

The Weekly Ontario

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Thursday, April 2, 1914

DRILL SHEDS INSTEAD OF FOOD

The most discussed subject continues to be the high cost of food products in the cities. We have just been reading a very suggestive article in Toronto Saturday night which we reproduce.

The country cries out for food products, and we give drill sheds. The farmer in Ontario wants roads, and more roads, and good roads, and we give him mostly promises. The farmer in the West wants live stock, and livable houses, but we give him a railway route to Hudson's Bay.

At the moment it looks very much as if this country were being butchered to make a political holiday.

We are told that Ontario has some three thousand less people on the land than ten years ago, and at the same time has added nearly if not quite, a million to her urban population.

The Western farmer keeps on growing wheat at practically no profit (this statement comes from the Royal Commission of Saskatchewan) and we continue to import our hogs and our beef from Chicago, and our eggs, which cost as much as so many oranges, from Chicago also. And still our politicians continue to dip into the public purse in order that they pay for outlandish schemes, the meanwhile wondering what the trouble is.

If Canada is going to make good it must be by utilizing her natural resources, and the greatest natural resource of this country is farm lands. A year ago numberless people imagined that town lots and near town lots were our greatest asset. But times have changed. We have found it silly and an expensive business. The empty town lot is getting back to nature, and the town lot is getting back to work provided that he can find a job.

It is time that the producer, the only fellow worth considering, get his share of the public funds, and get them in such form as will do both him and the country the most good.

Politicians and partisan newspapers talk Government-owned steamships on the Atlantic. What the Government should first see to is that the land produces something which will fill our own market places; and when this is accomplished, it will be time enough to worry about the exporting of produce yet to be grown on these empty acres.

Let the Government teach the farmer, both East and West, to build and breed. It is necessary give him cement and lumber to build with, and brood mares and cattle to breed from. Make his farm a habitable place the year round in place of six months in the year, as is now the case in the Northwest. Keep his men employed the year round in place of six months in the year, as is now the custom. Make the country habitable, and it will make itself profitable.

Turn a few of these drill halls into stables and cattle pens and stock them, and we will not find ourselves dependent upon the bordering country of the United States for our food supplies as is now the case.

It will be time enough to worry ourselves over Georgian Bay Canals, and Hudson's Bay routes and invading armies and militarism when we have found that we are at least a self-supporting nation.

The above article is interesting because it comes from a journal that has been pretty consistently independent, as far as political discussions go, but, if anything, shows a learning towards conservatism.

The article is also interesting because of the remedies it proposes for the present food scarcity. Saturday Night would have "the nation buy sheep and cattle, and hogs, and horses" as well as "lumber and cement to build with" and give these to the farmers. It would also have the "government teach the farmer to build and breed."

All this sounds well, but, we would ask Saturday Night in all fairness—why not give the farmers some of the things they are asking for instead of treating them as paupers? Organized agriculture has never gone to Ottawa asking for gifts of live stock, lumber or cement. But the farmers have asked many times to be given a square deal.

Farmers can do very nicely without gifts of the nature proposed, if we would quit compelling them to give to the other fellow.

The farmer will be all right just as soon as the rest of us get off his back.

Only last Friday a deputation of farmers went to Ottawa to make a protest against the giving of a bounty in order to create dividends on the watered stock of iron and steel companies.

It is shown that farmers pay an unnecessary tribute, in the way of enhanced prices, of more than ten million dollars per annum to

Canadian implement manufacturers. The said manufacturers from their ability to sell freely in foreign markets in open competition with the world have demonstrated that they can look after themselves in Canada without tariff protection.

The hired help problem is what is troubling the farmers more than any other. That ten million dollars would go a long way toward paying the hired men on the farm or towards buying "lumber and cement to build with." By the present arrangement the farmer has to pay the wages of the implement man as well.

Farmers are already well provided for in the way of special educational facilities, but, as Saturday Night suggests, more could be done in this regard.

Saturday Night has been discussing the things the farmers have not been asking for. What has Saturday Night got to say about some of the things the farmers do ask for—free wheat, free agricultural implements, and an immediate increase of the British preference to fifty per cent?

Our own impression is that the farmers of Canada are not so much in need of gifts or grants, as they are in need of having the legislative and economic obstacles removed that we in our wisdom have placed in their way.

Until these impediments have been taken away, our gifts will be in vain, food will continue to be scarce and dear, and the depopulation of the farming districts will be accentuated.

RUSSIA'S HUGE ARMY

It was pretty generally recognised at the time that the sadly premature demise and departure of Mr. Borden's "Emergency" was due to increased military activity in distant Russia.

