

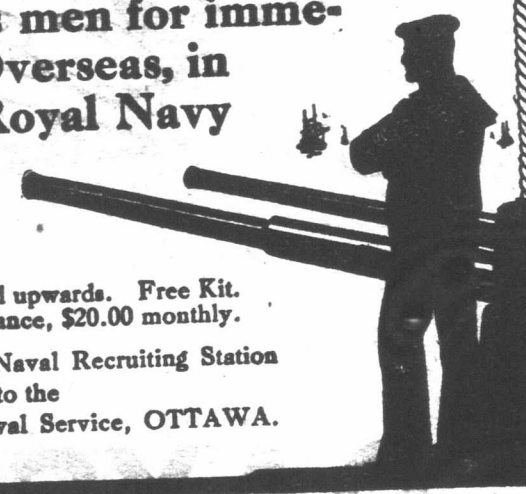
Men Wanted for the Navy

The Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve, wants men for immediate service Overseas, in the Imperial Royal Navy

Candidates must be sons of natural born British subjects and be from 18 to 35 years of age.

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An Editor Talks

Feather beds are passing out, too. So they should. They have served their day. Housewives in our boyhood were proud of their guest chamber feather bed. Some of these feather beds are hoary with age. A city man who recently returned from the country tells this story: My wife and I enjoyed our holidays on the farm home by the sea. We enjoyed the plain, wholesome food, luscious golden corn, fresh eggs and fried chicken just off the hoof. At night we had a large, airy room—everything lovely till we sank into the billowy depths of a feather bed. I hadn't seen one for years. Feather beds are often handed down in the family for generations. I can't help reflecting that these generations are now dead, and that those who had died with their boots off had lain ill and died on these same feather beds. I sounded a little along this line and met with two magic phrases—"home plucked" and "fumigated." Of course the first does mean something—it means that only your forebears—instead of strangers—have died on the feathers your bed or pillow is stuffed with. As for "fumigation" I happen to know that hospital specialists in germ diseases have declared feathers an exception to the usual rules of disinfection. In other words it can't be done.

And yet, people blissfully go on buying as "new" pillows filled with the stuffing of feather beds that have an unknown and possibly a slimy or garbage-can history! For even the feather beds that are not handed down are made over into pillows. There ought to be a law against the sale of any but new feathers, absolutely.

Boys are a universal subject for our consideration and we never tire of talking about and to boys. Parents can never give too much thought to the welfare of their boys. Leslies, one of the greatest magazines, says, referring to the home influences on boys, this is a good time to think of your boy's future welfare:

If you do not look after him in the right way, someone will do it in the wrong way. Begin now.

Teach your boys to follow in the footsteps of his father, to respect the law, to obey his parents, to regard the rights of all men, to honor virtue, to respect womanhood and to depend upon no one but himself for his advancement.

Teach him that the golden rule of life will be found in the ten commandments. They are short. They have survived the ages. They stand to-day unchanged and unchallenged.

They comprise the first great written law given by God to man. Before these few commandments all man-made laws faded into insignificance. Teach them to your boy. There is danger ahead if you do not. The universal drift of mankind is toward decadence. Heredity pays its premium and also exacts its discount. The son of a good father and an affectionate mother, brought up in an atmosphere of parental regard, never will disgrace the family. The boys of to-day are to be the men of to-morrow. The destinies of the Canadian people are to be in the hands of their sons. If the boys are taught respect for the law, both human and divine, obedience to authority, manly independence and the fear of God, this great nation will be a noble monument to man's capacity for self-government and self-control at a time when all the world is seething in a cauldron of unrest, unreason and disbelief. Teach your boy to rule, but first to rule himself.

We were discussing with a gentleman from Rochester recently the great value of family influence, the importance of a young man or young woman marrying into a family of respectability and integrity—of good character and Christian principles. It means much in several ways. The mother largely makes the home, and does more than anyone else to shape its general influence.

The home that possesses a cheerful wife and mother is not only a veritable haven of rest, but the safe harbor whose beacon light will guide her bread winners safely past all rocks and shoals with unflinching certainty. The woman whose cheerful spirit can take that brave attitude toward life that enables her to bear courageously the inevitable burdens of her life's environment; that strengthens her determination not to fret or worry those who, for her sake, are fighting the hard battles in the world, has reached that altitude that proclaims her price above rubies; and her influence and example are not felt only within the limits of the four walls she has made the unassailable bulwark of state and society, a happy home, but reach to those she knows not. The best friend of any boy is a good mother. And the safe way for a woman to marry is the man who is known to be good, kind and attentive to his mother.

