## THE WEEKLY ONTARIO, THURSDAY, MARCH, 5 1914



## "BACK TO THE LAND"

We have just read two articles on this subject the one appearing in the Toronto Daily Star and the other in Farm and Dairy. Both articles are excellent in their way, but approach the subject from a different view point.

Farm and Dairy has received a letter from a young man, who had been working for several years in the general post-office in one of the large cities, and who had saved up \$1,000 of capital. He was considering the advisability of starting a poultry and dairy farm, and asked the editor's advice, as he himself had had little practical experience in farming.

The editor's reply is interesting and as some in Belleville may have the same desires as this man, we quote the reply in part,-

The craving for life on the land, the priv-lege of holding some little portion for one's use, the desire to delve in the soil, is one or the pr mal pass ons to mankind. Even city bred men many generations removed from the soil often feel, the tug of nature and desire to return to the country from which their ancestors came. , his "Back to the Land" fever has afflicted almost every city man at some stage of his career. Our friend in the city post-office is only one of many with similar desires.

We wonder how Our Folks would have answered such a letter. It seemed hard to advise this young man to stay at an occu-pation that had come to mean little more than a treadmill existence for him. But we did not dare to advise him to start on a farm, even had he been able to get one with his limited capital. A man with so little experience would be certain to make costly mistakes during the first couple of years. True, he would get experience and having the advantage of being free from prejudice, would probably be quick to adopt up-to-date methods. But it takes plenty of capital to cover such mistakes as one is apt to make at the start. In fact the greatest drawback to this young man's starting on a farm is his lack of capital. The usual advice given to such a one, to go and work as a hired man on a farm for a couple of years, is almost impossible in this case as the young man has a wife and family, and a city-bred girl would hardly care to live the life of the wife of the average hired man in the country.

The country. But what is the lesson for those of us who are now on the farm? We wonder if the men who to-day are leaving their farms re-alize that their sons may someday be in ex-actly the same position of this young man tied to a treadmill existence, and unable to get away from it. Boys who leave the farms may find themselves in the same position after a few years. We know that position after a few years. We know that farming seems unprofitable to the young man, who sees expensive motor cars fill-ed with well-dressed, pleasure seeking people rolling past the home farm day after day. These visiting motorists represent to him the city and its advantages. He does not realize that nine-tenths of a city's pop-ulation is composed of people, who eke out an existence by hard and continual labor in unhealthy shops and factories. Farming may not be a ready road to great wealth, but the man who owns his farm is one of the most independent men on earth. He has a diversified occupation that never lacks interest and he is living next to nature. t hich we believe is the place where God intended man to live. We would do well to consider carefully every phase of the question belore leaving the old farm.

United States. So it is with the gospel of intensive farming which is now preached to Western farmers. It is good, but we must not be impatient if the farmers do not accept it and act upon it promptly. They were invited to occupy our Western lands for the very purposes of raising wheat. We were very glad to get them, after our splendid prairies had remained idle for so many years.



The difficulty that almost every housewife in this city, who employs domestic help, experiences in securing or retaining competent servants, is part of a world wide problem. Many are offering wages that make the pitt-ance paid to female clerks, stenographers, and factory employes, look small by comparison. But yet the class of service secured is usually unsatisfactory or discontented.

At a meeting of unemplayed working wo-men in Cooper Union, New York, one of the speakers was asked why girls preferred want to house work. Her reply was: "I haven't time to explain the servant problem, but if the girls are willing to put up with all they do in the shops and factories you may be sure there is something seriously wrong with house-WOLK. "

Commenting on conditions suggested by this answer, the Christian Science Monitor says:

"There is hardly a town or city in the United States today where comfortable employment at good wages does not await, in many instances vainly, girls who are willing to ac-cept domestic employment. Better housing, better surroundings and, every thing con-sidered, higher wages, are held out almost universally as inducements to girls to take up housework. In domestic service they are practically insured against such conditions as are now said to confront no less than 20,000 work-less, and all but homeless women of New York City When students of the problem present ed here ask for an explanation of the antipathy amorg girls to domestic service they never get much more satisfaction than is contained in the reply of the woman just quoted. Yet a satisfactory explanation is due and should be forthcoming. Perhaps women at the head of the great movements looking to the general uplint of their sex are better qualified than men to find the reason for the existence of such an antipathy. Whether or not this is the case, the reason might well be earnestly sought in the interest of girlhood and womanhood and the entire social structure."

