

## The Dollar Chain

A fund maintained by readers of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" for (1) Red Cross Supplies. (2) Soldiers' Comforts. (3) Belgian Relief. (4) Serbian Relief.

Contributions from June 2 to June 9th: Maggie Thomson, R. 2, Mildmay, Ont., \$20; A. H. Caffyn, Ingersoll, Ont., 50 cents; R. C. F., Toronto, \$1; "Toronto," \$2; B. W. Avonbank, Ont., \$4; I. H. G., Stratford, Ont., \$1; A. Friend, R. 4, Glencoe, Ont., \$5; A. E. Rumbold, Bridgen, Ont., \$1; H. P. Wilson, Dundas, Ont., 50 cents; Cecil Stamp, Thorndale, Ont., \$1.

Amount previously acknowledged.....\$2,466.70

Total to June 9th.....\$2,502.70

IF YOU CAN'T GO TO THE FRONT, GIVE.

Kindly address contributions to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," London, Ont.

## Thanks to "Dollar Chain" Subscribers.

The following letter has been received from the Local Council of Women in charge of the Belgian Relief Fund in this city:

The above association desire to express through you our very sincere thanks and appreciation for the most generous assistance given from "The Farmer's Advocate" towards the L. C. W. Fund for Belgian Relief—your very liberal and timely assistance has indeed been a veritable "God-Send" for those poor innocent sufferers and has been the means of supplying food to those unfortunates who are so sorely in need of all such help.

Thanking yourself and associates many times over—with every good wish.

Yours very truly,  
EMMA YARKER, Cor.-Sec.

Mrs. Boomer, President, also writes personal thanks for the assistance of the amounts received from the Dollar Chain.

A letter of thanks from Mrs. A. T. Edwards, Secretary for the Serbian Relief Fund, contains the following interesting paragraph, sent to her by an official of the Relief Department in England:

In conjunction with the French Government, the Serbian Relief Fund have started colonies in Corsica and France for the Refugees. Already 10,000 have been transported to these colonies and our Agents are undertaking the charge of them, and have specially gone to Salonica and the Adriatic Coast to attend to the despatch of the refugees from Greece and Montenegro. In addition, we are largely supplying the needs of the Serbian Army, amongst whom there is much suffering and disease consequent on their great privations. A Hospital Unit has been despatched to Corfu for their service, and large stores of provisions and clothing have been sent there. Medical and ordinary relief are being organized on as large a scale as the funds of the Society will permit.

My Committee appreciate very much the efforts which you have made in aid of this Fund.

Thanking you on their behalf.

M. MUSGRAVE WATSON, Secretary.  
8 Cromwell Road, London, S. W.

We may also state that through the kindness of the Dollar Chain subscribers it has been possible to add \$70 to the funds needed for organizing the new Western Ontario Hospital, now almost ready to begin work.

A contribution of \$50 has also been sent to help in the good work the I. O. D. E. is doing in work for the Orpington hospital and comforts for the soldiers.

Fe, fi, fo, fum,  
Pancho Villa is keeping mum.  
Whether alive or whether dead,  
Or where he's buried he hasn't said.  
—Brooklyn Eagle.

## Talks About Birds.

### The Robin.

"And the birds sang round him, o'er him  
'Do not shoot them Hiawatha'—  
Sang the Opechee, the Robin  
Sang the bluebird, the Owaissa,  
Do not shoot us Hiawatha".

LONGFELLOW.

As winter goes and the warm spring begins, the buds show life and the grass shoots up. Then we look for the return of the birds. They come back to us at first two by two, or in small flocks. Later great flocks may sometimes be seen flying high over-head, steering straight for the north region where they may find food and nesting places. They went far south to escape the winter's cold, and they come back to us to build their nests and rear their young. These belong to the migratory species.

