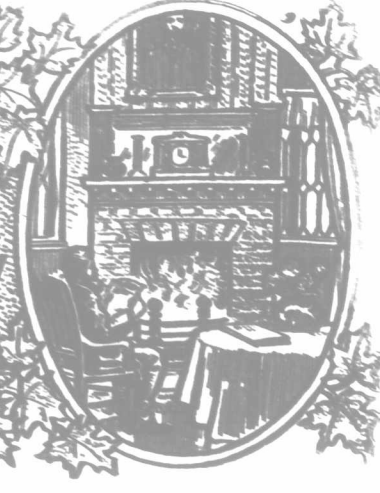




# HOME MAGAZINE



## Life, Literature and Education.

At Confederation there were 2,087 miles of railway in Canada; to-day there are 22,452 miles. . . . Incidentally, there is no better index to the growth and prosperity of a country than the extension of its railways.

According to recent statistics, 1,830 square miles of woodland are stripped yearly to feed the paper mills of the United States alone, one million cords of the pulpwood used being imported annually from Canada. All this, in addition to the immense quantities of timber used annually in a great variety of forms, from railroad ties to veneering. While advancing prices tend to restrict demand, wood is required for so many purposes that consumption increases apace, in the face of what would once have been thought enormous values. If this devastation goes on uninterruptedly, and the work of re-foresting proceeds no more rapidly and systematically than at present, one of the certainties which we have to face in the comparatively early future is a treeless world. Too much of this work is being left for the Government to do. Our farmers should take the matter in hand, and prove by actual practice the enormous results which may flow from the aggregate of individual effort. Every farm should have a wood-lot, preferably upon its rougher or poorer acres. From a mere dollars-and-cents standpoint, the returns from such judicious forest culture would be profitable.

While the attention of Europe has been centered upon the Balkan situation, a complication of affairs of a peculiarly portentous nature has been coming to a head in India, where, at present, a second mutiny is feared. The great danger in all such disaffection in the East is that surrounding Oriental nations may be stirred into a sympathetic movement. Railways are becoming common throughout the Orient, and with them the old-time difficulty in the transmission of news, and of intercourse between country and country—the most effectual preventive of sympathetic movements—has largely died away. Great Britain will, no doubt, adopt immediate and drastic measures, both conciliatory and by display of force, to check the insurrection in its initial stages; and yet, though the present crisis may be tidied over, it seems inevitable that Asia, so long dead, is to be the theatre of the most interesting events the immediate future holds in store. Whether this means the rapid ascendancy in power of the "yellow" races, or a general yielding of the continent to "white" influence, "white" commerce, time alone will tell. Much must depend upon how the present possibility of dissension and division within the great Empire of China works out.

It is understood that Mr. William Mackenzie King will be made Min-

ister of the new Department of Labor which is to be created during the coming session. In the meantime, Mr. King will go to China as one of the Imperial Commissioners at the International Anti-opium Conference. . . . It is rather interesting that the grandson of William Lyon Mackenzie, the most persistent revolutionist Canada has known, the leading spirit of the Rebellion of 1837, should be so noted for his tact in removing friction and pouring oil on troubled waters that he is employed as Canada's chief agent in so many cases requiring delicate handling. "Autre temps, autres mœurs." And yet, mayhap, the same spirit has acted in both ancestor and descendant. Ostensibly, the rebellion of 1837 was but the drastic measure which prevented a still greater upheaval—with the inevitable catastrophe which attends all political upheavals, however salutary—a little later. It is impossible to say that William Lyon Mackenzie was not a peacemaker, also.

Not long since, the writer had the privilege of hearing a lecture by Dr. Falconer, President of Toronto University. There was little of the startlingly new, perhaps, in the address, and yet the audience went away impressed with a realization of the profound influence which must flow from the going about through the country of such a man as this. A man big of stature and big of mind, too great to be small anywhere, far above narrowness or conceit, or self-consciousness, he impresses most of all by his loftiness of ideals and practical common-sense. "I have no sympathy with those who boast of extent of territory," he says. "What counts is the quality of the people, what they are, what they live for," and he points to Palestine and to Greece, which have lived; while rich, dissolute and luxurious Babylonia, exercising no influence upon succeeding races, has long been forgotten.

Dr. Falconer makes no attempt to display before his audiences the depth of his profound learning, but he does try to inculcate principles of manliness, to uplift character, and he succeeds perhaps more by what he is than by what he says. Character emanates, speaking with telling force when mere words must fall unheeded and unfelt.

We cannot see or hear too much of such men, the cream of our country, and our Teachers' Associations and Canadian Clubs deserve much credit for bringing them as often as they do before the people.

