

PLANS LABOR RELIEF FOR ONTARIO FARMS

W. B. Browne Suggests to None-Too-Busy City Men to Go to Work.

W. B. Browne, of W. E. Browne & Co., exporters and grain merchants, this city, who has four sons in khaki, is of the opinion that there are hundreds of business men in Toronto who would be willing, if they had the opportunity, to spend part of the coming summer in assisting the farmers of Ontario in the cultivation and harvesting of their crops. "There are many who, like myself, unsuited for military service, could make ourselves useful on the farms and thus perform a real national service," remarked Mr. Browne to The Star to-day. "The Ontario farmer needs labor and the country needs what the farms can produce, and right at home there is an opportunity for service. I, for one, am prepared to close my business for a few weeks next spring or summer and go to work for any farmer, giving my services gratis. Other business men in my line have told me they are willing to do likewise.

"Then there are many men of means in this city who could loan their chauffeurs and their gardeners for a part of the summer to the farmer in need of help. It matters more, while this war is on, to have the farms of Ontario producing to capacity than to have the automobile and the garden lawn nicely cared for.

"Then think of the thousands of young men in this city who might be drafted into useful service on the farms if they could be brought to realize the importance of agricultural production to the winning of the war and were willing to lend their services to some farmer for a part of the summer. How much more beneficial it would be if instead of spending their two or three weeks' vacation idling away their time at a Muskoka summer resort, they went to work for the period of their vacation upon a farm within a radius of say 50 miles of Toronto. They would return to their jobs in the city improved physically and having the satisfaction of knowing their holidays had been put to a useful purpose."

Mr. Browne is about to launch a movement in the direction outlined and feels confident that before the spring work starts on the farms hundreds of city men will have signified their willingness to join in this form of patriotic service. Furthermore, Mr. Browne believes the plan will do much to bring about a better understanding between the farmer and the resident of the city, both of whom too frequently misjudge one another.

Mr. Browne to-day submitted his idea to officials of the Provincial Department of Agriculture.