



Mervin John Armstrong

Below we quote the address read by Rev. J. C. Wilson at the Memorial Services held for Mervin J. Armstrong, at Hannaford, Sunday, Sept. 22nd, 1918.

On October 28, 1898, began the life of one who was destined to have an important part in the world's progress—loved by two, known by only a few and possessed not even a name. He had not been long in his new home with Mr. and Mrs. John B. Armstrong of Hannaford, N. D., till he was known as Mervin John Armstrong and like his Master, "Increased in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man." In his early life he was in many ways like most other farm boys interested in the young calves, pigs, colts, chickens, etc., of the farm and with open ears and eyes partook richly and abundantly from Mother Nature, and was ever on the lookout to locate the niche into which he was to fall in the world's work. These and other surroundings made him not only a lover of his country home, but helped him to form clean habits and speech, and a strong character. He was industrious, faithful to the home duties, seldom away except an occasional trip to the near-by little cities or a day or so each year in hunting during the open season. His education consisted of the advantages afforded by the local schools, a year in Jamestown College and the schools of observation and experience at which he was not slow to get the great truths he needed.

At the age of nineteen, after carefully weighing the matter, he not only heard the call of his country and the cry of the world for freedom and justice, but he answered the call by enlisting with Company B at Fargo, July Fourth, 1917. In his examination before the Medical Board he passed a one hundred per cent, even the test of both his eyes being the same which it has been said, seventy-five per cent of the boys failed to do. This we believe was very largely due to the clean life he lived. As a soldier, he was never sick a day, and was always ready for duty, no task being too small or too hard for him to undertake. He was always fair to the Government whether he was home on a furlough or in his correspondence—not one single thing being crossed out of his correspondence by the censor. When members of the family were visiting him not long before he left the state with his Company, he was asked if he would not like to return home. He replied, "Yes, but I would rather go to the front as one man now will be worth a thousand later on," which shows that he had not only weighed the matter carefully, but was still ready to adhere to his decision when he enlisted. He loved the home with all of its surroundings and, before he made his final leave he thanked his father and mother for twenty years of good home training. His last birthday in his native land was spent on the rifle range at Camp Greene, Charlotte, N. C., where he became quite proficient as a marksman. Out of a body of 400 men, only ten stood above him and their score was 100 per cent. This was surely a good showing for one who had but little experience with a gun before he entered the army. We believe that his keen sight and judgment, and steady hand was due very largely

Com. Hagan Says "Plow Early"

The North Dakota farmers having already gone "over the top" in the production of wheat to feed our armies and the armies of our allies, Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor John M. Hagan calls upon the farmers of the state to begin to prepare for another big crop next year—one that will equal or excel the 1918 Liberty Crop.

Early fall plowing, Mr. Hagan says, is one of the requisites of obtaining a good crop, and in advocacy of early fall plowing, he says:

"It is necessary that North Dakota next year raise a large amount of wheat. In doing what is manifestly our privilege and duty we will have the substantial appreciation of a guaranteed minimum price per bushel for wheat.

"In producing crops in North Dakota there are many factors to contend with, some over which we have little or no control and others that are entirely up to us. Among the latter the time and method of plowing is one of primary importance.

"The best place to grow wheat is on ground that has been into some intertilled crop or on summer fallowed ground. However, in order to grow the amount of wheat expected of us much of it will have to be raised on ground that this year had wheat or some other of the small grain crops on it. In getting a good crop on such land one of the requisites is good, early fall plowing. This is deserving of much attention because of the generally larger yield as compared to the spring plowing.

"The advantages of early fall plowing are:

"1. The destruction of weeds or grass which absorb the moisture that otherwise would be available the following year for the growing crop.

"2. It allows the soil to become packed thus furnishing the desirable firm, mellow seed bed and prevents capillary evaporation.

"3. It makes possible early seeding. This is possibly the most important as statistics show that early seeding of wheat is necessary if maximum returns are to be had."

The recent rains over practically all of the state have wet down sufficiently, Mr. Hagan says, so that the condition of the ground for plowing is ideal.

Our Individual Part

Some observers think that the most characteristic thing about the American soldiers in France, something which astounds the enemy and excites the admiration of our allies, is the capacity of the American soldiers to do individual thinking and fighting. The German fights successfully only in mass formation, in organized bodies, while every American soldier has an initiative and independence of action which gives him remarkable efficiency in open fighting. They are not senseless cogs, but each is an individual working unit in a great fighting machine.

Every American at home should feel an individual responsibility and do his or her individual part in winning the war. There is not an American citizen who can not help win the war. The Fourth Liberty Loan drive which begins Sept. 23th, offers a great opportunity for concerted action, and the loan will be a tremendous success if each American will do his or her individual part as each American soldier in France does his part. Our soldiers deserve such support from the people at home.

to the fact that he used neither tobacco nor cigarets in any form.

The date when he began his journey across is unknown to us, but he reached England on December 23rd, 1917, from whence he soon went to France where he saw seven months of active service at the front. In writing to the home folks under date of February 2nd, 1918, it was learned of his close call when he made it known that a German bullet had passed through his helmet and grazed his head. A letter, received September 10th, from the Second Lieutenant of his Company reads as follows: