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## Putting the Army to School Again

*"Nothing in the shape of Adult Education has ever been attempted on the same scale in the history of the world."*—

*British Minister of Education.*

THE hunger of the human for knowledge—for exact information on things that excite his curiosity or touch some vital spot in his little-world of interest is an appetite that can never be fully satisfied. Under normal conditions, there are few things which will more effectually bestir a man than a consciousness of being in the dark on something that he must get to know about, on which a state of ignorance is fatal to some supreme interest in his personal affairs.

This hunger at times has got a keen edge on it, but when the man is for the moment placed beyond the reach of obtaining the information, the desire takes on something of the nature of an insatiable craving. It seems (from the lives of some of the greatest of the world's workers) that in order to get a man to seriously set about enlightening himself, it is necessary that he should be goaded on by the relentless steel point of necessity.

The men who have survived the 52 months of the great war and who were really in it, know to a nicety just what this means. We all know it, more or less, but there are few who have ever got the experience so thoroughly rubbed into them as those bright spirits who were suddenly torn from their desks, class rooms, workshops and machine tools and set to work for days and weeks at a time—doing nothing more than watching the enemy and

digging shelter trenches for a change of occupation.

It was little more that the soldier man could then do but "wait and see." That was one

Not only may we have a verbal acknowledgment from these men—any of them who left their schools or their jobs and went overseas—that the above has

al training scheme within the British Army which is having far reaching results and will continue with the army of occupation. He related the following incident:

"A private wrote home a little while back a letter which was certainly never intended for my eyes, in which he said that since the institution of these classes his whole life had been changed.

"He was billeted six miles from Lille, and had various military duties to perform, but after these were over he walked in every day to Lille to attend a class—six miles in and six miles out. We read of such things during the Revival of Learning at the close of the Middle Ages, but I venture to think that five or six years ago no one would have believed it possible of an Englishman. All that we have done and all that we are trying to do is to meet this new manifestation, evidence of which can be seen everywhere.

"The other day a gentleman closely in touch with educational

affairs stated that in his opinion when the history of the war came to be written historians of the future would pick out this movement as the most significant thing in it. It is undeniable that out of these years of destruction there has arisen this one constructive element, the desire for self-improvement, which we see not only in the army but in the nation at large."

Immediately after the signing of the Armistice, educational work became, as had always been



Young Manitobans getting a practical demonstration in the great principle of co-operation from one of the greatest "Industrial Corporations" on earth.

of the most trying experiences in playing the waiting game the pressure of necessity has ever called on men to pass through. The libraries of these constantly shifting funk-holes and gun-pits were of the most circumscribed nature, and because of its very inaccessibility, what would not some of our magnificent men have given for a thin, India paper edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, the "Book of Knowledge," or even Mrs. Beeton's Cookery Book!

fairly described their feelings on many an occasion during their period of war service, but we are having a wonderful demonstration of their keenness in getting "in touch with nature again" in the rush which is being made for the various educational institutions as the winter season approaches.

A few weeks ago in England, Colonel Lord Govell, of the Military Education Department, gave an address to the Royal Colonial Institute, on the great education-