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raised by the study of land being ploughed so much better than they are accustomed to ploughing it. When, as in the case of Portage La Prairie, the townspeople contribute liberally to the prize list and also flock to the match by the hundreds, the community spirit must be strongly fostered, and a better feeling between townspeople and farmers engendered, by the interest shown in the work of the one class by the members of the other. The element of sport—of a contest—so dear to the Anglo-Saxon heart, is not lacking and bulks large when the work is nearing completion. It was Principal Black who said that a good ploughing match was of more value to a district than a second or third rate fair. It is to be hoped that within a few years every agricultural society in the West will undertake as part of its year's work the holding of a ploughing match.

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ALIENIST CHILDREN.

(Manitoba Free Press.)

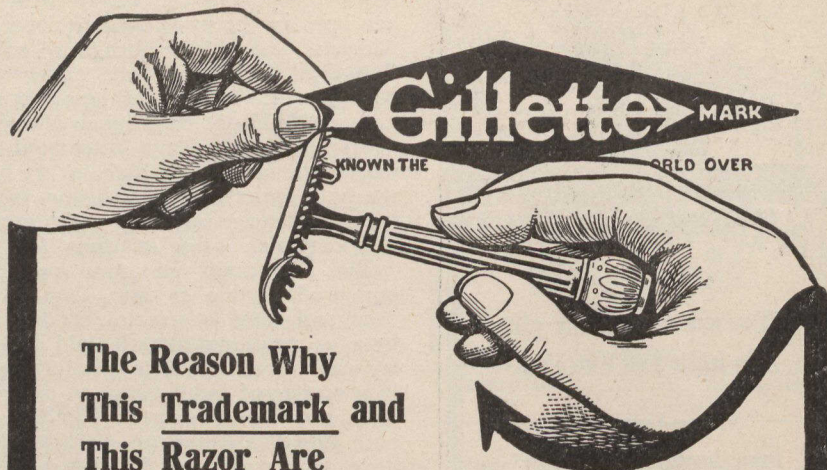
IN Wards Four, Five and Six there are 20,000 children of school age, and only 7,000 attending school. These figures were given by Mr. Hickok, secretary of the Playgrounds Association, at the public meeting held in the Walker Theatre only a few days ago. They only bear out the statement made previously by members of the School Board and other citizens who have interested themselves in the education of the children of the city. To keep the saloon or bar from the districts in which these children live is a very desirable object, but what will it avail if the children are allowed to grow up in ignorance of the English tongue, of the ideals of Canadian citizenship and of their duties as Canadian citizens? What can we expect of these children if in their childhood they are taught to revere the festival days of alien lands in preference to the land of their adoption? If they are to become good Canadians the birthday of Confederation should be to them the great holiday of the year and on which day the Canadian flag should be saluted and honoured. What steps are being taken to plant in the hearts of these children with vigorous bodies the germs of Canadian loyalty and of good citizenship?

* * *

EXTOLLING THE FARM.

(Fredericton Gleaner)

THERE are many attractions associated with rural life that make a home on the farm preferable to living in the city. Among these is the greater ease in which the family may be raised to be sturdy, healthy young men and women. In the city the children cannot be allowed to have the proper kind of outdoor life, the menace of traffic in the streets prohibiting their playing there, and the yards presenting a very small playground. The city dust and dirt also has a harmful effect on the child's health. In the country the conditions are directly reversed. The young folks have the whole country for miles around for a playground, and the air is clean and pure. With these conditions it is but natural that the health and vigour of country-bred children should be superior to that of city-bred. Country cooking, with fresh vegetables, eggs, milk and butter, far surpass in health-producing attributes the style of living in cities. Farm investment is the most stable of all industries. City industries are for the most part unstable and greatly influenced by every financial flurry. Not so with the farm.



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