

Rural Recreation

One of the many American writers on rural life says that it is an undeniable fact that rural morality is closely dependent upon wholesome recreation, that games are essential as moral safety valves for releasing animal spirits which become dangerous under pressure. No healthy young thing can develop normally, can grow a sane mind in a sound body without some form of play. Watch the frolics of the calves and the lambs in the fields, watch the puppies and hens at their games. Prairie children often hardly know how to play; they do know, as a rule, a great deal about work for there are always plenty of chores for even the smallest children to do on a farm. As the boys reach their early teens they take the place of a man, while a girl of the same age takes her place in the work of the home, or as in the last few years of labor shortage, takes a soldier brother's place on the mower, binder, or rake. At seventeen or so these girls are in many instances taking upon themselves the responsibilities of marriage and motherhood. How can we introduce a fuller, wider life, more color, more romance, more fun and frolic into these young lives without organization?

Perhaps you say the school should do that. Some schools may, but they are in the minority; many of the teachers are very young girls from these same kind of communities and they know nothing more of life. By the time they may have learnt a little more they marry. Then you say the church; why cannot the church develop community recreation? There may be two churches in the community, but both of them may only be visited by travelling ministers, or the resident minister may have so enormous a district to cover that work of that kind is not possible for him. Then what remains? As far as I can see the organized farm women are the right people to take up this problem of their own children, and the government, the school and the church should co-operate with them and give any assistance they can.

Education for Recreation

All forward movements have to do a great deal of spade work in the way of educating public opinion. Before we can solve the problem of rural recreation we must waken the minds of the farm mothers and fathers to the necessity of it. The majority of minds hate to be jolted out of the status quo. Progress always means effort, mental and physical. It is much easier to follow the lines of least resistance and live as our fathers and mothers did before us. There is frequently a feeling of resentment against those who try to push us forward against our will.

The first fact to drive home is that if rural life is to be made worth while for the growing generation, if the social instinct is to be developed, if the farm boys and girls are to be trained to play their part as citizens of a great nation, that training must be commenced through play. Play is the most important element in character building. Watch a child at play and you will get a very accurate insight into that child's disposition and aptitude for certain things. "Tell me how a man spends his leisure time (how he plays in other words) and I will tell you what kind of a man he is." I forget who wrote that, but the light of truth shines through the words.

Writing about rural morality and recreation, Dr. Wilson says: "What we do for hire, or under the orders of other people, or in the routine of life, is done because we have to. We do not choose the minor acts of studying in school, of work in the factory, of labor in the house, of composition in writing a book. All these acts are part of a routine which is imposed upon us and we call them work." But play is entirely voluntary; every action is chosen and expresses will and preference. Therefore play is highly moral. It is the bursting up of our own individuality and it expresses especially in the lesser things the preferences of life. The great school for training men in the little things that make up the bulk of character is team work and co-operation in play. Here is

the school of obedience to others, of self-sacrifice for a company and a common end, of honor, of truthfulness, of the subordination of one to another, of courage, of persistent devotion to a purpose, and of co-operation.

What the U.F.W.A. is Trying to do

The women's section of the United Farmers of Alberta have from the time they organized first been studying this problem of the young people in the rural districts. They have done nothing spectacular so far; they have been trying in the first place through their little local clubs to arouse the interest of the mothers in this problem; they have been trying to build as they went along and developed their ideas; they have welcomed any co-operation offered by other

organizations, but they have found it absolutely necessary to have an organization of their own before that co-operation could be effective. When every farming community has its organized groups of farm boys and girls then there is a unit which is ready to co-operate with the government, with Federated Sunday schools, with the Y.M.C.A. or Y.W.C.A., or any other body that offers us training of a specialized kind. For this reason the U.F.W.A. is organizing junior branches under a simple constitution of their own; it has asked for and obtained from the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta a week's conference for farm boys and girls from 16 to 25 to be held in June. At this conference there will be a series of six lectures on citizenship and rural life, six lectures on literature, a

series of talks on Nature study given out of doors, including geology, botany, birds and butterflies, a series of lessons in folk dancing for the girls, and a series in stock judging for the boys. Besides, there will be visits to interesting buildings and packing plants, instruction in group or team games, groups singing under expert leadership and moving pictures entertainment. Does not that open up a vision for the boys and girls of rural communities? It is bringing the university to the people who cannot go the university.

Junior Branches U.F.A.

These are necessarily very dissimilar, for conditions are so different in every community that the fewer rules and regulations laid down the better. In some

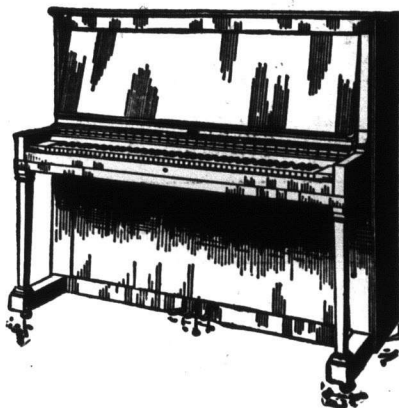
SPECIAL SUMMER TERMS BUY YOUR PIANO NOW

\$25 Is All You Pay Now Balance in Three Fall Payments

Think of it—a brand new piano on terms within the reach of all. This is your opportunity to select your piano right away—enjoy it all through the summer months, and three years to pay for it at the time when you are best able.

Never Before Were Such Terms Offered

This proposition is aimed to be a specially attractive one to the farmers of Western Canada. An A1 piano is offered at a rock-bottom price, and only a nominal cash deposit asked for. Three fall payments will be accepted on the balance. Monthly or quarterly terms can be arranged, and additional premiums allowed for larger cash payments.



Absolute Guarantee and Exchange Privilege

Every one of these pianos is fully covered with a 10-year guarantee from both ourselves and the manufacturers. In addition to this we allow the privilege of exchanging, at full price paid, this piano at any time within three years for a new piano or player piano of higher price.

Any Piano in Our Store on Equally Attractive Terms

We have the largest and best assorted stock of pianos and player pianos in Western Canada. This affords almost unlimited choice in your selection, and we are prepared to offer special summer terms on any style you choose.

EXTRA SAVINGS For Larger Payments

Pay \$50 and get a receipt for	\$ 60
Pay \$75 and get a receipt for	90
Pay \$100 and get a receipt for	120
Pay \$150 and get a receipt for	170

To-morrow You May Forget—Act Now

This is your opportunity to secure the piano you have wanted in your home for so long. We have made this proposition to meet, as near as possible, the requirements of Western farmers. Further particulars will be forwarded if necessary.

Ninety Styles From Which to Choose
Write for Illustrated Catalogues To-day

WINNIPEG PIANO CO. LTD.

333
PORTAGE
AVE.

HEADQUARTERS FOR

Steinway, Gerhard Heintzman, Nordheimer, Chickering, Cecilian, Haines, Bell, Sherlock-Manning, Doherty, Canada and Lesage Pianos

Edison, Columbia, Gerhard Heintzman, Phonola and Cecilian Phonographs