

Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

July 25, 1906.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Vol. XLI. No. 722.

EDITORIAL

Fluency in cursing, whiskey drinking and the cigarette are not short cuts to manhood.

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Every decent person in a town is glad to see the backs of the racehorse fraternity and their gambling satellites.

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Feather plucking is acknowledged to be a bad vice in poultry—it is far worse if practised on the unsophisticated of the community by permission of an exhibition board.

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July is the month when the weeds are plainly seen. The stinkweed; the wheel of fortune, the Canada thistle, the crooked race starter, the mustards, the bookmakers and the wild oats.

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Vulgarity is not the hall mark of a good story.

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A Minister of Agriculture queries, "Does the Department of Agriculture get from the fairs, value for its grants?" In some cases, yes, a few cases, it's doubtful, in the majority—no!

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Innisfail is an effectual refutation to the idea that an agricultural show can not be held without races.

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The domestic science, dairy and poultry demonstrations of Alberta have caught on, and can doubtless be enlarged upon in 1907. Harcourt is wise, he knows that if he has the sympathy and support of the women folk, the rest is easy.

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Edmonton has had a fair for five years and has not yet reached the stage of providing a horse ring. It can do better for a moving picture outfit than the horsebreeders who help make its prosperity.

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The science of eugenics or the breeding of human beings might well be studied by some agricultural societies, so that by A.D. 2000, we may have directors who can run a show without the support (!) of the tough element.

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The true soul cannot believe it possible that a gentleman would sell intoxicants.

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There is nothing more intolerant than tolerance. Do not call such a statement a paradox, as it is not.

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Youth is not sufficient excuse for the following flippancy from a woman in a public place, "They're all Christians, they won't play euchre!" Such an utterance jars on one's ears; it is just such sentiments that encourage the young men of the country to talk disparaging of the complement sex.

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Englishman and Scotchman to a Canadian—"You will admit we are the salt of the earth, old chap?" Perhaps so, we believe in a proper blending, no one wishes to get the salty taste in one's soup.

The Boomer Bugbear.

It is somewhat of a predicament the average man finds himself in during these days of copious crop reports. He realizes that the reports emanate from the optimistic and over zealous advocate for the district in which he lives who is so anxious that the particular community in which his lot is cast shall stand forth as the garden of the Dominion, that he overlooks the bearish effect upon prices of reports from such loyal sponsors from three provinces. The mouth of the protesting individual, however, is closed lest he be branded as a pessimist and a traitor to his community. The adverse result of over jubilation concerning crop prospects should teach people a lesson. It is not necessary to use superlatives in reporting crop prospects in order to keep out of the pessimistclass. To say that the crop is good and will yield about a certain figure is as near the truth as to say it is the best that has ever been and does not betray any lack of appreciation of the good prospects while at the same time it does not furnish such inflammable fuel with which the crop report mongers heat their dispatches. Sanity and discretion should characterize comments upon crop prospects for once the impression gets firmly fixed in the minds of buyers that there is plenty of wheat to come forward, prices for old crop will rule lower and values for new wheat can scarcely be advanced. It is often the crop reporter that fixes the price of wheat.

Exploiting a Beneficial Principle.

Under the lash of necessity and the spur of the demon of toil, the human race has become addicted to the work habit, till severe exertion has come to be regarded as a chronic circumstance. Man has sweat at the plow and the forge till he has not the heart, much less the energy, to study in earnest the question whether less work, better directed, would not achieve better results. To be sure, he has made some effort to improve his condition, and it is encouraging that the more he better it, the more advance he finds possible. Herein lies a grand principle. The more leisure we employ judiciously in thinking and in travel, rest and recreation—which fits us to think the more intelligently—the less we find it necessary to toil. Which farmers in the neighborhood get ahead faster, as a rule, the ones who slave hardest, or those who work moderately with their hands, but plan wisely? The diligent workers, so long as their strength lasts, may accumulate money by sheer penuriousness, but what a life they live!

Frugality is a virtue in those who must practice it to live within their means; in others it is a crime. It leads to narrowness and stultification. There are slave-drivers who by stinginess have sent their children from home. They cheese-pare and skimp, and perhaps cheat, all for a little pile of miserable lucre. The broad-gauge, intelligent men, who adopted improved methods, who make every stroke count, who build up their farms, and perform generously their duty to their families and the communities, getting the good out of life as they go along—they are the really successful men, and they are seldom drudges. Mental energy is rarely compatible with physical exhaustion. The farmer who would work to the best advantage must have some time for reading, conversation and reflection. Step out of the rut now and then, to take a look around. How can a man select the best track who is sunk so deep in the slough that he cannot survey the field? Take a day off to travel about and see things. Attend agricultural meetings when you get a chance. Read the agricultural press. No man in this generation can hope to excel his forbears by working longer hours. Shorter hours, better methods, better work, better health, a fuller life—these are the things to seek.

On some farms nowadays things are run the wrong way. The hired help works a limited time at the regular farm operations, besides a few chores, while the employer dogs at it early and late. He fancies it is necessary, never dreaming that, while saving at the spigot, he is wasting at the bung. The farmer's hours should be shorter, not longer, than those of his help. The farmer who supplies the capital and takes the risks, works with head and hands. That his brain may be bright and clear for managing, his hands should not be too constantly employed, even in the rush of crop-saving, in haying and harvest, when hard-and-fast rules as to hours of labor are not usually observed. At this busy season, let there be breathing spells. On the other hand, the "help" may do much to make things "go," by taking a personal interest in the success of the operations of the farm, whether the farmer is on hand or not. In short, let there be a manifestation of the good old gospel of mutual helpfulness.

Searchlight on Insurance.

The investigation, by the Royal Commission, appointed by the Canadian government, into the life-insurance business, as prosecuted in Canada, has been proceeding leisurely, and, while the revelations thus far have not been so startling as in the United States a few months ago, still, transactions in the handling and investing of funds have been made public that fully justify the government in ordering the enquiry, and, in our opinion, it has been made at an opportune time. This country appears to be entering the full tide of national progress and prosperity, when the concomitant struggle for display, material advantage and rapid wealth-getting naturally becomes very keen on the part of the people. Under such conditions, the temptations to make reckless or improper use of funds which are really held in trust for others, become very great. Hence the special desirability at this stage of letting in the daylight and anchoring upon principles and methods financially and morally sound.

Thus far we notice that the enquiry has dealt more especially with the regular insurance companies, or those conducted upon what has latterly been described as the "level-premium" plan, whereby the amount of each premium is gauged according to the age of the insured, the number of premiums, and when payable, overpaying the cost of carrying the risk in the earlier years, but underpaying it in later years, when the death rate and risk inevitably increases. The other plan in vogue in the fraternal organizations is called the assessment system, by which death claims are annually assessed on the survivors, the proportion of deaths naturally increasing as the membership grows older. We note with satisfaction the scope of the Commission is sufficiently wide to cover all these latter organizations, which are very numerous in Canada. Their membership is very large among people of moderate means—those who have been attracted by a form of insurance which at the outset, at all events, is less costly. The hopes of provision for the future of a host of families—wives and children dependent upon the head of the household for support—is largely wrapped up in these institutions, and if the principles and methods by which they are conducted are sound and safe, then they are entitled to the assurances of the Royal Commission to that effect, and if, in these societies, as in the regular insurance companies, radical defects or objectionable methods have crept in, these should be rectified as far as practicable, and people put upon their guard for the future. Turn on the searchlight.