the entire social structure." To plain, practical observers of the ways of this very worldly world, the explanation is not far to seek. In fact the paper guoted supplies it by inference in another paragraph. Thus: "Paradoxical but significant is the con-

temporary anxiety to escape being called a servant and the simultaneous craving to render service. Millions of people in certain strata of society grasp at aught which promises release from servitude. Thousands of other persons more fortunate in economic status, intellectual attainments and chances o know life, are eager for a chance to serve." . In the shop and factories, whatever the

hours, wages and working conditions, the employes are at least no worse than shop girls and working girls. After hours, they have freedom of action and some kind of chance for social recognition. Of course the rich and fashionable move beyond and above them but at the same time many fairly prosperous and respectable people maintain social fellowship with girls and women who work as clerks in stores gins and women who work as clerks in stores and in various commercial positions, and even with plain shop or factory girls. But what part of this respectable middle class keeps a welcome of social equality for the "nirad girl," the "ser-vant girl," the girl employed in strictly domes-tic service, by whatever name call d ? The question answers itself—practically nobody. Not always, but generally speaking, even the poor man's wife who, as a rule, must do her own housework, will draw the line against her own housework, will draw the line against the "hired girl" whenever she teels able to hire one or forced by circumstances to do so. Away from shop or factory, the industrial working girl need not always be reminded that she is classed as an inferior, a hired servant. The girl hiring out to do housework, in the house of her employment or out of it, faces this remind-er constantly, and her spirit rebels against what seems a hard and unjust fate; and it is this feeling, this desolating sense of complete ostracism largely, that drives young women to "any-thing except housework"

doctrines will be taught upon which all these denominations are agreed. Which we would answer by asking another question-upon how many essential points, doctrines, or interpretations, are these and the other denominations in complete agreement ! Aside from the single idea of belief in a Supreme Being it would be difficult to find any other important phase of religious thought upon which there is anything approaching unan mity.

Though a teacher were endowed with all the intellectual subliety of a Sir John Macdonald, he would involve himself in difficulty inextricable the minute he began to promulgate the Unitarians, conception of the Deity, Pastor Russell's views in regard to the millenium, or the higher critic's opinion of the early chapters of Genesis.

The Toronto Weekly Sun comments upon Dr. Seath's proposal as follows .--

Jewish and Christian children are taught side by side in all the larger centres. both are to use the same Scripture lessons. but if the teacher is to give one interpretation of the lesson to the Jew and another and wholly different interpretation to the Gentile, is not the result likely to be to weaken rather than strengther. religious belief? Again, if a text book. or a text leaflet, which professes to teach a common fatherhood and a common brotherhood. without regard for national frontiers, has to be edited before crossing a national boundary, will not the result be a revival of the ancient heathen idea of a tribal deity ?

On the whole it would seem wiser to confine the work of our primary schools to the fitting of children for the ordinary business of life, and their prenaration for the intelligent performance of the duties of citizenship in a self-governing community. On this point we are all agreed. In the matter of religious beliefs the shading of opinion is as varied as the number of our people.

Upon the whole we should say it was far safer and wiser to blunder along as we have been doing and leave religious instruction to the home and the various churches. We do not see how any compromise could be broad enough in its nature to be uniformly acceptable.

Moral training might receive more attention than it does in our schools. The present teaching of ethical subjects is very incidental, fragmentary, inconclusive, and ineffective. Dr. Seath could find here a fruitful field to

exercise his genius. But we would advise him to hasten slowly about introducing any-thing into u r school system that would arouse denominational rancor or religious passion. Better "let well enough alone."

The unprecedented milliness of November and December may be taken as accounting for the remarkable severity of February. It is the old law of one extreme following another. Nature is an irregular but an absolutely certain pay-master. We cannot have unseasonably mild weather at one period of the year without paying for it with corresponding cold at a later season. Taking the whole year through the average variation in these seasons. average variation in temperature, one vear with another, is almost nothing. The varia-tion in average annual rainfall is greater, but even here, the difference among the years is much less than most of us imagine.

Is the parlor, the old-fashioned parlor, to me a thing of the past ? We have been reading of a farmer down in Prince Edward Island who keeps his plow in the parlor, and a brother editor is unkind enough to suggest that "the spare bedroom is plenty good enough for any plow.' Of course keeping the plow in the parlor is overdoing it a bit, but after all that type of thrift makes for a bank account and a touring car in the garage. And, after all, of what special use is a parlor to an up-to-date farmer these days ? Good roads, a motor ear-the parlor is passing. Possibly it is the proper place for the plow after all.

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The number of automobiles registered in the United States has more than doubled since 1911. In that year according to compilations by Mitchell May, Secretary of State, the num-ber was 522,938. Last year 1,127,940 cars were registered. New York leads with a total registration of 135,000, and Nevada brings up the rear with 1,141. During the two years, 4,027 cars were imported into the United States. Some registrations were duplicate. The num-Some registrations were duplicate. The number in actual nse is about 1,000.000.

