

It will be noted that most of the foregoing remarks are particularly applicable to the southern end of the North Island, and we would urge upon Members and Secretaries of Associations throughout the Dominion to send in local items of interest that may come under their notice, otherwise there will be a danger of confining current topics to one or two localities. The horizon of any one man is necessarily bounded, and we are anxious that local as well as general items of interest shall find a place in the Journal.

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The war has been the means of using up enormous quantities of all raw materials, amongst which timber has taken a prominent place, and the forests of Russia, America, France and other countries have been drawn upon for the needful supplies to construct roadways, trenches, buildings of all descriptions, hundreds of thousands of barbed wire entanglement posts, telegraph and telephone poles, pit and trench props, and thousands of cords of firewood daily. We learn that over 65,000 expert lumbermen are exclusively engaged in America, cutting spruce for use in the manufacture of aeroplanes. At the beginning of the year the output for the purpose was 2,000,000 feet monthly. It is now 10,000,000 feet a month and will soon be 20,000,000. This gives some idea of the number of aeroplanes America intends to turn out and the quantity of picked lumber used in their construction. A regiment of American lumbermen is operating in France and they expect to have 59 sawmills operating there very shortly. All this goes to show the enormous depletion of the world's timber resources brought about by the war, and that timber values should be regulated by the world's markets.

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The total computed lumber production of the United States in 1917 was 35,831 million feet, produced by 16,408 sawmills, a reduction of 10% of the quantity produced in 1916. The falling off is attributed to decreased private building operations, scarcity of labour, transport difficulties, lessened demand by wood-using industries, and general trade dislocation. Of the quantity produced a considerable proportion was taken by the Government for war emergency products, including shipbuilding material. Yellow pine formed 37.7 per cent. of the total cut, Douglas fir being credited with 5,585 million feet and white oak and white pine 2,250 million feet. A higher range of values all round than that obtained before the war broke out may safely be predicted for the future.

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The Annual Conference of the Association of New Zealand Chamber of Commerce has just concluded and we notice amongst the remits considered was one moved by Palmerston North as follows, viz:—That this Conference urges upon the Government the need of assisting in solving the housing problem, and recommends an inquiry into the cost of building materials, especially timber. If, and when this enquiry takes place we make bold to say it will be found that the increased price of building timber is just about commensurate with the increased cost of production taking

all legitimate factors properly into account, and that the percentage increase as compared with pre-war prices is infinitely less than many other items used in the construction of a building.

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Other remits at the Conference worthy of notice were:—That the Government should consider the immediate adoption of the hydro-electric power schemes, similar to Lake Coleridge, to enable the industries of the Dominion to meet after war competition; That the Conference affirms the principle that War Loans should be taxed; That the Government should control sufficient shipping to move our produce both coastwise and overseas; That more active support and financial assistance should be given the Workers Educational Association; and that the Government should be requested to solve the difficulty of the upkeep of main arterial roads.

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The question of finding positions for repatriated soldiers was considered and it was urged upon the Government that the Post, Telegraph, and Railway services should be fully reinstated at the earliest possible opportunity.

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#### Appreciation.

Appreciation is one of the greatest things in the world. However small it may be it goes a long way and helps to make life worth living. Someone has said it is to man what oil is to machinery and the man who does not apply it is as thoughtless as the man who does not apply oil to the machine he is using. If an employer has not the sense to appreciate the work of his employees, he runs a chance of having his whole business organisation fall to pieces like the machine that receives no oil. If the oil of appreciation has not been applied, the efficiency of the machine is lowered. Whenever a man goes out of his way to benefit you, show your appreciation, you won't lose anything and you'll be making life a lot nicer for all concerned, and you'll like your own life a whole lot better too.

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Worry not over the future,  
The present is all thou hast,  
The future will soon be present  
And the present will soon be past

For every illness under the sun,  
There is a remedy or none,  
If there be one try and find it,  
If there be none, never mind it.

Consider well your actions.  
What's done you can't recall,  
No use to pull the trigger  
Then try to stop the ball.

It's easy enough to be pleasant,  
When life flows like a song,  
But the man worth while,  
Is the man with a smile,  
When everything goes dead wrong.