The Russian colossus has now almost recovered from the terrific heating received from the little brown men of Japan, and Russia does not any longer propose to be a mere figure-head in the game of international politics.

It is undeniable that Germany planned to become powerful on sea as well as on land. This is a very natural ambition. But now Germany is menaced by a peril that threatens her very national existence.

The great Russian Empire, boundless in its natural resources, and with a population double that of Germany, is no longer friendly. The alliance of Russia with France further increases the hazard, for France will always remain the deadly enemy of Germany until Alsace and Lorraine are restored.

Germany is faced with a very real emergency that is testing her tax-paying power to the limit. There was almost a wall went up in Germany when the last tremendous increase was announced in army expenditures. Instead of aggression Germany is now pondering deeply on defence. We need not be surprised if before many more months roll round that the Germans will gladly avail themselves of Winston Churchill's proposal for a naval holiday.

Figures that appall are those given out on the proposed increase of the Russian army. It is contemplated to raise the effective strength of this great military machine by 400,000 men, making a total of 1,700,000. Such an enormous body would almost seem to carry within itself the possibilities of its own destruction. Supervision and direction of such an overgrown military force, are naturally difficult, but the Russian soldier is the embodiment of discipline and obedience, and while he may lack both energy and intelligence, he is generally loyal and serviceable in war. Of course in the conflict with Japan there were many instances in which both the loyalty and the courage of the Russian soldiers was questioned. But the men were fighting at a tremendous distance from their own country, and it was evident from the first that the little Jap was more than a match for his big competitor. Against whom will the great Russian army be turned? It is apparent now that the northern empire will not again attempt hostilities with Japan. It is more than probable that the next great fight will be fought on the continent of Europe with Germany and Russia as competitors. Naturally enough France and England would be brought into the fight as Russia's friends, while Italy and Austria would be called to support their German ally. Such a prospect as this is almost inconceivable. It would call for the employment of millions of men on the largest scale yet attempted in Europe. It would, indeed, be a bold prophet who would attempt to foretell the result; but there can be no doubt of the wholesale and sanguinary slaughter that would attend the prosecution of such gigantic military operations.

ASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE

Notwithstanding the continued depression of business and decreasing dominion revenues the saturnalia of armory building goes merrily on. It seems to be merely a case of ask and ye shall receive. We are surprised that Foxboro, Plainfield, Melrose, Moira, and Chatterton have not filed their claims for respectful attention. Why should our native township of Huntingdon be compelled to pay for a mammoth pub-

lic building in Madoc Village, and its own township seat and metropolis, beautiful Moira, left with her beauty unadorned by a twenty-five-thousand-dollar armory? Huntingdon might as well have a wooden injun representing her at Ottawa as E. Guss Porter, for all the favors she gets in the great game of grab. On the other hand what is Mr. W. B. Northrup doing in behalf of Tyendinaga, Thurlow, Hungerford, or Tweed, let alone that patient but deserving array of townships extending on and away back to within thirty miles of the North Pole?

In the face of the generosity, or rather prodigality, of the minister of militia, we are at a loss to understand the attitude of The Tweed Advocate in the following recent editorial deliverance. That any town should fail to crave one of Colonel Sam's monuments of war is to us a thing inconceivable. But here is The Advocate's word for it,—

Notwithstanding the money stringency in which the Dominion has been laboring for some months past, Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes, minister of Militia, has preformed the spectacular grand-stand stunt of having soused the country to the tune of half a million dollars within the past two years. Can we call that wise expenditure in the face of the unemployed problem? Would the Colonel prefer erecting play houses for the masses in preference to filling the stomachs of the hungry thousands of out-of-work with whom the cities have to contend? The mania of armories' building has become a plaything. Apparently all that is necessary is to "ask and you shall receive." Just consider for one moment the vast possibilities of that half million if spent in the development of the country's undeveloped resources and the relief it would bring as an antidote to the perplexing problem above stated. We are not at all envious of our sister villages that are being presented with these brick monuments, neither do we crave one for Tweed, but we do believe that the reins should be drawn a little tighter on Col. the Hon. Sam.

BANK CLERKS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS.

The last issue of The University Monthly contains a report of an address delivered by Mr. D. B. Wilkie, president of the Imperial Bank of Canada before the Aesculapian Club of Toronto. Among other interesting features Mr. Wilkie speaks of the difference between the easy route travelled by the bank clerk to wealth and affluence, and the thorny path of the medical student who prepares himself for his life's work. He draws comparison as follows,—

"Compare for one moment the medical profession with the banking profession, with which I am familiar. I trust that you will pardon the expression and the comparison. Let me place before you the emoluments of the two professions from the age of sixteen, when the medical career is selected by the one youth and the banking career by the other.