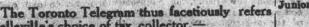


Winston Churchill, the novelist, as dis- church last evening, basing his sertinguished from his namesake the British pul- mon on Mark 6-31. 'C'ome Ye Your tinguished from his namesake the British pol- mon on Mark 6-81. 'Come Ye Your itician, has been writing of the new religion of patriotism. "Whatever religion we choose." he declares, "must contain a positive, militant righteousness, and that righteousness must have a social meaning. First, it involves, for the man or woman who has adopted it heart and soul, a change in the motive of life. The old motive in government lay in the acquisition and soul, a change in the motive of file. The tween the best and worst of women old motive in governmert lay in the acquisition of property; the new lies in service. This is Hell." The disciples informed Christ not to say that, in an imperfect world, we of the murder of John and while Je shoul not acquire and hold property, but that sus showed Himself calm, He evi-shoul not acquire and hold property, but that dently felt the pang and presenti-we must subordinate this motive to the new ment that such would be His end. So and higher one." Proceeding, the writer says: He urged the disciples to go apart The new patriotism is by no means a gentle to recover from physical depression to The new patriotism is by no means a genile to recover tron physical depression to optimism, because it acknowledges the prob-lem of evil and grapples with it. It seeks to put into government the maxim: "I am my purpose was service, to give, "the peo ple to eat." If rest is the end, people brother's keeper. '

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coming atrophied. Is Lent of any Last June an Irish farmer brought suit for value? It has a value in the light of damage against the White Line company for the the words of the text-namely a time loss of his sons by the Titanic disaster. The case and season to withdraw from went to the King's Bench and was decided in favor world and hold communion one's self. To this extent is went to the King's Bench and was decided in favor of the plaintiff, remarks an exchange. The point raised by the steamship company was that the plaintiff in accepting his ticket, signed away all his rights of damages, and therefore, he had no claim on the company. The English court, at one blow etrack away this refuge of lies so deftly woven by the speaker had small use. A man or woman lives 325 dars in the world the corporation, and held it no bar to damages. All the world should approve the decision. It

woman lives 325 days in the world for self and then observes 40 days of fast with punctiliousness, denying All the world should approve the decision. It is in line with the general trend of decisions of courts in similar cases. They have almost universally-held that a man cannot sign away his legal rights. Often a man purchasing a ticket does not read the conditions printed in fine type in an obscure part of it, and even if he does read it, when the cases are brought into court it is easy sailing, but it in-volves the plaintiff in large same which volves the plaintiff in large expenses, which he often may not be able to meet. Without this printed form on the tickets there would not be even the shadow of a ground for a contrary claim. FOXBORO SCHOOL REPORT



to Belleville's choice of tax collector, Belleville, Ont, has invaded the realm of Thespis and chosen an actor as collector of city

taxes.

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Paying taxes has hitherto been representing about "the zero mark in outdoor amusements," It will be a pleasure for Belleville people to pay their taxes on the invitation of a Thespian who can entreat the backward ratepayers as Uncle Tom entreated Simon Legree, or curse defaulting freeholders with the imprecations of a stage

The Belleville's example may inspire the Guelph City Council to approach Harry Lauder with view of persuading the eminent Scottish comed-ian to officiate as tax collector in the metropolis of Wellington County. The comic genius of a Harry Lauder might surround the collection of taxes in Guelph with a humor that would deaden the pain



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"Is the observance of Lent Helpfulf" was the question asked by the Rev. Chas. G. Smith, of the Baptist

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The Star deals with the causes of rural population in a lucid and convincing mannet,-

To solve the problem of the high cost of living in Canada and the United States, men are advised to go back to the land. It is pointed out that nearly half the inhab-itants of Canada and the States are urban. It is said that people grow tired of the quiet-ness and monotony of country life, and flock into the cities to walk the brilliantly lighted streets and go to the moving-picture shows.

But we do not forget that cities and towns in Canada and the United States have been deliberately built up at the expense of the countryside by legislation. Protectionists used to argue that a country which devoted itself too much to agriculture was a poor country. It became a hew. er of wood and a drawer of water for countries possessing varied industries. Let us have these industries ourselves, build up our own cities and towns, and "keep the money in the country." The farmers, who did not see much benefit in protection for themselves, were informed that it would give them a "home market," and

make them independent of the foreigner. Well, protection has helped to build up cities and towns; but for some reason the prospect of selling things to the dwellers in cities and towns does not seem to have attracted the agricultural mind to a suffici-ent extent. Protectionists who helped to build the cities seem to be repenting of their work, and are urging others to leave the gay and festive scene, the halls of dazzling light, and raise in fields and pastures green the stuff to set things right.

