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STAGGERS THE IMAGINATION

The well known live stock commission house of Clay, Robinson & Co., doing business at a dozen markets almost, issue from their Chicago office a weekly publication, the Live Stock Report, which contains, in addition to information relative to live stock matters in general and their business in particular, timely editorials on other subjects.

A recent number of the Live Stock Report contained the following interesting article under the caption, War's Wastage of Intellect, in which the calamity of the present European war is spoken of as being "so far-reaching in its effetes as to indeed stagger the imagination":

Not the least deplorable result of the present war is the wastage of brain power, the great dynamic which has brought the world to its present state of material development. The danger of stagnation in the world's progress from poverty of intellectual leadership is a real one. By reason of the scientific methods employed in modern warfare brains and technical skill are required to a hitherto unknown degree, and the loss is correspondingly increased.

The Hamburger Fremdenblatt estimates that Germany alone lost more than 90,000 intellectuals in the first eight months of the war. About 25,000 students of universities, preparatory colleges and technical schools had been killed up to April 1. Other casualties included 10,000 professors of universities and colleges and teachers in schools and other educational institutions, 11,000 judges and attorneys, 18,000 public officials of various kidns, 11,000 editors, writers, artists, musicians and actors, and 15,000 chemists, technicians, engineers and kindred professions.

The losses of the Austro-Hungarian thinking classes are comparatively as heavy. A London paper makes similar comments on the toll of talent and genius which Great Britain and France are paying for an uncertain triumph on the "field of honor." It is the same with Italy, Russia adn the other belligerent nations. It was only recently that the cable reported Gabriel D'Annunzio, Italy's leading poet, flying over Trieste and dropping his verses along with death dealing bombs. Marconi, to whom the world owes the gift of wireless telegraphy, is with the Italian forces, and a life of incalculable value to mankind may any day be snuffed out.

It is self-evident that the warring nations are consuming their intellectual as well as physical capital at an appalling rate. War on a huge scale in the present highly organized state of human society is a calamity so far-reaching in its effects as to indeed stagger the imagination.

RAILROAD RATES AND SERVICE

Apropos of the recent general discussion of railroad freight rates thru the press of this country, and the action taken last month by the Interstate Commerce Commission on the application of western railroads for permission to increase rates. The Herlad wishes to express what we believe to be the general sentiment of shippers regarding the matter, and particularly of persons interested in the live stock industry.

There is an almost universal demand that transportation rates shall be as low as is consistent with good service and a fairly profitable business by the transportation companies. There are but comparatively few persons who wish to see railroads driven into bankruptey or crippled so that needed extensions and improvements cannot be made. On some commodities the freight charges should be low, quite low, because of the cheapness with which they can be transported and the small risk incurred in handling. On other commodities the rates must necessarily be much higher, if satisfactory service is to be rendered. On such articles as coal, lumber, hay, etc., which do not require rapid transportation, and in the carrying of which there is but little danger of loss, shippers have a right to expect and demand low rates. In the carrying of perishable products, requiring rapid transportation and incurring great risk, railroads have a right to ask and receive rates commensurate with the services rendered and risk incurred. Among shippers of live stock, we do not believe there is one-half the demand for lower rates that there is for better service. Except for an occasional complaint that rates are not equitable, that is, that the rate to some given point is not as low as it ought to be as compared with the rate to some other point, we do not hear much said regarding live stock freight rates; but we do hear a good deal regarding service, and not a few complaints regarding the service railroads render in the shipping of live stock. One per cent, difference in the condition of live stock upon reaching market means more to the shipper than five per cent. difference in th freight rate. If the railroads will give live stock shippers the service they want, they will not hear them clamoring for excessively low freight rates.





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