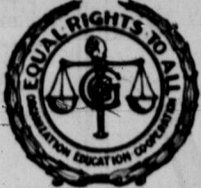


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THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE
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 A Weekly Journal for Progressive Farmers

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Association Library

How Good Books Will Help Your Community

There is no one institution that will give better service to the local community than a circulating library comprised of good books, if well patronized by the people. Very few of the men and women of this country have had the privilege of a college course and the majority have not even completed the regular high school course. There are, indeed, thousands and thousands of well informed men and women in this country whose schooling did not include all the common school grades. These men and women have realized that true education may be secured by their own efforts and the greater part of it thru the reading and study of good books.

EDUCATION AT HOME

Some of the world's greatest men and women have secured the greater part of their education in their own homes by the study of books which they have borrowed from kind neighbors. Abraham Lincoln prepared himself for his great work by reading books during his boyhood which he walked as far as fifteen miles to borrow. He lay on the earthen floor and read by the light of the fireplace in the little shack on his father's homestead in Illinois. By such an equipment secured in his youthful days Lincoln prepared himself to meet the great crisis thru which his nation passed during the Civil war over fifty years ago. Elihu Burritt, known as "the learned blacksmith," mastered forty different languages while working at his forge daily. He kept a book beside him always and read and memorized while he worked with the result that he became one of the greatest students of modern languages who ever lived.

Thos. A. Edison, the great inventor and one of the greatest men the world has ever known, also prepared himself by studying and reading when he was a boy and he had no opportunity of studying at the great universities of his country.

Girls or boys, who, in their early days, are given a taste of good books, will never lose that taste as long as they live. Henceforth wherever they may be or whatever work they may be engaged in, it will be possible for them to get books on almost every subject they are interested in and their education can continue while they work. Right here in Western Canada there are many men and women who have given years of their spare time to the study of history, special farming subjects, wild flowers, birds and insects and scores of other subjects with the result that they have become experts on these subjects and have been enabled to earn thru the knowledge thus secured a considerable additional revenue in their spare time.

BOOKS ARE COMPANIONS

Aside from books that have a practical value there are untold thousands that are simply wholesome reading carrying with them an inspiration to do better things and to live better lives and to encourage people to be content in the work in which they are engaged. The companionship of good books is something which every reader can appreciate, but which those who do not care for reading can never understand. In many a home there is a little shelf of books, perhaps only fifteen or twenty in number, which is prized more highly than any other possession, because it can be drawn upon at any time for comfort and inspiration. Those who like reading are never lonely when they have a good book.

THE ASSOCIATIONS' OPPORTUNITY

The local Associations in each of the communities where they are organized in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have a great opportunity before them in the establishment of a circulating library. Such

a library costs comparatively little and when once started it grows steadily and becomes of greater value year by year. Generally the best place to keep such a library is at the post office, because more people call at the post office regularly than at any other place in the neighborhood. If the postmaster or some member of his family will take care of the library, books can then be borrowed and returned when calling for the mail. A shelf on which to keep the library books can be built without any cost by any member who has a few boards and a saw and nails. There is no need for any expensive book-shelf, tho with a few cents more cost it can easily be made so that it can be locked and the books will then be safe from the children and also will not be damaged by dust. For a few cents record sheets can be secured upon which a record can be kept of all the books loaned and the dates upon which they are given out and returned.

THE GUIDE'S FREE LIBRARY

The Grain Growers' Guide is willing and anxious to contribute a circulating library free of all charge to every local Association, and in return all we ask is that the members of the Association collect subscriptions to The Guide at the regular rate and send them into us in full. On page 27 of this issue there is a full page announcement of our scheme and we are anxious that each local Association and union take up this proposition at once. There is considerable spare time until harvest begins and two days will be sufficient to collect subscriptions in any neighborhood. We could then select the books, pack them, and have instructions supplied with each library and ship them prepaid so that each local will have a circulating library in September. We hope this matter will be taken hold of promptly and if it works successfully we will continue our offer after the present one expires on August 31. Be sure to read our proposition on page 27.