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### PRACTICAL OBJECT LESSONS.

Rev. Mr. Boyd, who knows something about farming, and likewise the mind of the average farmer, made a proposition at a meeting the other day, which the Whig regards as very practical. It is that the boys of our day be given object lessons, in the city, and in certain departments of field work, so that later on the farm, they may be of greater usefulness. The city, under direction of its agricultural committee, is plowing up the vacant land. Some of the boys in relays could attend the plowmen and see a work done which the older ones at least, may be given a chance later to make good. They could be trained in harnessing horses, in driving them, and in other duties, and they will certainly not disappoint those who trust them.

Ald. Nickle submitted another good idea. There are seventy women on the Patriotic Fund, and drawing monthly allowances. The question is, can these women not be utilized in some way, in doing housework, with which they are familiar, while the women of the farms devote themselves to duties in the open? The beneficiaries of the Patriotic Fund will not, in any event, suffer. The Central Committee has rules that the recipients of bounty from the Fund will not be deprived of any benefits they are receiving by reason of their devotion to a service, which under the circumstances is quite patriotic.

The apprehension of a good scarcity, which is based on impressive facts, is doing some good. It is making men and women realize that it is incumbent upon them to do all they possibly can, in persistent labour, in order to give an assurance of the greater production. The need of it is being emphasized daily.

### BOYS ON FARMS.

The United States is going into this war as if it expected results. The government realizes that it cannot use its millions in the army and navy and munition factories, without causing a great shortage of labor upon the farm. It is doing what some people in Canada regard as absurd; it is appealing to the school boys, and expects to

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make a profitable use of them. The National Committee on Greater Production calculates upon getting two million school boys upon the farms of United States and keeping them long enough to help the farmers out of all their difficulties. In other words, the boys will remain a month longer, if necessary, in the country, in order to clear up the harvest, and with the understanding with the State Education Departments that they will not suffer in their school standing. The school trustees of Ontario, at the recent Provincial Education Convention, seem to have anticipated this same thing, and passed a resolution to the effect that if necessary the Department should lengthen out the vacation of those who are agriculturally employed, and the request will surely be complied with.

Some one has cynically observed that the school boys cannot do much. They cannot, eh? Well, of the one hundred and twenty-five from the Collegiate Institute who have enlisted in the summer service on the farm, the majority have already engaged with farmers, and know where they are to go and what they are to expect.

The school boys, as a member of the Board of Trade remarked at its last meeting, are quite astute, and know how to make a bargain as well as most of their fathers.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

Why should the temporary clerks of the federal government get better pay than the qualified and permanent clerks? Is that the way to promote the efficiency of the civil service?

Some of the famous band who signed the anti-reciprocity proclamation in 1911 have repented of their action. They are supporting free wheat. Others stand where they stood six years ago. Members of what party now?

The conservative touters are willing that the policy of free wheat should prevail during the war, as a war policy. Reciprocity in this respect has come to stay. The anti-reciprocity party of 1911 is dead, and can never be resurrected.

Ah, a new pension scheme is being projected and as a result of the enquiries of the new parliament committee. Thanks to Mr. Pardee, the Liberal Whip, who brought a lamentable condition of things before the federal parliament.

Hindenburg was a great man because he won a notable battle in the long ago. He was called for his retreat in Germany to save his country, and it looks as if he with so many others will be relegated presently to the retreat of all the distinguished has-beens.

Sir George Foster admits that the case of a returned soldier, incapacitated by injuries from earning a livelihood in Toronto, is deserving of a larger pension than \$96 a year. The poor fellow must starve on such an allowance at the present prices of food.

The Brockville Times revives the Toronto News' idea that the Canadian parliament, or the conservative party, should petition the imperial government for an extension of the life of the Canadian parliament. The imperial parliament is subject to occasional bumps, but it is not looking for anything which the Hon. Bob Rogers may suggest.

Elihu Root, a republican, is willing to try out the Wilson government during the war. Good. So far as the government conducts war as a great national enterprise it will deserve the support of the republicans. When it imitates the Canadian government through its war department, in distributing large contracts as spoils, it can only look out for squalls.



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