

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.

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.

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 privilege of holding some little portion for one's use, the desire to delve in the soil, is one of the primal passions to mankind.

We wonder how Our Folks would have answered such a letter. It seemed hard to advise this young man to stay at an occupation that had come to mean little more than a treadmill existence for him.

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 realize that their sons may someday be in exactly the same position of this young man.

The Star deals with the causes of rural depopulation in a lucid and convincing manner.

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.

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.

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 sufficient extent.

Men went there, not for gaiety, but because there was more business, because there was more opportunity 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 conditions that are new in Canada and the

United States. So it is with the gospel of intensive farming which is now preached to Western farmers.

THE HIRED GIRL

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.

At a meeting of unemployed working women in Cooper Union, New York, one of the speakers was asked why girls preferred to house work.

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 accept domestic employment."

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 anything into a school system that would arouse denominational rancor or religious passion.

The unprecedented mildness of November and December may be taken as accounting for the remarkable severity of February.

Is the parlor, the old-fashioned parlor, to become 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."

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 first-class sleighing.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. John Seath is endeavoring to work out a plan for the introduction of religious teaching into the public schools of Ontario.

But one can scarcely begin to give the subject the most superficial consideration before he will see almost insurmountable difficulties in the way.

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?

Though a teacher were endowed with all the intellectual subtlety of a Sir John Macdonald, he would involve himself in difficulty inextricable the minute he began to promulgate the Unitarians, conception of the 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 preparation for the intelligent performance of the duties of citizenship in a self-governing community.

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.

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 impartiality, guide the precocious, stimulate the dullard, quell the rebellious and refrain from looking cross-eyed at the big boys.

In a less athletic age Rodin's plea for large feet on the score that the Greek statues all have them might be more necessary.

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.

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 number was 522,938.

Winston Churchill, the novelist, as distinguished from his namesake the British politician, has been writing of the new religion of patriotism.

Last June an Irish farmer brought suit for damage against the White Line company for the loss of his sons by the Titanic disaster.

The Toronto Telegram thus facetiously refers to Belleville's choice of tax collector.

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Verily the school teacher has a snap. —Wichita Beacon

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IS LENT HELPFUL?

Sermon by Rev. Chas. G. Smith in Baptist Church Last Night.

"Is the observance of Lent helpful?" was the question asked by the Rev. Chas. G. Smith, of the Baptist church last evening, basing his sermon on Mark 6-31.

For the Pharisee Lent Keeping, the speaker had small use. A man or woman lives 325 days in the world for self and then observes 40 days of fast with punctiliousness, denying self meat, eggs and theatricals, and thinking in this way to please God.

The world should approve the decision. It is in line with the general trend of decisions of courts in similar cases.

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FOXBORO SCHOOL REPORT

SENIOR ROOM

Junior Third Helen Prentice 88% Jessie Ketcheson 87 Charlie Stewart 78 Harry Ketcheson 74

JUNIOR ROOM

Junior Primer Ruth Empson George Faulkner Marian Longwell Arthur Demorest Bobbie Marner

Senior First Vera Sloan Evelyn Sloan

Senior First Margarette Smith Jean Longwell Harold Longwell Harold Stewart Burleigh Johnston Jack Lake Myrtle Prentice Mabel Hoard John Irvine Pearl Carter, and Geraldine Longwell absent

WEL

Wellington.—A to Picton and Mrs. Rosebeck with her son. Maple Grove. Mrs. Basfield Clark at Lake E. Mr. Sherman here visiting his Mr. H. D. Yo hire visiting his Mr. Gregg Har ready to build. Mr. and Mrs. East Wellington A number were Coll-Friday We have had on record in this Miss L. Wilson Coll-giate at P her mother's ill speed recovery Mr. and Mrs. ed in their new Our contracto places to build. Our banks are days, especially We are sorry so poorly A number are hoas this com Mr. and Mrs. Conson last w cral Mrs. Cobb is nursing her son of scarlet fever, quite nicely. Coal oil men will looking at merchants We are sorry to have very severe Mr. L. Smith's trip Our farmers a after their orch We are pleas Trampour out bad cold Mr. and Mrs. arrived home fr Mr. and Mrs. expect home trip soon We are sorry remains so poe speedy recovery Mr. and Mrs. Peasall of Gil Thursday Mr. Ben Ellis in town on Fr Our flour are busy these days A number ar try to take t Wood drawin day with our Spring goods rive daily at Getting in a day around the Our canning ready for a g seed house in Mrs. Scott's cup her rec Mrs. A. Sto her son at Ce Mrs. May of visitor at the Singleton Mr. Lyman day last week We are pleas Lane of Port Wellington in hear that Mr. Noxon office up sta grocery store Even thoug ber of paries We welcome Picton. His s Noxon's stand A number's day afternoon We are ple Cobb out ag We hear w railroad as wharf Dr. Broad weak to We Farncombe o Mrs. Philli Inlay have mission tou away on an Mr. H. D. on good roo force at this roads will Mrs. W. P ton were at attend their Last Frida day Lenten s AAndrew's Wednesday Mrs. Fred a lovely pr coat of h Martha Hy Bloomfield brother an eral of the Hyatt on 2 ferings we The 'men' her late re on the after one at this daughters, ington and Winnipeg. in Wellingt was aged 80 A. Young o the funeral Miss Cha cent visitor A lot of e evangelistic chure Mr. and are guests Burley, Be Dr. McCu will be in home deort dance of Spring is Mrs. Har ren of Tor Mr. and M visit The hors Thursday, a r town, Mr. and