

The Weekly Ontario

Thursday, February 26, 1914

MAKING HISTORY

Mr. W. E. Tunnison, reeve of Huntingdon, in the course of brief, but eloquent and impressive address at the joint banquet of the Belleville District Holstein breeders and the Menie District Ayrshire breeders, on Tuesday night, referred to that banquet as a history-making event. He also called attention to other important historical or economic movements that had their genesis in this locality. Among these were the establishment of municipal government in Sidney township, the first of its kind in Upper Canada. Then there was the devising of a country roads' system, which has been adopted as the rule for the whole province. Three years ago came the organization of the first district live-stock club in Canada, known as the Belleville District Holstein Breeders' Club, and then a few months later came the organization of the Menie District Ayrshire Club, the first of its kind in the dominion. Following this example similar live-stock clubs have been organized all over Ontario. The Belleville Board of Trade was the first to bring farmers into its membership, a precedent that is now being widely followed. And lastly was a joint banquet held by two of these live-stock clubs, introducing a new era of mutual cooperation and united effort for the improvement of dairying and dairying conditions.

It is our firm conviction that Mr. A. D. McIntosh, district representative, and the others who were instrumental in bringing about the establishment of these pioneer live-stock associations, have been building better than they know. We regard this as the beginning of a movement that will, in the first place, have a great influence on the dairying branch of agriculture, and will besides generate far-reaching effects in reference to the future well-being of our country.

Why farmers have failed in the past, or why they have not attained to anything like the full measure of success, is because they have not been business men and treated farming as a business. There has been a superabundance of slavish toil, but there has been little community of effort in the production of goods, in the marketing, in buying, and in the legitimate furtherance of agricultural interests.

The work has been badly rewarded because the effort has been too individualistic and isolated. The farmer has been somewhat in the predicament of the boy told of by Mr. Robertson, who when asked what he was to receive for hoeing a patch of potatoes, responded that he would get nothing if he did hoe them and nothing if he didn't. Farming has been too much a matter of working for board and clothes instead of a bank account, and the farmers have only themselves to blame.

Mr. John Elliott has given us an illustration of what the mixing of a little business commonsense will accomplish in the marketing of cheese. Mr. Elliott has a heavy banking business to look after, but he has managed to devote a portion of his time to the consideration of the various problems surrounding the marketing of dairy products. Through his personal efforts the Ontario Government has given Belleville cheese a special position in the window of their London building. London wholesalers have been in various ways reminded that Belleville cheese was the triple-X, gilt-edge article, and that it was a serious mistake to buy anything else as long as any of our goods were on the market.

Now, Belleville cheese may or may not be the best that is made in Canada. We think it is at least equal to the best. But the point in a skillful marketing campaign was to get the cheese-eating Englishmen to hanker after it like the children who cry for Castoria. A little timely advertising did the trick. Belleville cheese now commands a premium over all other Canadian or imported cheese in the London market.

Of Mr. Elliott's other activities in reference to the guarantee of payment, the rearrangement of the R. & O. time-table to suit Belleville shippers, the providing of cold storage on boats and so on, it is not necessary to speak. We mention the subject merely to illustrate our statement that the great lack in agriculture is a want of business methods.

The same lack of system, and of proper business arrangement and method, is discoverable all the way through the intricate processes of production and preparing goods for market.

The co-operative fruit growing and packing associations are doing a great work among the fruit-growers. The co-operative potato growers are showing what may be done in that line down in New Brunswick.

The local stock-breeders' clubs may be described as but another evidence of co-operation in a different branch of the farming industry. We

look for epoch-making results from all this co-operative effort.

Mr. James A. Caskey, in the course of an unusually outspoken address, made a strong plea for greater independence of action among farmers in regard to political questions affecting their interests. He characterized it as absurd that there should be eighty-seven lawyers and only nineteen farmers in the present house of commons at Ottawa. Mr. Caskey frankly admitted that the farmers had nobody to blame but themselves for this ridiculous disproportion in representation.

All that Mr. Caskey said is quite true, but what is going to be done about it? Canadian farmers are about the most conservative class in the civilized world. They are pretty evenly divided between the two great political parties, but for one of their number to transfer his allegiance from one party to the other, or to display any independence of view, is a species of high treason.

If a farmer desires to retain the respect of his fellow farmers he must not be guilty of the crime of thinking for himself or of acting according to his honest convictions in matters political.

