

Farm Training In "Khaki Colleges" During Great War

Dr. J. A. Clark Describes Interesting Experiences In Organizing & Developing Agricultural Courses For Canada's Overseas Forces, 1918 - 1919.

The organization and development of agricultural instruction for Canada's overseas forces during the latter period of the Great War was the subject of an interesting address before the Gyrto Club on Monday night by Dr. J. A. Clark, Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Station here. Dr. Clark was in charge of this work and spoke therefore with first-hand knowledge of his subject. He said:



Dr. John A. Clark

"A great many of the men that Canada sent to assist the Mother Country during the Great War of 1914-18 were young men who had not completed their high school course or were attending our colleges or universities when they joined up and proceeded to England for training. This was particularly true during the last years of the War. These young men in the military camps of England, with the assistance of the Chaplain, Y. M. C. A., and other auxiliary services, organized many educational classes in England and on the Continent in 1917-18.

"Dr. H. M. Tory, President of the University of Alberta, was asked by the military authorities to make a preliminary report not only on the work that had been accomplished but as to what might be done in an educational way for our young men who were overseas to fit them for civilian employment following demobilization. Dr. Tory's report to the authorities led to the establishment of Educational Services in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces.

"In response to a cable from him, I arrived in England in August, 1918, to organize and develop the Dept. of Agriculture in the Khaki University of Canada. The Dominion Department of Agriculture granted me leave of absence for the duration of the War.

"Having access to the records, I learned that approximately 1,000 men had enlisted who had had agricultural training in our Canadian colleges of agriculture or had taught agricultural subjects in our universities, colleges and schools. A general survey of the situation when I arrived in England, indicated that there was a very great demand on the part of our soldiers for instruction in agriculture. This was probably due to their enforced outdoor life and the information that had reached them in regard to Canada's proposed land settlement scheme. Whatever the cause, many of them planned to farm in their vocation after having decided that matter, they set about in their characteristic energetic way to get all available information on the subject.

"During the summer of 1918, the instruction in Agriculture was carried on largely through the correspondence department of the Khaki University and many of the students were either with the Canadian Forestry Corps or at convalescent hospitals. At that time, it was with the greatest difficulty that suitable books were secured for this correspondence work. However the work grew and grew. The time of the staff of the Department of Agriculture, when it was being organized, was taken up very largely in preparing courses, selecting books, setting and correcting examination papers in connection with correspondence courses. The students were deeply interested and the work which they accomplished was far and away beyond expectations.

First Khaki Colleges

"The first Khaki Colleges where regular courses in agriculture were given, were established in September, 1918 at London, Witley, Bramshot, Seaford, Burton, Shorncliffe and Epsom. At these points, evening classes were arranged where the men could not attend during the day. Afternoon stock judging classes were held whenever opportunity offered.

"I cannot speak too highly of

the generous assistance given to us by the famous and stock breeders of the British Isles who not only allowed our students to use their animals in stock judging classes but also did everything possible to assist in the work of the instructors. One example comes to my mind, when the Wallace Brothers, of Auchincraig, Scotland (breeders of international repute) sent to Glasgow and had the editor of one of the Scottish agricultural papers come to their farm and give instruction to a group of Canadian students visiting the County of Ayr.

"I also want to pay tribute to the agricultural instructors who, in the majority of cases, taught classes in addition to their regular military duties previous to Armistice. Those who formulated the plans for the Khaki University had in mind the great educational opportunity that would present itself immediately following Armistice and to that end, our organization was set up.

Securing Instructors

"The biggest job I had as Officer in Charge of agricultural instruction was to secure men trained in teaching agriculture. In this connection, I received very valuable assistance from the presidents of the agricultural colleges throughout Canada who supplied me with lists of men who had gone overseas. The presidents of the Ontario Agricultural College and the Macdonald Agricultural College both came over to England and gave me most valuable assistance not only in regard to the course of study, but in recommending suitable instructors. Trained men were asked for and every reasonable method was adopted to secure their services. In this connection, we drew upon the Imperial Army and Royal Canadian Mounted Corps and not previously enlisted. One of my treasured possessions is not only authentic lists of all men who gave instruction in England and on the Continent, but also lists of all men overseas who were competent to give agricultural instruction whether they were ever asked to or not.

Administration

"The headquarters staff was organized at 31 Bedford Square, London, W. C. 1. The duties of this staff were: (1) preparing courses and outlines of study, (2) locating men qualified to teach agriculture and whenever possible their services from the active military units; (3) giving most of the agricultural lectures in the London Khaki College and at the nearby Canadian Forestry Corps at Catford Bridge; (4) the preparing and printing of Khaki booklets, Series 1; (5) selecting material and securing slides and equipment for class work throughout all the areas; (6) supervising the work in the Khaki College at the various camps. Members of the staff would hold conferences with the instructors and when necessary would remain for a month or more giving regular instruction at one of the 18 Khaki Colleges located in England during the winter of 1918-19.

