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## The Transcript

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1916

### Produce Something.

High Cost of Living Editor: And so another Varsity professor has joined the search party which is sedulously seeking for the cause of the high cost of living. I have been reading in my daily paper what Prof. J. C. Maclean of Varsity had to say regarding agriculture—the necessity of intensive farming, scientific research, etc., as applied to agriculture, in order to reduce the prices of foodstuffs by increasing the production.

As a son of the soil standing back here in the furrows, perhaps I should keep quiet and allow those bulging-browed professors to settle the question. The average city man, it seems, knows far more about farming in his times than we chaps who have our feet on the ground.

But some of us who plow and mow, reap and sow, are really becoming alarmed at the increasing size of the armchair-agriculturist army. I refer to those who consume foodstuffs and tell the farmer how to farm, but who do not lend a hand in production of the world's food.

How would it be to require those researching professors and easy-chair soil-tillers to produce the goods—at least raise a hill of potatoes before giving lectures on what they know about farming?

Maybe you have heard of the old farmer who had a very talkative son—a boastful fellow—and the old man said unto him, "Boy, you go out and do something in the world and then come back and talk about it, if you will." This applies to agriculture as to other things.

Maybe, too, you may have heard of that famous remark of Sam Slick's that "All the metaphysics in the world won't make a pound of butter." Why all these learned dissertations on intensive farming and artificial fertilizers and scientific research in a country that has millions and millions of acres untouched by the plow and full of the necessary fertilizing gases right from the hand of the Great Creator?

Do Prof. Maclean and those other broad-browed, but soft-palmed, farming instructors, offer any first aid in coaxing old Mother Earth to blossom as the Rose, or do they even grow a hill of potatoes in their backyard? If heaven sends them a son do they make a real farmer out of him? Never! They only talk farming—not to their sons, oh, no, but to us fellows on the job—and talk to the grocer, too, over the phone when they need potatoes. I'm not an old farmer, but I have

heard of days down on the farm when eggs sold at six cents a dozen, butter at eight cents a pound, pork at \$3.00 a cwt., cheese at six cents a pound and poultry—why, I've heard my mother tell that they used to have to beg city folks to buy at four cents a pound. Well, if we're making farming pay now, I presume it may fairly be stated that we've got it coming to us.

I've never heard it even as a legend, that any bulging-browed professor or anyone else instituted a search party in those days, to find out how the farmer was able to live on such prices, which were away below the cost of production.

But, why go on. Really you know, Mr. Editor, it almost seems a merry jest to us "horny handed sons of toil" or "moshacks," "hayseeds" and "rubes" as we used to be termed—when starvation prices for the producer of foodstuffs ruled—when we hear those town and city folks and college professors yelling out about the high cost of living.

We feel like shouting over the fence, "Come on in boys, the plowing job is fine; the reaping easy and the marketing, oh my!"

To Professor J. C. Maclean, doctor of scientific research or geology or whatever may be his specialology, in the language of the immortal Alfred, slightly changed, I beg leave to say:

Break! Break! Break! At the fossils and rocks, J. C., But eggs at a nickel and butter at ten cents will never come again to those.

Will you, my half-brother armchair-agriculturist or professor crying-in-the-wilderness-of-words or other anxious-to-reduce-the-high-cost-of-living brother, forsake your granolithic ways and get your feet on the ground? You won't, eh? Well, you will continue whether you please or not to pay, pay, pay.

P.S.—Josh Billings began that famous essay of his on "What I know about Farming" with this sentence: "What I know about farming is kussed little," but then he wasn't an armchair farmer.

And again he wrote: I never knew a pharm that was worked pretty much by theory but what was for sale, or to let, in a few years, and I never knew a pharm that was worked by manure, and muscle, on the good old ignorant way of our ancestors, but was handed down, from father to son, and always noted for raising heavy-armed boys and buxom lasses, and fast rate potatoes.

Those armchair farmers ought to have that whole essay of Old Josh's printed in big black type, framed and hung up where they could see it. As Josh puts it, they'd find out what they, too, know about farmin' is "kussed little."—West Middlesex Farmer.

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Sr. I.—Honors—Donald McAlay 84, Garnet Ewing 78, pass—Irene McCaffery 69, Iva Thompson 61, Gordon Stevenson 61, Mae Gordon 48.  
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## FARM COLONY PLANNED

BUT MANY RETURNED SOLDIERS WILL PREFER THE CITY.

