

THE O. A. C. REVIEW

"THE PROFESSION WHICH I HAVE EMBRACED REQUIRES A KNOWLEDGE OF EVERYTHING"

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Address Delivered at the Experimental Union,

BY HARVEY B. WEBSTER, ST. MARY'S, ONT.

IT gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the fortieth annual meeting of the Experimental Union. We are meeting this year under especially happy auspices, as the shadows caused by the great world war have passed away, and the dove of Peace has again returned to our midst. Many of our members have been on active service, and we welcome their return, though some will not come back to us, having made the supreme sacrifice. To all who are bereaved, we extend our sincerest sympathy.

Many and important are the problems that confront us as agriculturists at the present time, and press for solution. We would not be living up to the best traditions of our noble calling as farmers, and members of the Experimental Union, if we did not take note of conditions as we know them to be, and with broad minds, trained to fine perceptions through experimental work, focus our attention on these vital problems, and solve them in the national interest, proving all things even as we have been adjured to do all down through the ages.

We might first note some facts pertaining to the work of the past season. The weather conditions throughout the year have been unusually favorable for the prosecution of farm work, and Ontario farmers, by dint of application and perseverance, and by the general

use of the most improved varieties of grain have again gone "over the top" and have produced a crop that, for yield and quality of grain, has never been equalled, with the exception of Winter Wheat. Great praise is due the farming population for their work this past year, but Providence has been kind, and has amply rewarded their efforts. We would not be fair if we did not give due recognition to the part played by the farm women. Due to acute labor shortage, they were obliged to undertake work to which they were not accustomed, and they responded nobly to the call. We must also appreciate the assistance lent by the boys and girls of our schools, as well as that of the city women who volunteered for farm work. The signal success which has attended their efforts has, we are pleased to say, been such that the doors of the O.A.C. have opened to receive them.

The call has come for still greater production from our farms. Due to the war and other causes, our country is now laboring under an enormous debt, consisting of \$3,150,000,000 foreign debt, and \$1,200,000,000 National debt. The foreign interest which we owe abroad will amount to \$170,000,000, and this combined with the running expenses of the country, soldiers' pensions, and other items, will total an annual charge of \$400,000,000. Where