

standing the millions of men that are engaged on the battlefield, most of us agree with Sir William Robertson Nicoll when he says that the war has helped us to a "re-discovery of persons." In the words of the old apostle, "Every one of us must give account of *himself*." That helps to keep us all straight.

National Military Service

It is only the thought and the hope that the present may be the last war between the civilized nations which keeps many from avowing their belief in some form of universal military service even in our democratic countries. If every boy had some military training with obligation to serve when called upon, the authorities could exercise judgment and allot places to men in the work of the Empire at a time of crisis. Under a purely voluntary system the flower of our youth go out to the slaughter, and the unfit remain behind. This bodes ill for the future. But our hope is that war, which is hideous and detestable, will not be any longer possible on the present scale. The nations have all learned their terrible lesson, and their ideal for the future should be peace.

Prohibition

The most notable thing in the public life of the Old Country just now is the strong under current that is making for the prohibition of the liquor traffic. And the outlook is that the traffic, though bulwarked by centuries of sufferance and enormous "vested interests," will have to go. The example of Canada is being quoted constantly. And the speech from the throne the other day in Ontario, with the declaration as to the immense benefit which that province has derived from prohibition, will be another battery added to the forces that are thundering at the gates of this gigantic iniquity.

Laws Against Vice

The Mayor and the Chief of Police of Vancouver have been to Victoria to secure, through the Department of the Attorney-General, larger powers and better laws by which to deal with such glaring vices as gambling and the social evil. In some considerable degree these laws are a matter for the Dominion rather than the Province, under our constitution, but each province can help enormously by such laws as they have the power to pass and by suggesting amendments to the Dominion authorities. The whole matter is one of immense importance and Vancouver is fortunate in having at the present time two such men as Mayor McBeath and Chief McLennan, both of whom are devoted to the moral ideal of a clean city. The Chief has surrounded himself with a splendid police force, and if conditions are not all that could be desired, it is the fault of the legislation and not of the men who enforce it. Amendments have been suggested which will be a great improvement on present laws. The biggest task in most modern centres is the fight for purity, and the men who make and administer our laws should have the whole-hearted support of all good citizens.

Farmers' Conventions

In recent years we find farmers who, partly on account of their living at a distance from each other, were not easily organized, now coming together in conventions. This will no doubt lead eventually to the elimination of some of the middlemen in our cities and a more direct market between the producer and the consumer. And this in turn will lead to a back-to-the-land movement that would be of great value to the country. Agriculture is not only the most ancient, but it is the foundation industry of human society.