"Me for the white light!" is the Reply of One Wounded Canadian When Asked Whether He Would Go on a Farm—Determined Effort is Being Made to Attract Soldiers to Agricultural Pursuits as Soon as the War is Over.

"ME for the white light!" That is the answer a Canadian soldier gave returning wounded from his Empire's war. They asked him whether he would prefer employment in a town or on a farm. The white light of the town for him! And that is the answer of most of his comrades who came back in valiant from the front.

That is natural, it may be said; for these men are more or less incapacitated for hard work. It is likely enough, however, that even the able-bodied will make the same choice when they first come back, in spite of all we hear about townsmen in the trenches having acquired a taste for the outdoor life.

Nevertheless, a determined attempt is being made all over the British Empire—in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and even in the United Kingdom itself—to make such arrangements that a large proportion of the soldiers shall settle in the country and not in the towns.

The New York Times, referring to this question, says: Some months ago the Dominion Government appointed an Economic and Development Commission to make plans for settling soldiers on the land. True, the commission's object is far wider than that. It has been driven home to the Canadian mind that far too little progress has been made in settling the vast expanse of fertile land in the West, not to speak of the large area still uncultivated in the East. It is realized that the growth of population and production has been far too slow; and the commission's main object is to increase the attractions, chiefly by increasing the profits, of rural industry. If country life can be made, as the intention is, both more remunerative and more socially agreeable, it will have a much better chance of competing with the "white light" of the city streets, and soldiers as well as civilians will come under the spell in growing numbers.

After other wars, such as the half-breed and Indian rising of 1885, and the South African campaign of 1900, Canadian soldiers were rewarded by gifts of public land. The idea was that they would settle on it, but no means were taken to see that they did so, as a matter of fact, they did not, to any great extent. Most of them turned their rights into cash, and the only people who got any appreciable benefit were the speculators who bought these rights.

The old mistake of throwing gifts of land at soldiers, and then leaving them to do anything or nothing with it, will not be repeated. And the mistake of inviting outsiders to come in and take public land, without regard to their capacity and resources for its proper development, will not be continued.

With all this in mind, it is not surprising to hear of projects for settling returned soldiers in little colonies of their own and possibly under leaders of their own choosing. Each man would have his own farm, or market garden. At the heart of the colony would be a village, with co-operative store, blacksmith's shop, school, church, library, sports ground, and such other institutions and industries as would naturally develop.

Under one plan, any man lacking the necessary knowledge to start farming at once could get it by working for his better qualified comrades, or by living and working a while at a central instruction farm. In default of such an institution, there would at any rate be an agricultural adviser appointed by the Government to assist the new settlers in their operations.

Under an alternative plan the farming of the whole colony would be carried on at first by an agricultural representative of the Government. The intending colonists would work on this instruction, receiving full value in wages. At the end of a year every man who had proved his fitness would receive his share of the colony land, 150 acres, and a loan of, say, \$1,500, for machinery and other equipment, at low interest. After a further period the soldier-settler would get a clear title to his land, as a homesteader does now.

Where the Federal Government still owns the public land—that is, in the three prairie Provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan and Manitoba—it will naturally organize these colonies itself. Elsewhere, the Provincial Governments may be expected to do it.

For the financial advantage of Canadian farming several main schemes are being considered. Plans have been formed for supplying the farmer—not the soldier-settler alone—with cheap capital; for a wide and deep propagation among farmers of the results of agricultural investigation and experiment; for the development of co-operation; and other means of reducing the enormous discrepancy between producer's price and consumer's price; for reducing not only the cost of distribution, but the cost of production.

### Queen's Hospital Moves.

According to a letter received from Lieut.-Colonel Frederick Etherington, Queen's Hospital is to be moved from Treport to Etaples just as soon as the weather is unfavorable for work in tents. Since going to France the hospital has treated more than 4,000 patients.

## IN GREAT DEMAND.

British Columbia's Sailing Schooners Fast Nearing Completion.

