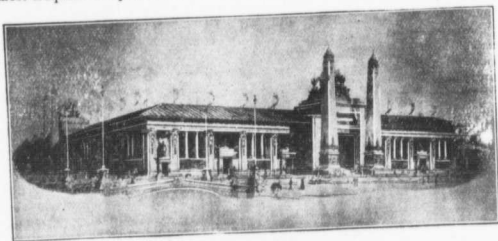


Literary Sawdust.

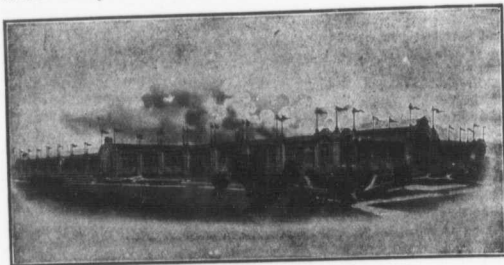
BY REV. ALFRED E. LAVELL, B.A.

THERE has been a good deal of discussion lately among sportsmen as to the effect of sawdust on fish. The greatest lumber mills are to be found on the streams most frequented by the man with the hook and line, but the



MAIN BUILDING.

man loves not the mill for very good reasons. The fisherman generally loves nature and wants fish. The sawmill after a time seems to change the face of the landscape along the shore and in spite of the protest of biologists the sportsmen aver that the sawdust also spoils the fishing. It may not poison the fish,



AGRICULTURE BUILDING.

but it spoils the food of the fish. We are a good deal like these fish in our literary surroundings. The trouble these days is not so much in poisonous literature as in saw dust literature. The humiliating feature is that we are worse than the fish. He does not like sawdust, won't eat it, and goes



TRANSPORTATION BUILDING.

where he will get something else. We, on the contrary, take the sawdust, chew it, and finally bolt the sawdust in preference to chewing the good food. Beware the sawdust book. Waterloo, Ont.

Friendship.

BY MISS MAY MACLEAN.

IN every department of life we touch our fellows; we are born social animals, and we must exercise our social instincts, each for himself the centre of concentric circles. The sacred inner circle is that of close friendship, the next of daily acquaintances, the next of business acquaintances, and the wide outer circle of the unknown world.

We must have friends, but we must choose wisely, so as to get the very best. I do not think people generally know how important a part friendships play in our moral and spiritual lives. The instinct of friendship is indigenous in the heart of man. There is a divine warrant for our friendship; of Enoch, who walked with God; of Moses, who talked with God; of Abraham, who was known as the friend of God; of the tender friendship of David and Jonathan; of Christ choosing the seventy and the twelve, and then the special three, Peter, James and John, for His particular friendship.

But over the exercise of this instinct of friendship God keeps watch. A Christian cannot choose for a friend the foe of his Lord. In fact, one of the chief elements of friendship and so we are known by the company we keep is sympathy, and are judged

the power of evil friendship, and he strives to destroy innocent youth by evil companionships. A friendship based on respect, stable in nature, sympathizing, improving, is something to be cultivated as a choice element in our lives. It is not merely evil which we are to eschew in our friends, folly is also dangerous. Many girls who might have grown up simple-minded, self-forgetful, have been made vain and affected by friends of their own age, who were forever talking about appearances, about compliments, and offering extravagant praise; or by the influence of some silly friend, who cannot write a sentence correctly, and who devours unlimited novels, a despiser of solid education, with a mind overruled by trash. In a Christian home there is the highest type of all friendships, for there we hold in close bonds of communion earth's grandest guest. It thus becomes a city of God, and upon it falls the benediction of the seer of old—"Peace be within thy walls and prosperity within thy palaces, for my brethren and companion's sake, I will say, Peace be unto thee."

L'aris, Ont.

How to Sweeten Life.

OPEN all the doors to the religion of Christ. It will make this world a paradise. It will sweeten the every-day trials of life, the little perplexities and annoyances, little sorrows and trials, little disappointments and mistakes. Nature ever helps the tiny objects. A small flower blossoms at my feet. The clouds gather swiftly in the sky to water it; infinite chemistry works at its roots to nourish it; the mighty power of gravitation and other equally unconquerable forces hold it and guard it; the sun rises and shines to paint beauty upon its cheek; the winds are marshalled to fan it; everything is made to contribute to the comfort of this tiny flower. The religion of Christ is suited to tired men and women and children. It is suited to the office, the cradle, the sewing-machine, the headache, the heartache, the nursery, the schoolroom, the lonely attic, the evening ramble. It should sweeten all the moments, thoughts and feelings, the voice, the conversation, the toils and afflictions of life, the temper, and the heart; and all may have and enjoy it.—*Ram's Horn.*