all the gang together in the shanty at night. It is fun."

"You were really boss of a camp?" I said in amazement. "How many men were there under you?"

"Oh, fifty or sixty. It just depends on the size of the contract you have made, the number of men you'll need to fill it. It is interesting all right to have so many men to work with, only one has to keep an iron grip on affairs to come out on top at the end of the winter. The boys respect you too, what the old man says, goes. It's odd. You may be thirty years old and some of the men under you twice that, but you are always 'the old man' to them, and they are always 'the boys.'"

"There's a lot, too in knowing how to deal with men. You have to understand them to know how to get the most out of them and still keep their good-will. If you tell a couple of sawyers at the beginning of a season that you want an average from them that winter of two million feet you'll likely not get much over a million and a half; but if you say that there's a big job on that year and of course they can be counted on for an average of three million feet, you will probably get four."

"I remember one winter in particular. I had taken an unusually big order from the lumber merchants I had been with for several years previous. It was foolish of me to undertake such a big assignment; but I love risk and I thought by putting on an extra big gang there was nothing to hinder us filling the contract, though it was nearly twice the ordinary winter's work. There is something in many of us that responds to an occasion of risk or of taking big chances that leads us on, on, even when we know the odds are too great. Some such feeling, I guess, prompted me to sign that contract."

"Well, I got my gang together alright, and ready to start back to the bush, but there was quite a delay in getting our supplies. When we were ready for work at last it had settled down to winter in earnest though there was not much snow yet. I hoped to have the cutting well advanced before the deep snows came, in fact have the bulk of that work finished; then when the sleighing became good the cutting gangs could easily on half force get out the rest of the logs while the teamsters and their helpers would have free swing to rush their part of the work."

"All went well as I had hoped until the snow began to get deep and we were ready to hurry the teaming. A small part of the logs, about twenty per cent., had been already hauled out to the river six miles away before this. Of course we had not expected to do much more; but that was just a slice out of the whole chunk. As I have said, all went well till then, but then the trouble began! And when it came it was like the breaking of a huge jam of logs—it came with a sweep and rush. It started in a howling blizzard one day about ten o'clock, caught all the men down at the river with their loads. They had a hard enough time getting their logs off, but the trip back to camp facing that storm was something to test a man's mettle. Ordinarily they made the return trip in at least an hour and a half, but it was from noon until ten o'clock before they staggered into camp half frozen and with frost-bitten hands and faces.

The storm lasted for three days, and when at last the sky cleared the roads

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