

Town Planning.

Editor CANADIAN COURIER:

Sir:—The announcement in the public press a few days since that this railroad or another intend placing several town-sites on sale next spring will be received by thoughtful people interested in the welfare of the country, with mingled feelings. If we judged the railroads just by these townsites, the frequently heard term "soulless corporations" would be justifiable, but we believe their lapse is one of oversight rather than premeditation.

What is the charge against the companies? It is—they lay out their village or town site in a stereotyped way, all on the rectangular plan and with the smallest superficial area that can be sold to individuals for any purpose; with absolutely no provision for parks, recreation grounds, church or school grounds and—greatest of all lapses—no provision for the urban resident wishing to make a beautiful home or to keep his children off the street. The lots as put on the market are either 25 x 30 or 50 x 130, and the prices run invariably from \$100 to \$500.

Now, this must be an oversight of the land departments of the companies, because we all know the efforts put forth by the companies to beautify their station grounds, and their forestry departments. No quarter, half or one-acre plots can be held for residential purposes—an essential in these little villages, where, willy nilly, many are driven to the poolroom, poker den or bar-room to overcome the deadly ennui which steals over these burghs during the farmer's busy seasons. No gardens, no trees, no small fruits, nothing to show we inherit the love for pretty, small homes evinced by our English ancestors, which are the charm of the English landscape to-day. Even the war-like Kipling noticed this in his last flight across Canada, as set forth in his "Letters to the Family."

What is the use of country life and suburban supplements when, year after year, these townsite moulds are dropped in the prairie at intervals. The tendency of many of the young people of these villages is cityward, where they take part in civic government. Coming from these arid places and wastes, they can hardly be expected to view plans for civic adornment with equanimity or to agree with the expenditure of public moneys for such purposes.

The railroads would not lose by a change in this respect. The prices paid by them for townsites is always returned a hundredfold. They are also masters at evading municipal taxation as long as possible, or until their lots are sold. The Western prairie, with all its possibilities, in its rawness and sameness is neither inviting nor inspiring to the new-comers from Eastern Canada or the British Isles. Imaginations can never become fertile in idea with nothing but the railroad type of village lot as a home.

Bratton, Sask. READER.

Watch the Kickers.

Editor CANADIAN COURIER:

Sir:—Considerable anxiety among the riflemen of Canada has risen from the reports which have been given out at Ottawa, that there may not be a Bisley team sent over to England this year. The main reason given was that the officials at Bisley had not treated our men fairly. Having competed at the annual meeting of the D. R. A. for quite a number of years, I think I may safely say that if an investigation were held the Bisley officials would come out on top. When competitors have to rest the butt of the rifle on the ground, and get an elbow rest, and kill time waiting for the wind to get right, they are not riflemen or the kind of men we want for military purposes, but simply "pot-hunters."

Truro. Yours truly, FAIR PLAY.

Civil Service Examinations.

THE Canadian Gazette contains notice that preliminary and qualifying civil examinations will be held commencing May 14, at a number of places throughout the Dominion, including: Quebec, Sherbrooke, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, London, Sault Ste. Marie, Port Arthur, Winnipeg, Brandon, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Nelson, Vancouver and Victoria.



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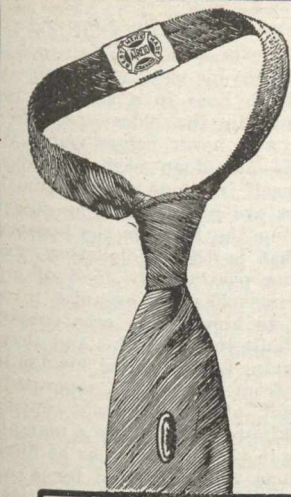
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