Most of the unhappy marriages and divorces could have been avoided if the contracting parties had learned to know each other better before linking up for a life partnership. We have known some cases of unhappy marriages and in every case the trouble arose because of short or unfavorable courtship. It is a good plan to visit each other's home, meet their parents or other relatives, or in some way get first hand knowledge of the family. It is certainly painful to read the particulars of the numerous divorce suits that fill the columns of the American daily papers. Many of these sad events are from good homes and the interested parties stand high in social life, and not a few in church life. This separation between husband and wife is one of the sad scenes in human existence. Many times either would prefer death to this unhappy parting. For years they have lived together and their lives have been blended into one. They have learned by bitter experience, as the years have gone by, that they are not suited to one another and finally, in a moment of discord or passion, the silken cord has broken and they separate forever. Let us hope that in the world to come, when they can all see things plainer than they do in this life they may be united again, but there is a probability that unhappy marriages, resulting from unsuited positions, will not result in union or happiness in this world or the one to come. "What God hath joined together let no man put asunder."

School fairs have been in vogue the past few weeks. They are a splendid institution when properly prepared for and rightly conducted. The greater part of the people live in the country and are engaged one way or another in some kind of agricultural interests, so that it is a very proper subject for schools.

Many are the uses in agriculture

to which boys and girls can be put. Many are the pleasant and profitable ways in which they can be employed. Many, too, are the lessons that can be taught. Every method judiciously made use of means inculcation of love of country, encouragement of laudable ambition, and profit to the nation. School gardens, school fairs, competitions in cultivation, production and stock judging are all means towards keeping the youngsters at home and on the farm in after life, and all tend to the improvement and maintenance of the welfare of Canada.

The war has had much to do with the occupation of young people as well as older ones. For the past 18 months boys and girls devoted their attention in considerable measures to productive patriotic work. The lads cultivated vegetable garden plots, the harvest from which was sold and the proceeds turned into Red Cross and other funds. The lasses knitted and sewed to give comfort to the soldier in the trenches and aid to the wounded. They also helped their parents in the good work of the day. Their young minds could hardly recognize the splendid, the noble, the magnificent of the tasks in which they were engaged. They hardly recognized that they were also adding to the wealth of the country. But they were. Every potato they grew, every pair of socks they knitted, made Canada so much richer. The effect of their industry spread all over the empire. They little knew they were heroes and heroines in embryo. But again they were. Few of them probably figured out that a thousand of them, each producing ten dollars worth of labor in making useful articles, were contributing ten thousand dollars to the capital of the country. But once more they were. At the same time they were profiting themselves and their native land to an extent that cannot be measured in gold and that knows no limitation.

War is not without its compensations, if they are awfully expensive. The improvement in the life of many a boy and girl through these and other activities will tell for great good in the future of Canada and no doubt in other countries which are at war as well. The old adage: Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do, was the significant warning in the olden times. In Canada today there is no room or occasion for an idle hand. The smallest can do something and should do something. Half an hour a day would see something accomplished, something that in after years the boy or girl would look back upon with pride and satisfaction. "While juvenile organizations are an encouragement to the service, while boys' and girls' clubs are distinctly useful, while the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides are beyond estimate in righteousness of principle and teaching, there are heaps of room for individual effort," says an exchange. There is grand opportunity also for the adult to encourage and further that effort. There is none so poor, and, beyond babyhood, few so young, that at this crisis in the affairs of the empire, he or she cannot do something, however small, to help forward the great and good cause. One way is to bear in mind that self-indulgence is retrograding and uneconomical. Also that "every mickle makes a muckle."

