

The Standard

O. M. ALGER, Publisher and Proprietor

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AFTER THE WAR—WHAT?

We saw a war cartoon the other day. The shores of England washed by the Dover Straits were spread out before us. From the southern side of the Straits the Kaiser and his son, the Crown Prince, all decked out in war parade were making a goose step for the English shore upon which the old lion lay asleep enjoying a sun bath. Other sections of the cartoon showed not only the old lion very much aroused but also a horde of lions in hot chase after the fleeing kizer.

We have every confidence that we shall win the war; but what then?

If the old lion had been awake, there would have been no war. We do not mean that the Huns in that case would have been afraid to tackle the lion, but conditions would have been such that they would hardly have been bold enough to have even thought of doing it.

England and every part of our Empire may learn a great lesson out of this titanic struggle, viz., the desirability of being prepared for every emergency. This war has shown us how much we are dependant upon Germany and Germany has shown us what a gigantic struggle a nation can put up when she is fully equipped and with every department of her social, political, military, and educational life and activities thoroughly organized in a common purpose.

Every ounce of productive energy and every atom of material resources has been conserved and correlated to every other to such a degree that in many lines they lead the world.

In scientific and economic agriculture they are unsurpassed; in the realm of science they have been admitted leaders and their system of technical education has put them beyond competition in certain lines of manufacture. When you add to all this application and mental training and organization, their rigid military system it is no wonder that they have almost been able to conquer the world in arms against them.

The book has been opened; the lesson is in front of us. It is up to us to study it long and well and govern ourselves accordingly. Our educational systems will stand a lot of revising. Instead of becoming a nation of land-poor and poor-land farmers we must set ourselves the task of becoming the equal at least of the best agriculturists in the world. Every man who dips a plow or sticks a spade into the soil should know that there is a scientific and profitable way of doing it and that the best results in agriculture are not obtained by hap-hazard methods and indifferent work.

The soil is the recognized basis of our material wealth. We must develop the ideal in agriculture. We have been so accustomed to associating farming with a life of common, sort of thirty-hour-a-day, drudgery that we have almost lost sight of the fact that farming is a highly scientific occupation, requiring the very best attention of the brightest and best brains in the country.

It requires a great deal more brains to trim a tree than

it does to amputate a finger or even an arm. We do not wish to reflect upon any profession, but we wish to indicate that the theory that so many of us Canadians are working on, that it takes a smart, intelligent, trained man to be a surgeon or lawyer, or professor, but any old tool of a man will do to grub away on the farm, is wrong.

If there's to be any best schools in our land then those that teach the theory and practice of agriculture should be the best.

Then we should develop a system of technical schools where our youth may become highly skilled mechanics, artificers, chemists, etc.

Because—the old lion has been asleep Germany has outstripped Britain in these lines and the latter country is awake to that fact to-day.

Addressing the Associated Chambers of Commerce, Mr. McKenna, the Chancellor, declared: "We have seen a nation which in time of profound peace deliberately planned, prepared and provoked war, and we have found ourselves dependent upon that nation for many articles of our own trade. I do not think that as a nation we shall ever allow ourselves to be placed in that position again."

Yet if the British Empire is to escape falling into that position again, she must do more than simply ostracise German goods; the British people must adopt the German method of applying hard scientific research, so that they may rival German science; they must so dovetail the organizations of Government, schools, factories and farms that a perfectly developed citizenship may be evolved.

See the position our textile, paper and all other manufacturers who require dye-stuffs are in.

Germany won complete control of the markets of Britain, France and the United States. Of course it may be rightly argued that Germany's position was rendered unassailable because of cheap transportation and cheap contiguous coal areas. But they bent their skill and energies to the task.

A constant stream of skilled chemists and expert mechanics were being turned out by a closely interwoven system of technical schools, universities, transportation corporations, manufacturing establishments and government departments. The basic principle of their entire composite yet wonderfully unified system is "thoroughness."

Each of the five largest dyestuff establishments employs from three to four hundred chemists, each having given five years laborious study in the laboratory.

The moral of the situation is simply that if we wish to escape the penalty of being mere assembling communities dependent upon the highly organized and perfectly developed industry of Germany, we must organize and develop our own resources in skill and material.

Viscount Haldane, former Secretary of War, in a recent address at the University of London, said: "Great Britain and her allies will face a new peril after the present conflict in an industrial war for which Germany has long been preparing by the creation of a new and formidable class of highly skilled workmen. I want to sound a warning of what is in store for us," he continued. "I am more afraid of an engine for conquest in peace time, which the Germans were busy preparing before the war, than I am of the 42-centimeter guns. This engine is educational. The most modern form of continuation school is extending itself over a large part of Germany and it is planned to extend over the whole empire. It is a