"Almost everyone of these men have since held very important positions in agricultural work in Canada. They moved to where they were most needed whether it was to a camp or hospital. The legends of the several agricultural colleges in Canada were used in arranging courses so that the work would conform as nearly as possible in all essentials to the above named calendars. The staff prepared and corrected examination papers on the various subjects for the correspondence department in addition to their regular work in the areas.

Rapid Development

"The coming of Armistice revealed the great possibilities of giving agricultural instruction to great numbers who made application through their officers to get it. From that time on, our men were relieved from most of their regular military duties and devoted themselves entirely to the preparing of lectures and the teaching of the men not only by way of lectures but by practical demonstrations on the farms throughout the British Isles. The movement of troops from the camps to their reserves on their way home and of casualties through the hospitals was continuous. The men were rarely more than a few weeks in any particular place and for that reason the short course system of teaching which had been inaugurated previous to Armistice was continued in all of the areas except Ripon where all those who wished to secure university credit for work done were segregated and given work equivalent to first and second year courses in our Canadian colleges.

Agricultural Area Classes

"In the larger camps and convalescent hospitals, the original arrangement of two instructors for classes under 100 and an additional instructor for every 50 above that number, was adhered to whenever possible. The work of teaching was subdivided into groups as shown in the calendar and necessary equipment was secured. The manufacturers of agricultural implements and others were very generous in donating equipment and providing material for class work. Socialists were secured when possible and placed in charge of the agricultural work in each of the 18 Khaki Colleges. The only inducement that could

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be offered to these men was the opportunity to help their fellows less fortunate than themselves. That appeal rarely failed and I never met anyone who started giving instruction that said he was sorry he had done so. Most of them became very enthusiastic in their work and in many cases actually spent considerable sums of their own money to help their students. Later on the educational services was able to grant the rank of Acting Sergeant with Sergeant's pay and allowances to other ranks when employed teaching. The appreciation of their students, however, meant a great deal more to these men than rank or pay. Instances were known where our men refused the offer of commissions to go to other lines of work and I cannot speak too highly of the laborious painstaking and patriotic services that were given without stint. In every Khaki College by a loyal band of workers as the head of a college department could possibly have.

Area Work

"While the area work was subdivided into many groups there were three distinct sub-divisions: "1. The hospital group where the men were only able to study or attend classes that would not interfere with their treatment or overtax their strength. This work was carried on in 10 hospitals at Basingstoke, Epsom, Orpington, Taplow, Beaufort, Cooden, Buxton, Liverpool, Eching Hill and Shorncliffe.

"2. The Reserve Camp groups. The men in these colleges were able to attend both day and evening classes and many of them remained for three months in a camp to take the agricultural course and their instructors often moved with the camp when it was transferred from one place to another. In some instances, work almost equal to first year grade was covered in certain subjects in the college work at the following points: Witley, Bramshot, Seaford, Borden, Bovington, Ripon and Sunningdale.

"3. The third group were men in the London area. Most of these men were only able to attend night classes and to go on educational trips on holidays and week ends. These students were from the offices of the permanent Canadian staff in London and were able to continue a regular course of lectures for many months and at the London Khaki College many of the courses and the men who passed successfully the final examination were given credit by subjects for first year work in Canadian colleges.

"Neither time nor expense was spared in securing the best equipment obtainable for the agricultural classes in the Khaki Colleges. Such material and text books as were suitable were bought in England and Khaki booklets were published by the Department of Agriculture. Educational services to meet specific needs. One order for agricultural text and reference books which was cabled across the Atlantic amounted to \$30,000. Agricultural bulletins were obtained from the Provincial and Dominion Departments of Agriculture by the tens of thousands. Implements and machines were loaned by manufacturers for demonstration purposes. Sets of Canadian weed seeds, entomological specimens and much other material, were obtained from Canada for college use. Every college had a splendid library and reading room. 100 copies of all the leading agricultural journals of Canada were circulated throughout the camps and hospitals regularly. Lanterns and moving picture outfits, slides and films of operations and demonstrations on Canadian farms, were obtained and used in all the areas.

University at Ripon

"As the work progressed, the need of segregating the agricultural students who wished to take university work became evident and

Nine N.S. People Receive Rewards

HAMILTON, Ont., Dec. 12.—(CP)—Parchment certificates of the Royal Canadian Humane Association have been awarded to nine Nova Scotians to mark heroic effort in rescuing people from drowning.

Names and deeds are recorded by the association as follows:

Enna Rogers Salzman, Grafton, N.S., for rescue of Donald Thornton Burgess from drowning at Harbourville, N.S., Aug. 22.

G. Martin, Halifax, N.S., for rescue of Edward Jeffery from drowning in Halifax Harbor, Aug. 12.

Minard W. Graves, Bridgetown, N.S., for rescue of William Cook, Jr., from drowning at Hampton, N.S., Aug. 16.

John Edouard, Nell's Harbor, N.S., who was ably assisted by his sons, Cecil and Theodore, for rescue of Jack Halliwell and G. Shephard from drowning at North Sydney, N.S., Aug. 1917.