Our readers must all have felt a sort of inward gratification over the news of the bringing down to earth of the terrible Zeppelins. It is a great satisfaction to know that the British can bring down the Zeppelin. That was in doubt for some time; but the record to the credit of the anti-

aircraft guns is 25 Zeppelins. That does not mean that the Zeppelin will always be caught; but there are improved defences; and even the aeroplane under the direction of audacious aviators, can rise to the Zeppelin's height and destroy it. The latest raid was murderous in its effects. There is no pretence of confining the raids to military centres. It is plain, straight, unadulterated, wholesale murder. It is carrying out the devilish doctrine of Bismarck that the inhabitants of the invaded country must be left nothing "but eyes to weep with." This very disregard of even the crudest obligations of humanity will all the more strengthen the British resolution to carry on till this bestial power is crushed beyond recovery. It must be done. "Could we conceive of life under the domination of this fiendish power which delights in cold and ferocious murder, and awards the Military Cross for the massacres of women and children?" asks Bystander.

ON THE FARM

Buckwheat for Live Stock.

Many farmers in Ontario sowed more than their average of buckwheat this year on account of the impossibility of getting on the land in time to put in their usual grain crops, and from reports received to date it appears that there will be a good supply of this grain throughout the province.

Buckwheat is, as a rule, considered chiefly as a poultry feed by most farmers nowadays, but with coarse grains lacking in supply it will be necessary to consider the possible value of all farm crops as feed for stock. Buckwheat compared with wheat as regards its composition stands as follows: Buckwheat, water 12.6; ash 2.0; protein, 10.0; crude fibre, 8.7; nitrogen-free extract, 64.5; ether extract, 2.2; wheat, water 10.5; ash, 1.8; protein, 11.9; crude fibre, 1.8; nitrogen-free extract, 71.9; ether extract, 2.1. The black woody hulls of buckwheat have little feeding value and are the chief objection to the grain as chop, but the portion of the grain that forms the middlings is rich in protein and ether extract, and has a high feeding value. "The feeder may make liberal use of the floury portions of the buckwheat grain, well assured that they are valuable and that, usually, they are an economical feed," says W. A. Henry in Feeds and Feeding.

Buckwheat is rarely used in Ontario as feed for dairy cows, but is something of a favorite in the Maritime Provinces. If ground and mixed with other concentrates it usually cheapens the ration and adds bulk. It frequently seems to increase the flow of milk. The Central Experimental Farm has reported two feeding trials in which buckwheat was fed against wheat, to pigs. In the first trial, ground buckwheat was fed against ground wheat, and in this trial 445 pounds of ground buckwheat were required for 100 pounds gain, and 410 pounds ground wheat for 100 pounds gain.

In the second trial, one lot of pigs was fed a mixture of one-half ground buckwheat and one-half mixed meal, and the other lot a mixture of one-half ground wheat and one-half mixed meal. In this trial it required 405 pounds of the buckwheat mixture for 100 pounds of gain, and 390 pounds of the wheat mixture for 100 pounds gain. This is a much better showing for buckwheat than might be expected, since buckwheat has a thick, fibrous hull which the hog cannot digest. Ground wheat showed an advantage of only about 8 1/2 per cent. over ground buckwheat, and the wheat mixture an advantage of 6 1/2 per cent. over the buckwheat.

Feeding of buckwheat to sheep and horses does not seem to have been tried to any great extent but there would no doubt be safety in its use in small quantities if mixed with other grains. An account of the experience of feeders who have used buckwheat as a feed for all classes of live stock would be greatly appreciated by many who have a stock of this grain on hand.

Lengthen the Life of Machinery.

Fall is here again and it will not be many weeks until the cold winds from the north will be carrying snow-flurries across the fields. The leaves will soon drop from the trees and make them, like the fence corners, a very bare shelter for the farm implements and machinery. The life of usefulness of any machine depends more on the care taken of it than upon the work done. Farm binders and mowers are too short-lived, and it is not always the fault of the manufacturer. Too often the machine stands in the field from the time it is last used in haying or harvest until after it freezes up and in some cases even through the winter. Snow makes a good covering but a poor preservative for such machinery. The careless plowman leaves his plow in the ground at the end of the field when he unhitches at night, and one night the frost comes hard and the plow is there till spring. The cultivator, the harrows and the disk are often found in the corner of the field where the fall wheat was put in and are left there till the snow flies and sometimes until spring, and the owner, when he wants to use them next spring, finds

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them so rusty that they do not clean, and decay sometimes has set in in the wooden parts. Rust rots the metal just as quickly as decay consumes the wood. We venture to say that the lifetime of farm implements and machinery could be doubled were they always driven to the implement shed and put under cover when the day's work is done or when the particular job at which they are used is completed, and when put away were looked over to see that all nuts were tight and parts in place, and all those parts which are liable to rust covered with oil and the wooden parts kept freshly painted. We saw a wagon a few months ago which was so old that the owner, a man well past middle age, could not remember exactly how old it was and yet largely by good care in being kept under cover and washed frequently and also treated to a coat of paint annually, it was just as serviceable and looked as well as it did when it left the shop. Put away the implements and machinery as soon as through with them this fall. It is a good way to save.—Farmer's Advocate.