It is well known that tonnage has been very scarce, and it is no longer a novelty to learn of ships earning their first cost from one year's freights. In the past two years there has been no limit to the rates charged. In some cases they are ten times higher than those which obtained at the outbreak of the war. Of course such circumstances stimulate shipbuilding very materially. But Canadian plants are at some disadvantage in that materials are very hard to get, and the plants that could turn out shipbuilding parts are engaged upon the making of munitions. Government persuasion and the impetus that comes from a loyal desire to do everything possible to keep the boys at the front well supplied with ammunition have resulted in a concentration of effort for that purpose, and hence such normal requirements as those of the peaceful mariner have been somewhat neglected. Despite difficulties, however, there are many vessels at present under construction. In British Columbia it is understood that there are at least twenty-five vessels either in course of construction or projected, and of these three are of steel. The wooden constructions are intended more particularly for lumber export purposes and the steel vessels for general tonnage. Of the wooden vessels the Canada West Coast Navigation Company has contracted for eight, and although none of these is yet completed, four of them have already been chartered. The first, it is expected, will be ready in January next, and from that month forward one each month will be delivered by the yards. Of the steel vessels under construction one is for the Japan trade and the other two for general freight purposes. When the wooden vessels which have a lumber capacity of 1,500,000 feet each, commence their sailings it will result in important developments in the lumber industry at the coast. The exporters in British Columbia have been working under some real disadvantages, one of the chief being that for every export shipment the chartering had to be done in San Francisco at a cost higher than from points in the United States.

Discussing the situation from the lumbermen's standpoint The Western Lumberman says: "In the near future the lumber exporters of this Province will have at their command eight or nine auxiliary power wooden schooners of good carrying capacity—the nucleus of a mere fleet which is expected to number at least twenty-five vessels within the next twelve or fifteen months. No longer will our lumbermen be entirely at the mercy of foreign charterers, and British Columbia forest products, shipped in British Columbia bottoms, may in time earn the recognition that has heretofore been denied them through being marketed as American lumber. These desirable things have been made possible as a result of the passage of the British Columbia shipping bill, under the terms of which the builders are advanced fifty per cent. of the cost of construction, to be paid back with interest in five years, while each vessel operated in accordance with the act will earn an annual subsidy of ten years, not to exceed the sum of five dollars per ton, if same be necessary to bring the annual earnings of the ships up to fifteen per cent. on the total cost. The need of a British Columbia fleet had long been recognized, and very frequently advocated, but it was early in 1914 before the Government lent an attentive ear to the cry for ships. At that time the lumber manufacturers of the Province were experiencing difficulty in keeping their plants running—a financial stringency had developed and the prairie demand for lumber had fallen off badly. Then came the war, with its blighting effect on the export trade of the Province, not because the products of the Canadian west were not in demand, but because there were no 'bottoms' available to handle it. Tonnage was at a premium. Anything in the shape of a ship was placed under charter at large figures. In America nothing to carry the out-shore trade of the Province was obtainable except at such exorbitant prices as to 'eat up' all the profits of the shipper. In other words, the lumber individuals who the boats were making everything there was to make, and the business of British Columbia was becoming stagnant."

## Enlistment Creeps Up.

Enlistments for the first half of October totaled 2,160. This is an increase of 124 over the preceding fortnight. Recruiting continues at the rate of about 6,000 per month, but it is hoped that with the advent of winter the release of a considerable number of men now engaged in agricultural or other outside work will again stimulate enlistment. Total enlistments since the outbreak of war are now placed at 368,863.

To gauge the present effective fighting force there must of course be deducted from this figure probably at least twenty per cent. for wastage at the front, desertions, and rejections for physical unfitness.

By military districts the recruiting figures for the period from October 1st to 15th are as follows: No. 1 (London), 314; No. 2 (Toronto), 447; No. 3 (Kingston), 356; No. 4 (Montreal), 672; No. 5 (Quebec), 130; No. 6 (Maritime Provinces), 326; No. 10 (Manitoba and Saskatchewan), 425; No. 11 (British Columbia), 286; No. 13 (Alberta), 286.

## Bleach for White Wool.

When you begin looking over the supply of winter clothing don't get discouraged if the white woolen garments have become yellow. A weak solution of hydrogen peroxide with borax added is a good bleaching agent for white wool. Make the solution as follows: Add one part hydrogen peroxide to ten parts of water and use a tablespoonful of borax to each gallon of water.

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