Men went there, not for gaiety, but be-cause there was more business, because there was more opportuaity and scope for

energy and capacity. Back to the land is a good gospel, but those who preach it must bear in mind that it is new, that it is a product of con-ditions that are new in Canada aud the

# **RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Dr. John Seath is endeavoring to work out plan for the introduction if religious teaching into the public schools of Ontario. He last week called together a conference of clergymen of various denominations and also a representative of the Jewish faith. We are told that the gatnering unanimously approved of Dr. Seath's scheme which appears to be religious lessons that the teachers will derive from extracts from Scriptures and a "Golden Rule. Series" published in the United States.

At the first glance, the idea looks to be a good one. The most of us view with aversion the "Godless schools," of France, and we think it desirable that the rising mind of the youth should be impressed with the great fundament. al ductrines and truths contained in the Gospel. We have nearly all felt the advantage of careful instruction in Biblical lessons in our homes, at the church, and in Sunday School. The question naturally arises --why not extend the system to the puplic schools as well and make it part of the business of the department of education to carry out a well defined plan of instruction in regard to religion ?

But one can scarcely begin to give the sub-ject the most superficial consideration before he will see almost insurmountable difficulties in the way.If religious instruction is to be given, whose religion will be the basis of the lessons Will it be Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Unitari-an, Jewish, Russellite, or Presbyterian?

An answer might be given that only those

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If the present winter has been a little severe on us the past few weeks, it has also handed us out an unusually generous supply of firstclass sleighing. The roads have not been badly blocked at any time, and generally the going has been fine. With the removal of our forests, the sweeping winds cause the snow to pile up as was not the case in the early days. Snow is oftener than not a problem instead of a service to us. We should therefore be duly thankful to the bear for the forbearance he has shown in the matter of snow-banks and pitch-

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Finance Minister White's remedy for the high cost of living is increased production on the part of the farmers of Cinada. Mr. White evidently does not understand the western situation, or he must realize that increased production of grain with the present restricted markets will simply mean that the farmers will get a lower price for their meat. The price that they received during the past year was in the majority of cases less than the actual cost of production. Mr. White's remedy, therefore, for the high cost of living is to have the farmers work for nothing and board them-selves.—Grain Growers' Guide

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Labrador will probably never support much of a population, for the climate is not conducive to the production of crops and the land is very rocky and for the most part mountainous; but there are great cataracts that will, when harnessed by men, generate almost unlimited electric power. One of them is the Grand Falls on the Hamilton river, one of the great waterfalls of the world, and is to be harnessed for the production of nitrogen. A concession has been granted by the colonial government to a company and it is estimated that 1,000,000 horsepower can be secured. Nitrates will soon be coming from Labrador to fertilize the almost exhausted sections of the earth that have been thickly populated for centuries.

of separating the Aberdonian natives from their coin.

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The school teacher is at once the most loved and worst abused public servant. She must please all the patrons of the school, she must show Fourteer impartiality, guide the precocious, stimulate the dullard, quell the rebellious and refrain from looking cross-eyed at the big boys. She must not be afraid of mice, snakes lizards or busybodi s. She must be able to lead the singing in church, R teach a Sunday School of grown men and women speak a piece at the meeting of the literary society act charades at the socials and bake cakes for the box suppers. She must sweep the schoolhouse, build the Senio

fires, shovel snow and walk a mile to school and back every day. Incidentally she must have a a little knowledge of everything from cube root to the currency law and be able to teach it

She must smile graciously when the district clerk hauds her the too small pay check which is Junior her munificent salary, and then pay a higher-cost of-living price for her board and much more to en Senior B able her to keep up with the world in general. The remainder, if there is any is all hers to salt down so she can pay her expenses during the normal institute next July,

Verily the school teacher has a snap. -Wichita Beacon

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In a less athletic age Rodin's plea for large Junior feet on the score that the Greek statues all have them might be more necessary. No sculptor or other artists now adays need feel that he is defend ing perilous ideas in justifying ample footwear The styles may be freakish and change from Or iental effects to colored wigs, but even women have learned the advantages to be gained by being sanely shod. Sport has been a great eman-cipator. The sex that has been the age-long vic-tim of the vanities of dress has discovered that for purposes of outdoor exercise Peking and Paris are poor fashion makers. Tennis or golf in high heels or tight shoes would be a form of torture. Once the secret of freedom from the old forms of tyran-Average ny has been mastered, the bonds of the former se vitude must always grate the flesh. But M. Rodin is wrong if he thinks he can make large fet popvitude must always grate the make large lest pop-is wrong if he thinks he can make large lest pop-ular by preaching the example of the Greeks. He might as well try to introduce sandals for every-day wear on the street. Roomy shoes, made to fit the foot have come into use, not in obedience to artistic standards, but because of the unconscious common sense of a generation which was learn common sense for its feet.

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