

At last I came to the conclusion that the thing must be decided in some way so I resolved to let the results of the battle of Verdun which was then at its height be the judge. If the Germans broke through to Paris I would enlist. If the French were strong enough to hold them back I would stay home. Dad said this was a fair proposition, as the Germans are still outside the defence of Verdun I am still on the farm. Whether I did right or not I don't know, it is for those higher up in authority to judge but I do know that I have done what I thought was the best and have not suffered any uneasiness since I eliminated sentiment from the case. Now that conscription is coming in force all responsibility is lifted and if they tell me I am to stay on the farm it will be a satisfaction to know I have done right but if they tell me I must go to the front I will do it without any shame for having stayed away so long. I must say that I do not feel the same eager desire to go that I once did and will not be sorry if I am exempted but at the same time want to go if I am really needed. The boys at the front have got to be reinforced no matter what else happens and we haven't the time to haggle over technicalities in our constitution to decide whether or not we have the

right to enforce conscription. It is today he is ordering our Prussianism but we must have the men and as a last resort I think are justified in adopting some of the German methods in order to cope with them. All this is a little out side my usual diary writing but these are an unusual time and in future years when time has harrowed over and smothered our memories I want to remember how keenly we feel all these things now.

Tuesday September 25th

In some way or other I have missed one day altogether and wrote under the heading of Monday all the doings of today so I will now write Monday's record under today's heading. Dad and I finished haying out manure this morning. We cleaned the shed and covered the field. Cuck and Frank went out to the Shands to take Flossie's tomatoes and then went down town. This afternoon Dad disked. I flailed out some of my wheat and Frank rode down to John Watts to see if he could get some second cut. Clover that he is just putting up and then he and I went after it. We just got a little to feed the ~~cow~~ lambs and traded a bag of oats for it. In night I went down town and got my hair cut and Dad, Cuck & the baby and I went to Penty Abies