

Prospice.

By Alan Sullivan, in the Globe.

The ancient and the lovely land
Is sown with death; across the plain
Ungarned now the orchards stand,
The Maxim nestles in the grain.
The shrapnel spreads a stinging flail
Where pallid nuns the cloister trod,
The air-ship spills her leaden hail;
But—after all the battles—God.

Athwart the vineyard's ordered banks,
Silent the red-rent forms recline,
And from their stark and speechless ranks
There flows a richer, ruddier wine;
While down the lane and through the wall
The victors writhe upon the sod,
Nor heed the onward bugle-call;
But—after all the bugles—God.

By night the blazing cities flare
Like mushroom torches in the sky;
The rocking ramparts tremble ere
The sullen cannon boom reply,
And shattered is the temple-spire,
The vestment trampled on the clod,
And every altar black with fire;
But—after all the altars—God.

And all the prizes we have won
Are buried in a deadly dust;
The things we set our hearts upon
Beneath the stricken earth are thrust;
Again the Savage greets the sun,
Again his feet, with fury shod,
Across a world in anguish run;
But—after all the anguish—God.

The grim campaign, the gun, the sword,
The quick volcano from the sea,
The honor that reveres the word,
The sacrifice, the agony—
These be our heritage and pride,
Till the last despot kiss the rod,
And, with man's freedom purified,
We mark—behind our triumph—God.

Housekeeping and Gardening Competitions for Girls.

WHAT EASTERN ONTARIO IS DOING
TOWARDS HELPING THE YOUNG
PEOPLE TO BE MORE
EFFICIENT.

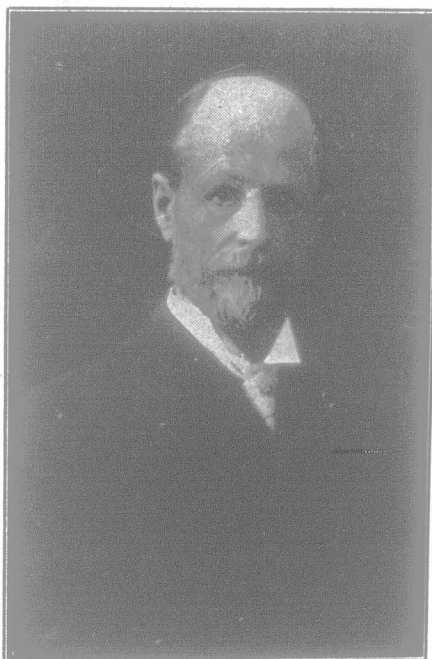
By A. C. Campbell.

An institution has been growing up in Ottawa which is certain to have a great effect upon agricultural practice in the district, and may, by example and influence, greatly improve the conditions of rural life throughout Ontario, and even the Dominion at large. This is the organized competition in potato-growing among the farm boys. The third year of this competition was brought to a close on Saturday, November 21, with the distribution of prizes at a public meeting in Ottawa City Hall. The work was at first confined to the County of Carleton, but, after one year's experience, was extended to the County of Russell, within whose limits part of the city of Ottawa lies. The results over all have been so satisfactory to those who are doing the work and providing the money, that it has now been decided to adapt the idea to provide a competition amongst farm girls. This, as anybody can see who will consider the matter for a moment, is by no means so simple as the potato-growing competition among the boys. To cultivate in girls the ability to carry on a garden is not enough, for, when these girls become farmers' wives they will be housekeepers rather than gardeners. After long consideration, and the rejection of plan after plan, a scheme has been evolved which, it is hoped, will be completely successful.

The girls' competition will be a far more ambitious institution than the ex-

isting competition amongst the boys. In the first place, it will cover not merely one year, but a three-year period. In the second place, it will involve competitions in both gardening and housekeeping. In the third place, it will form a part of the educational system in the rural schools of the county, and prizes will be given, not to scholars only, but to the schools they represent. This work may make Carleton County the leader in the rapidly-developing work of teaching agriculture and horticulture in the schools.

This series of competitions has been made possible primarily by the generosity and public spirit of one man, Mr. R. B. Whyte. Mr. Whyte is known to horticulturists not only in Canada, but throughout America, as one who has given a life-time to the science and art of gardening, and who, in his own specialties, is among the most eminent authorities. Not only does he manage a garden which is one of the show places of Ottawa, but he has made most successful and useful experiments in the propagation of small fruits, espe-



Mr. R. B. Whyte, Ottawa.

A horticulturist known throughout America, and a friend of the boys and girls.

cially raspberries and gooseberries. He is the founder and active head of the Children's Flower Guild of Ottawa, an educational movement of the very highest value. All the money needed for the boys' and girls' competitions has been and will be supplied by Mr. Whyte. The prizes alone will amount to over \$200 a year. Printing and other expenses also represent a considerable sum. Having retired from business after a successful career as a wholesale merchant, Mr. Whyte is proceeding to enjoy himself by giving his money, his experience and his energy, which is as great as ever, to helping the coming generation to an understanding and love of the rural life, which is at the base of Canada's prosperity.

Working by himself, however, Mr. Whyte could not have succeeded in accomplishing what has thus far been accomplished. He has the advantage of residing in the Capital City of the Dominion. The Federal Department of Agriculture has collected in its offices and on the Central Experimental Farm, many of the most eminent specialists on farm subjects to eminent specialists in the world. Each of these has become a specialist by being first an enthusiast, and both personal enthusiasm and official duty incline them

to help in any reasonable way every movement that gives promise of aiding in the development of Canadian agriculture. The Provincial Government also, through its Departments of Education and Agriculture, is glad to assist in such work. In the potato-growing competitions, Mr. Whyte has had the ablest possible assistance. The Secretary of the movement is Mr. L. H. Newman, one of the leading officials of the Dominion Department of Agriculture and Secretary of the officially-recognized Canadian Seed-growers' Association. Mr. Newman is not only a specialist in the biology of seeds, but also an administrator of rare capacity. Realizing from the first the possibilities of the competitions, he has given time and effort unstintingly to the laborious details of correspondence and compilation. Professor W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist, who has given years of study in field and library to the growing of potatoes, is another member of the committee. At the beginning of the competitions he prepared a bulletin into which was condensed all the practical knowledge about growing potatoes in the Ottawa district which has been accumulated. The results attained in the competitions go to show that if the farmers of Ontario generally were to pay as close attention to Professor Macoun's advice as do the competitors for Mr. Whyte's prizes, the potato crop of the Province would be at least doubled. Another member of the committee is Mr. W. D. Jackson, representative in the County of Carleton of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Mr. Jackson is a young man, and live. It is his business to come in contact with the farmers and to extend to them the benefits of the knowledge and experience in agriculture of the Province as a whole. The potato-growing competition he regards as an opportunity for better and wider work in his own proper line. His work in advising and encouraging the young competitors has been invaluable.

It is a noteworthy fact that some of the boys who entered the competition for the first year are in it still, while others are now barred by age, eighteen years being the limit. Mr. T. G. Raynor, of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, who has judged all the boys' exhibits at the county fairs—the showing of one bushel of the competitor's own crop being one feature of the competition—says that there is a distinct improvement in the results achieved by these young farmers in growing potatoes. Not only is the product large in proportion to the average of the Province, and not only are practically all the potatoes free from disease, but the competitors are showing a wiser understanding of the demands of the market, and so the potatoes tend to grow more uniform in size, shape, color, and quality.

The only suggestion of dissatisfaction with this whole competition comes from those who are most directly responsible for it, Mr. Whyte and his colleagues. They are disturbed in mind because so few boys enter. Last year only sixteen boys from Carleton, and only fifteen from Russell, carried the contest through to a finish, while this year the numbers were fifteen and thirteen, respectively. Considering that these counties together have a population of about seventy thousand, with a larger proportion of farmers than in the average Ontario county, and considering the advantages offered to the boys in this competition, it certainly does seem strange that less than thirty boys between twelve and eighteen years of age are found willing to comply with the terms laid down. The only explanation attempted so far is that the farmers of the counties are unwilling to allow their sons to take one-tenth acre of ground and the time needed for its proper cultivation. But this explanation also

needs to be explained—assuming it to be correct. The experience is that the boys in this competition, with any kind of luck, are able to raise more potatoes on one-tenth acre than the average farm raises on a quarter-acre. So, there need be no waste of land. And, as the boy has his crop anyhow, and runs a chance of gaining a prize of anywhere from \$15 to \$4, besides a silver medal, any refusal of co-operation on the part of parents seem a good deal like a refusal to buy dollar bills at fifty cents apiece.

Notwithstanding the small number of competitors, and regardless of what may be the cause of the existing condition, the potato competitions have been a magnificent success. And they grow more successful and useful every year, for, with the careful and elaborate records kept by Secretary Newman, the committee is accumulating a body of facts with regard to the cultivation of potatoes, and the still more important cultivation of boys that will be of inestimable value in many ways.

There is a marked tendency for this work to spread. The literature of the competition is often asked for by those who realize the possibilities of the work, and desire to carry it on in their own localities. This will be much more easily done a year or two later when the experience marks out more definitely the exact lines that should be followed. Several of the Provinces of the Dominion have under consideration the inauguration of competitions in every county or district.

Modern Warfare.

Everyone is reading war news, but it is safe to say that a considerable proportion of those who read, through lack of understanding modern systems of fighting, fail to grasp a very clear mental perception of the battlefield of to-day. Old conceptions gained through study of the history of the past, die hard, and, before the mind's eye, solid formations, "hollow squares," and brilliant charges loom large as characteristics of every engagement. As a matter of fact, these are comparatively seldom resorted to in modern warfare, and the uninitiated onlooker of a battlefield to-day would likely be much surprised to see a comparatively deserted area, to all appearance, from which even the smoke has been largely eliminated by the use of smokeless powder. In case of emergency there may be still the desperate onrush, when men run forward in long, thin lines, making use of every moment between fires to run, then lying down to shoot, then up and on again, but more generally the soldiers fight from burrows varying from the shallow rifle-pit hastily thrown out in half an hour, and in which a man can only lie down, to the deeper one in which he can stand, and which has taken three or four hours or more to construct—"the trenches," sometimes protected by sandbags, which afford a harborage for the men for such time as they hold, or wish to hold, a locality.

Above the trenches during action sounds the whistle of rifle balls from a mile or more away, the heavier whirring of cannon balls from a distance of fifteen to eighteen miles, and the shriek of shrapnel, this last one of the agents of destruction most dreaded. Shrapnel, by the way, was invented by a British army officer of that name, and consists of shells filled with bullets and supplied with a small charge inside which will cause them to burst at any time, sending a shower of leaden rain on all sides.

Modern fighting, it appears then, must be waged largely against machines, machines dealing their missiles often the soldier knows not whence.