Selection of Seed Potatoes.

Thousands of farmers have suffered heavy losses at various times from fungus diseases attacking potato crops. Weak, spindly hills make breeding places for the diseases which would never get started otherwise. These spindly hills are often caused by planting weak seed, the result of carelessness in selecting the tubers for seed. Like begets like, and the sooner persons planting small or diseased potatoes realize this the better it will be for their crop yields.

Remarkable results have been obtained by investigators in seed selection work with potatoes. Intricate methods are not necessary to obtain marked improvement in the ordinary field crops. It is a good plan to go over the field when the tops are about half ripened off and mark with a stake or twig the hills which show exceptional vigor and resistance to disease, to drought or to heat. At digging time these hills can be kept apart for seed. Any of the marked hills not yielding smooth or superior potatoes should be discarded. Farmers may think it too much trouble to save all their seed in this way, but enough can easily be selected to plant a special seed plot each year from which seed for the main crop the following year may be obtained. If the farmer neglects to mark the vigorous hills he should, at least, note and keep the high yielding hills of smooth, uniform tubers for a seed plot next year.

Potato growers will find that it is highly profitable to select their potatoes for seed carefully and intelligently, as it will mean greater productivity, vigor and uniformity in shape and size.—F.C.N. in Canadian Farm.

The Effect of Sod on Yields.

Practically all of North Dakota was prairie or sod land for countless centuries before the white man came and overturned it with his steel plow drawn by oxen, horses or a tractor, according to the time and place. This state with a population of 630,000

people produced 152,000,000 bushels of wheat in 1915, or exactly as much wheat as was produced in the entire United States in 1866, the year following the close of the civil war, when the population of the country was 35,000,000. The sod land had within it the elements of fertility to produce this big yield, years after it was first broken up, and the fine grass roots bound the soil particles together and prevented drifting or blowing. The native clovers or legumes had the soil thoroughly enriched with nitrogen, a very essential element in hard wheat, and the decaying roots filled the soil with humus or vegetable material which makes it open and mellow. If land is cultivated too long it loses these essentials of fertility. Every one who wants to keep up yields should plan to seed down the fields to grass and legume crops every few years, for these crops renew the strength and fertility of the soil. Such fields are also profitable when in pasture or hay and if the products are fed on the farm and the manure resulting is used to further enrich the land.—By W. R. Porter, North Dakota Experiment Station.

Colt Sense.

Make friends with the colts. Pet and handle them while they are young. Take time to slip the halter on them occasionally. But don't expect them to lead right off. They don't know what you require of them. Deal gently with them on the start, and the first thing you know, they'll be leading up like an older horse. What's the use of waiting to be yanked around in breaking a big, strong two-year-old colt?

Curry and brush them, too, up one side and down the other, clear to the hoofs. It takes lots of time to teach them to be curried if you wait till they are two or three years old. And then, when you do try to break them in, you are liable to get kicked.

Get the young horses accustomed to buckles and straps. It's a good plan to lay a light set of harness on them occasionally. But be very careful not to put a filmy halter on them that they can break and see that they never get loose with any straps or ropes, dangling about. You don't want to train the colts to pull back kick, or be runaway.

"Safety First" With Firearms.

Each year the shooting season records a long list of accidents due to carelessness of hunters in the forest and in the use of firearms. A gun going off accidentally and killing the owner, climbing fences with the gun loaded and cocked, or shooting at a companion in mistake for an animal are stereotyped causes. With the knowledge of the danger of handling firearms, it is surely incumbent upon hunters to exercise every precaution and keep continually before them the motto "safety first."

Not Dressed for Occasion.

The Fond Mother (to adventurous offspring)—Come away from the cliff, will yer! Do yer want to dash yer self to pieces in yer best suit?



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