Recent news reports state that Black Hand letters have been received by a citizen of one of the villages of Ontario, threatening him with death unless he consents to be blackmailed. This is the second time such a thing has happened in Canada within a year, and surely it is up to our detective force to get to the bottom of the matter. The perpetrators of such cowardly robbery should be hounded down every time, and made such examples of as will check any propensities towards similar crimes for long enough in the future. The certainty of pun-

ishment, sure, unrelenting, is the only security for that safety of Canada's people upon which we have so long prided ourselves. Nor is such firmness of necessity "hard." Those who will neither work for their living, nor respect either the laws of humanity or of the land, deserve no clemency, and should not expect it.

How many of our readers are there who have not, at one time or another, looked calmly and admiringly on while trained animals went through the various "stunts" to which they have been "educated," just as though these were any indication of intellect on the part of the poor beasts compelled to perform them. Trained animals have, in fact, been found to be a drawing-card at all places where people go simply to be amused—the vaudeville, the town halls, the arenas set apart for the entertainment of the vast crowds which attend the agricultural and industrial exhibitions every fall—and just as long as they are appreciated, they are bound to be put "on the boards." . . . But there is another side, loathsome and horrible in every detail, to the picture, one which has been recently exposed by a writer in "Everybody's," who simply tells of the things he has seen. It is a pet delusion that animals are trained by love, by sticks of sugar and words of kindness, but this writer disposes of all such misconception at a blow. "Whips, sticks and iron rods are the accepted instruments of persuasion," he says, "and trainers constantly employ them. When a wild animal is to be broken, the first thing to break is his spirit. It is done with a club." And again, "Animals are not taught—they are pushed and hauled, and mauled, and whipped, and dragged, and choked, and tortured into tricks."

Following this assertion comes a horrible description, in concrete, of the "training" of several wild animals. . . . A handsome tiger was to be "educated." Five ropes with nooses were first thrown into its cage, one noose fixed about its neck, and the other four drawn taut about its legs. Finally, the door of the cage was opened, and the poor beast urged out into the arena of torture in which it was to be taught its first lesson—a stunt devised for the edification and joy of future multitudes—viz., it was to be taught to sit down on a seat. In forcing it toward the seat, sharp-lashed whips, cruel steel forks, and revolvers loaded with blank cartridges, were all called into requisition, every movement of the animal indicating a tendency to turn on its persecutors being checked by a tightening and pulling of the rope, which threw it half-choked, with lolling tongue and protruding eyeballs, on its back, at which stage it was ferociously lashed, goaded, and pounded on the nose, with the purpose of instilling into it fear of the trainer. Again and again it swooned, but it was doused with buckets of water, and the lesson renewed as soon as it became conscious. Finally, by the use of a block and tackle, it was forced into the seat, and the whole performance was repeated day after day, until finally it dawned

upon the dim consciousness of the brute that this was the thing it was expected to do. There were future dollars in the trick for the owner of the show, and so no pains, no torture, must be spared.

We cry out in our self-righteousness against the Spanish bull-fight. We laud our twentieth-century civilization, our fineness of sensibility, and kindness of heart, and yet we spend our money to look at performances obtained at such a cost! Has the public not a duty to perform in revolutionizing the quality of public entertainment? What it demands will be given it; and just as soon as it asks for clean plays, with beautiful scenery; for pageants at once a treat to the eye and a spur to the intellect and the imagination; and for an elimination of trained animal shows, silly and disgusting burlesque, and acrobatic performances fraught with eternal danger to the performers, the stage will be made the thing it ought to be. A few petitions sent to the committees arranged to provide entertainment for divers occasions would do much. In connection with the trained-animal branch of the subject, there would seem to be an especially good field for the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to work in.

## SPELLING REFORM.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In concluding your notice of Dr. A. H. MacKay's excellent paper on Spelling Reform, you invited discussion of this practical topic. I am reminded of the invitation by the fact that the Old Country newspapers are just now bringing us news of the recent establishment of a British organization to promote the simplification of English spelling. The society has opened offices opposite the British Museum, in London. Its president is Professor Skeat, of Cambridge University, and among its officers are Sir William Murray, editor of the great Oxford Dictionary; Sir William Ramsay, the renowned physicist; Dr. Furnivall, and William Archer. In England, as in America, the most eminent students of historical English and the leading dictionary editors are identifying themselves with the propaganda in favor of spelling reform.

About 1880, the London (Eng.) Philological Society made the first definite movement in the direction of this reform, but the first organization created for the special purpose of its promotion was the Simplified Spelling Board of America, formed three years ago, and provided with funds for the carrying on of its work chiefly through the liberality of Mr. Andrew Carnegie. The English Board appears to be planning its work along the lines that the American Board has been following. The latter has adhered to the principles that it laid down at the outset—not to advocate any modification of English spelling that is not temperate and reasonable; not to favor freakish spelling of any kind; not to relax the existing rules and analogies but to make them more certain, to extend and enforce them, and thereby produce greater regularity and consistency, and get rid of the present multitude of needless