"From sixteen years of age until he is probably twenty-three, the medical student is under constant expense, which I should suppose will amount in the aggregate to not less than \$600 per annum or in all 4,500 at the very least for the seven years of study. His capital upon obtaining his degrees consists of his education, obtained in nine cases of ten at the expense of his parents.

"During that same period the bank clerk, from a salary of \$250 or \$300 per annum, is advancing year by year in his remuneration, until at twenty-three his education is, or should be, complete, and he is in receipt of a salary of at least \$1,000 per annum, very often more. He has received a training without expense to himself or his parents which fits him for higher responsibilities and insures for him considerably higher remuneration. He has received during those years of probation no less a sum than \$4,000 as against the outlay by the medical student of \$4,200 a difference of \$8,200 in favour of the bank clerk. The course of affairs later on in life does not compare disadvantageously to the bank clerk; if he has half the ability of a successful medical practitioner he goes from strength to strength and ends up his business career when golf and other exercises are still congenial, in the enjoyment of a pension of from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per annum, and yet we hear of bank clerks forming unions and being prepared to follow the Red Flag and join hands with men who themselves, rightly or wrongly, are struggling for the very conditions that these silly and in many cases overpaid employees enjoy but fail to appreciate."

Vancouver and all the large cities of the West are to-day overcrowded with laboring men who have been drawn there by over advertising. British Columbia has a fine climate, but you can't live on climate. Let us repeat, the cities of the west are right now over-filled, and the unemployed are under the eye of the police. You can't find a much better place than Belleville, Ontario, so you had better stay right here. When times are good anywhere they will be good here.

Sir George Pais, the editor of the London

Statist, announces in a paper which he has read before the Manchester Statistical Society that a world wide decline in the price of commodities has begun, and that "probably it will be more pronounced at the end of the year." Meanwhile the Commission appointed by the Dominion Government to investigate the causes of the high cost of living has suspended its inquiries, it is announced, for a few weeks. Is this an adjournment, asks the Winnipeg Free Press, to allow facts to put themselves in evidence in support of Sir George?

Why should Alfred Noyes, the English Poet laureate, be "nauseated almost beyond endurance" because of the remark attributed to him that he believes in making poetry "pay"? It is the fashion with a certain class of artists to profess by success in selling their paintings they would defile their pure souls. There have been no end of proud young poets and writers who have extracted from their poverty of purse and of brains the consolation that failure in a worldly sense was the best proof of their superior genius. To be unappreciated was meritorious; to have their works go unsold was final evidence of their supreme worth. Most of this can be sniffled hypocrisy. Shakespeare made his plays "pay." Milton made a living by his pen. Scott frankly wrote novels for the sake of money.

Michelangelo, Raphael, Velasquez, Rembrandt sought and took gold for their paintings. They were glad to get orders from popes and kings in order to earn a living. They sold their services without hesitation and took the rewards that accrued without any silly affectation that they were degrading themselves as artists. All good art has in it elements of popularity and public approval. If Mr. Noyes can make poetry "pay" he is fortunate. It is no cause for reproach or self-humiliation. The fact that numbers of people buy his books only goes to show that he has touched chords of the human heart or stirred emotion by his verses that lesser poets fail to reach. He is not disgraced because he has succeeded. Mr. Noyes never heard Rudyard Kipling apologize for making poetry "pay."

ACCORDING TO PRECEDENT

The hen that cackles loudest may not lay the largest eggs.

The mule that kicks the hardest may not have the longest legs.

The tree that is the tallest may not bear the sweetest fruit.

And the girl that is the fairest may not wear the smallest boot.

The man whose brow is highest may not always know the most.

The hero who is bravest may not make the loudest boast.

The arm that is the strongest may not have the farthest reach.

And the man who talks the longest may not have the finest speech.

The rose that is the reddest may not have the sweetest scent.

The man whose strut is proudest may not be most prominent.

The woman who has jewels that she measures by the peck.

May not have the slimmest fingers or the most delightful neck.

The man who works the hardest may not draw the highest pay.

The one with deepest knowledge may not have the most to say.

But the man who is most modest gets the last seat in the rear.

And the one who blows his bugle is the one whom people hear.

—Chicago Record Herald.

INES TO A DELINQUENT DEBTOR.

If I should die to-night
And you should come to my cold corpse and

say,
Weeping and heartick, o'er my lifeless clay

If I should die to-night
And you should come in deepest grief and

woe,—
And say, "Here's that ten dollars that I owe,"

I might arise in my large white cravat
And say, "What's that?"