The Robin is a member of this group. Almost everyone knows the Robin, one of the most common birds we see when we walk in the fields or groves. The Robin is olive gray above and its breast is red. It is sometimes called Robin Redbreast, but that name belongs to a bird that is much smaller than our Robin, and has its home far across the sea in Europe. The Robin arrives here in March and remains until late in the fall. They usually build their nests in the trees, the nest being composed of straw, weeds, and mud, lined with soft grasses and moss. The eggs are a beautiful blue color. During the breeding season the Robin is a persistent vocalist, and if the song has not much variety its heartiness and good cheer render it one of the most agreeable of bird utterances.

Many persons who cultivate cherries, grapes and other small fruit are prejudiced against the Robin, believing it to be destructive to their crops, this however does not prove that they should be destroyed. Prof. F. E. T. Beal tells us the Robins will steal fruit, but they prefer wild fruit and whenever it is obtainable they scorn fruit that is useful to man. After a microscopic examination of the stomachs of three hundred Robins they were found to contain forty-two species of wild fruits and only four or five domestic. Fruit, however, is only a small part of robin's diet, and by the havoc he creates among worms and insects he much more than compensates for the damage done by his vegetarian propensities. The quantity of insects and worms he devours is hardly creditable. One professor of Ornithology experimented on some young robins kept in captivity with a view of determining the amount of food necessary to maintain them, and found that each one required sixty-eight worms per day, each bird ate forty-four per cent. more than its own weight in twelve hours. The length of these worms if laid end to end would be about fourteen feet. Well may we exclaim at the exhausting labor of the robin whose day is spent putting worms into the unsatiable beaks at the rate of one morsel every three minutes.

Many people who have gardens think they are justified in killing our beautiful robins, not knowing that there is a heavy fine imposed for every robin shot

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Read the following letter by W. J. Bourne.

Alvinston, Ont.

Dear Sirs,—I am well pleased with my barn, and want to say in connection with the building of the barn that one can get a barn so much quicker by taking your style than the old-fashioned wooden barn, and also the expense in the building boarding men, etc., is greatly reduced. I would judge not more than one-quarter the cost it would be for a wooden barn. These two items alone should induce anyone to build your style of barn. Now, in connection with the barn itself, I consider that it is lightning-proof, and the danger from fire is not so great should other buildings be burned close by. It never needs painting, and I think it a very much stronger barn than any timber frame I ever saw. I think it will last much longer than a wooden barn, and its general appearance should recommend it to anyone who is going to build.


Yours very truly, W. J. Bourne.

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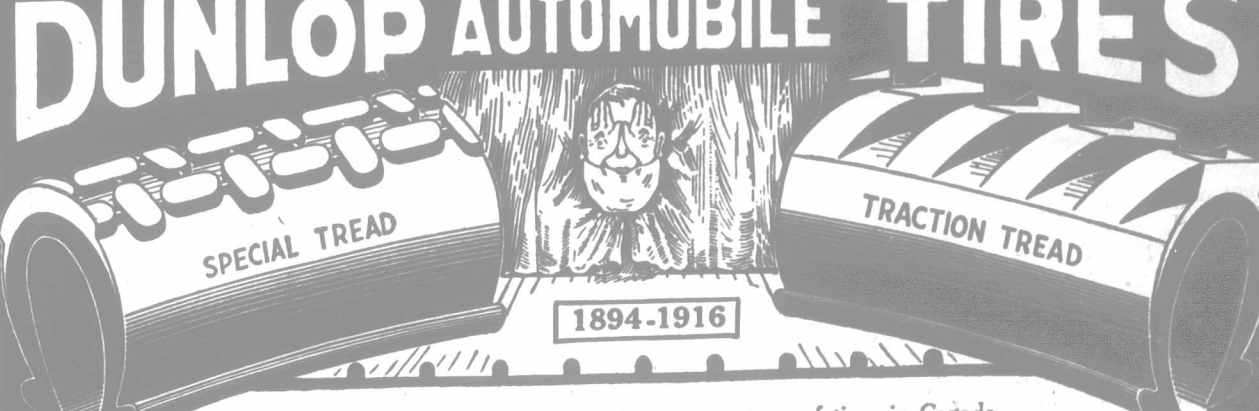
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