Osborne Robart, Milton, N.S., for rescue of Kathleen Main from drowning in Mersey River, Aug. 3.

Fred Horne, Canso, N.S., for rescue of three persons from drowning from the beach "Estoy" near Yarmouth, N.S., July 12.

Edmund J. McNeil and James R. Macneil of Iona, N.S., for rescue of Daniel Lantry from drowning at Iona, Aug. 26, 1917.

Anthony Hannam, Halifax, for rescue of Robert Holt from drowning at Smith's Wharf, Aug. 12, 1939.

at Ripon the Department gathered many of the leading instructors and gave first and second year college work to men qualified for university work. For a time, our animal husbandry work at Ripon was greatly hampered by foot and mouth quarantine which prevented our men from visiting stock. Fortunately, this was removed and in the spring of 1919, with many of the other Khaki Colleges closed, additional teachers were added to the instructional staff at Ripon and everyone worked enthusiastically to give the students the equivalent of similar work in Canada. Many were discouraged from attempting advanced work unless they had the necessary foundation, and we found that some of the men who had been in our Canadian colleges before enlistment were keen and not only undertook agricultural educational work but found afterwards that they carried it through. I was able to send them slides to illustrate many of the lectures outlined for the 8 weeks' short course.

On the Continent

"Early in January, 1919, at the request of Major E. J. Ashton of the Soldiers' Settlement Board, I proceeded through France and Belgium to the headquarters of the Canadian Corps then at Bonn, Germany, and in co-operation with the educational officers of the Second Division assisted them in organizing agricultural instruction at the different Brigade headquarters. Very encouraging results were obtained. Conferences were held with agricultural instructors from the different units. Some of the classes were held in the University of Bonn. In some cases, the 8 weeks' short course outline was forwarded from London and used by the Educational Officers of the four Canadian Divisions of the First Canadian Divisional Headquarters in Huy, Belgium and as-

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sted in making arrangements with Brigade and Battalion Educational officers and their instructors to start similar work for the men then at Huy. This work, though very strenuous, was most successful. On one day, I recall speaking to four different brigades at widely separated places, travelling 36 miles to reach the four points. The following morning, General Tuck sent for me to speak to his Artillery Brigade which had just moved in and I had an opportunity to present to a large conference of his officers and men, the work that had been planned. I found the men were keen and not only undertook agricultural educational work but found afterwards that they carried it through. I was able to send them slides to illustrate many of the lectures outlined for the 8 weeks' short course.

AGRICULTURAL TOURS

"The visiting of farms nearby the different colleges by a group of students with their instructor, grew into more extended tours for students during the Easter holidays and classes in judging live stock had an opportunity of seeing the very best stock in England and Scotland. In most cases, the owners acted as the presiding judge so that the men obtained both English and Scottish points in judging cattle, sheep and swine. During some of the agricultural tours, the students visited Experimental Stations, Colleges, Universities, Stock Shows Fairs and Agricultural Auction Sales. Four stock judging teams were trained to take part in an Inter-Dominion Contest planned for the Royal Show at Cardiff, Wales, June 24-29, 1919. Arrangements were made so that Canadian Agricultural students were admitted to attend regular classes in both English and Scottish Universities and a number of

these men, during the Easter holidays, were able to join the tours mentioned.

Publications

"In addition to 14 reprints of Extension Bulletins (permission having been obtained through colleges in America) two Tunic Pocket Agricultural Bulletins were written and published by the Department in Canada. These were "Farm Accounts" and "Choosing a Farm." The manuscript for "Farm Accounts" was prepared largely by the Officer in Charge of the Department assisted by a cost accountant, R. S. M. M. Hennigan. This manuscript was sent to all the Khaki Colleges and constructive suggestions were asked for and secured from the different areas that were a great help to the authors.

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PGNATTY?

HE IS TALKING PFUNNY (YA MEAN LIKE PYOU?) YES, LIKE PME OH, MY PGORSH

TIPPIE AND "CAP" STUBBS

GEE! I DON'T SEE WHAT COULD OF BECOME OF IT--

LOOK AGAIN--

HELLO-- OH, ISABELLE--

MEBBE IT DROPPED OUTTA MY POCKET WHEN I WAS WALKIN' ON MY HANDS--

GEE! ISABELLE, I GUESS IT'S LOST--

I'LL HAFTA GET ANOTHER DIME FROM GRAN'MA FORE WE CAN BUY ANY ICE CREAM--

CONES--

TILLIE THE TOILER — MAC'S HIDDEN TALENT

HERE, TILLIE, THERE'S PLENTY OF SALT IN THIS SALT-CELLAR

SURE, WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?

GOOD GRIEF! MAC-- THE WELSH RABBIT'S BURNING UP

SO YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY, EH? WELL, IF YOU WANT ANOTHER, YOU'LL COOK IT YOURSELF

SURE, TILLIE, I'D BE GLAD TO

WELL, IF YOU KNOW HOW TO COOK, WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN HELPING ME LEARN ALL THESE WEEKS?

AW, GOSH, TILLIE

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