If I should die to-night
And you should come to my cold corpse and

kneel,
Clasping my bier to show the grief you feel—

I say, if I should die to-night
And you should come to me there and then,

Just hint 'bout paying me that ten—
I might arise the while.

But I'd drop dead again.

—Ben King in Western Medical Review

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson I.—Second Quarter, For April 5, 1914.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES

Text of the Lesson, Luke xiv, 7-24

Memory Verses, 13, 14—Golden Text, Luke xiv, 11—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

As He ate bread in the house of one of the chief Pharisees on the Sabbath day He not only healed a man who had the dropsy (xiv, 1-6), but He had a special message for the guests and then for the host and later for one of the guests who had made an interesting remark. Oh, how He did live before God and seek the souls of men, fearing no one's frown and desiring no one's favor. To the guests He taught humility, for there as now there was often a desire for the best place that could be obtained. Humility is a rare virtue, and few there seem to be who in lowliness of mind esteem others better than themselves (Phil. ii, 3). There was only one who was perfect in humility and lowliness, the speaker on this occasion, and He could truly say, "I am meek and lowly in heart" (Matt. xi, 29). Exalting self is like anti-christ (Dan. xi, 36; 1 Thess. ii, 4; Rev. xiii, 5, 6), but renouncing self is Christ-like, for He made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant (Phil. ii, 7, 8). See also verse 11 of our lesson.

His message to His host was in reference to a future rather than a present recompense. How common it is to be kind to those who can return the kindness, to invite those to enjoy our hospitality who can return the invitation. How much of social life is filled up in this way? This may seem all right for those who know no better way. But when in church work, supposed to be the Lord's work, people act as if money could be obtained only by giving a present equivalent in the form of a lecture or an entertainment or something to eat, does it not all seem contrary to our Lord's admonition to this host? My own intense conviction is that giving or living only for a present equivalent is all wrong, and I have proved in a ministry of over thirty years that the love of Christ and the need of those who never heard of it will constrain people to give freely to help make Him known and gladly await the recompense in His kingdom. In connection with the resurrection of the just.

It does not appear from the Scriptures that believers are rewarded at death, though it is a common saying that he or she has gone to his or her reward. The truth concerning the dead in Christ is that they rest from their labors and their works do follow them, but rewards are promised only at His coming again (Rev. xiv, 13; xiii, 12; 1 Pet. v, 4). Here is a plain reference in verse 14 of our lesson to the difference between the resurrection of the just and the unjust. That there shall be both is written in Acts xiv, 15, but that there shall be a thousand years between them is just as plainly written in Rev. xx, 5, 6. The hour of John v, 28, does not conflict with this, for the hour of John v, 28, has already lasted nearly 1,900 years, and that of the resurrection of the beginning and end of the thousand years.

His mention of the resurrection of the just seems to have led one of the guests to remark, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God" (verse 15), which he evidently associated with the resurrection. This led our Lord to speak of the great supper and of the way the invitations were treated and of the excuses which men will make rather than accept the invitation. He seems to reply to the remark of the guest that men are more interested in property and in earthly enjoyments than in the things of the kingdom.

The things unseen and eternal are so unattractive to most people that things seen and temporal hold all their attention. Contrast the way of the believers in 11 Cor. iv, 17-18. The redemption which leads to the kingdom is described as a great supper fully prepared, and the invited ones have only to come and enjoy it. It is probable that the invitations of this chief of the Pharisees, in whose house they were, had all been accepted eagerly, but the invitations of which our Lord spoke were treated far otherwise. The great salvation has been fully prepared by the life and death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, nothing can be added to it; but oh, the cost of it all to the Father who gave His only Son and to the Son who gave Himself! And a gift offered freely, for "the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." "We are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. vi, 23, R. V.; ill. 24). How often we hear Him say, "Come!" from Gen. vii, 1 to Rev. xiii, 17; notably in Isa. i, 18; Matt. xi, 28, and how frivolous are men's excuses when compared with the importance of the salvation offered them and the glory of His kingdom.

I have heard of one man who was led to accept the great invitation by the remark, "There will be no excuses at the bar of God." Meantime, the devil, the god of this world, is busily blinding the minds of them which believe not lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (II Cor. iv, 3, 4). Yet the word stands "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

When You GET THE FSAN C S

The F. Yard & S

For the WHEN

With any blood suck, Scurvy, Bacteria, Glands, Pimples, Piles, Blood Gout, etc., and money melts while the surface you want thoroughly poisonous the true suffering. Clasp just suit composed of quickly exp. impurities, arising, and pure, and perfect a last.

(Thousands of men see it)

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