Mr. Caskey is also well aware that these farmers' deputations that occasionally visit Ottawa or Toronto are regarded by the politicians as nothing but a joke. The politicians know full well that the farmers who sent these delegates will practically all be tumbling over one another to get back into line, once they hear the crack of the party whip.

We believe Mr. Caskey was right in attaching great significance to the organization and subsequent alliance of these two local stock-breeders' clubs. These will in all probability form further alliances with other co-operative societies, clubs, and organizations, until Canadian agriculture is as thoroughly organized as are the manufacturers, the bankers, the insurance men, the railroads, or any other branch of industry or finance.

When Canadian farming interests are backed up by a thorough organization and can show that they mean business, their representations and legitimate demands will receive respectful attention at Ottawa and Toronto and not before.

Parliamentary legislation, intimately affects the interests of the farm. Slavery to party in the past has permitted the unobstructed passage of volumes of parliamentary acts adversely affecting agriculture.

Railroad men do not adopt any such lackadaisical attitude in regard to legislation. They retain a host of the most highly trained and highest priced legal talent procurable to haunt the corridors of parliament and shape the course of law-making to their benefit.

Farmers are really the only class in Canada who enjoy the luxury of staying with party through thick and thin. Manufacturers, financiers, transportation magnates care about as much about party loyalty as a herd of Holsteins cares about eugenic marriage.

But after all farmers do not need to forsake the grand old parties in order to obtain their just rights. If their requests are made by a dominion-wide amalgamation of co-operative societies, who have shown that they mean business, there will be no doubt as to their reasonable requests being granted, and unreasonable requests refused when made by others and adversely affecting the farming industry.

There is a wonderful work to be done by these associations in the introduction of business methods into the various activities surrounding agriculture and in securing a square deal for the farmer in the realm of politics.

In the mouths of Wesley and Whitfield, says the London Chronicle, the oft-repeated sermon was both necessary and effective, for they journeyed and found new hearers for old sermons. Wesley, for instance, travelled for 4,500 miles a year until he was well on three score years and ten, and, travelling, preached two, three, and occasionally four times a day. With Whitfield, particularly, the sermon gained by repetition. Thus his biographer: "It never reached its highest point of effectiveness until he had preached it 40 times. Then it became on his lips a perfect instrument of persuasion." And Whitfield, it has been calculated, preached over 18,000 sermons.

The most wonderful of all sermon-makers was surely C. H. Spurgeon. He had no need to repeat himself, for his powers seemed inexhaustible, and, moreover, he made repetition impossible by publishing his sermons week by week. The weekly issue began in 1861, he left behind so much material that the publication has continued till this day, and is likely to go on for at least another dozen years. No other published sermons ever attained such popularity as Spurgeon's. One sermon alone sold over 300,000 copies.

Cheer Up! According to the bear, who got scared at his shadow, there will not be over four weeks more of this kind of weather.

The interests will get into the game against Huerta now. He has begun to confiscate property. He had only been confiscating human life before.

There is always something to be thankful for on cold mornings. For instance, when the weather bulletin states that it was sixty-two below at White River.

Culture is the power which makes a man capable of appreciating the life around him and the power of making that life worth appreciating.—Mallock.

The last great conflict between whites and Indians occurred in the late seventies, when Gen. Custer, a noted cavalry leader of the Civil War, was wiped out with his entire command. The Springfield Republican informs us that 1,800 members of the tribe which took part in that memorable battle are now living on a reserve in Montana which is large enough to allow 400 acres to each member. During the last few years the Indians have been making remarkable progress in agriculture, and the acreage under cultivation has doubled.

During the recent strike in the Transvaal gold mines, General Botha and General Smuts, when travelling by motor to confer with the heads of the mining industry, were recognized by an excited crowd and their motor stopped. The two Ministers were at once covered with revolvers. Both Ministers however (who had been in a tight corner before), preserved their presence of mind.

"Shoot if you like," said General Botha, "only bear in mind that we are here to make peace for you, and if you shoot us that is finished with."

Needless to say, there was no shooting.

The British Empire Review says that the general death-rate for New Zealand is 8.8 per 1,000. This is the lowest rate yet recorded. The same statement may be made with regard to the infantile death-rate, 51 per 1,000. These two death rates, and also the death-rate from consumption—5 per 10,000—are the lowest recorded in any country. On the other hand, though there had been an increase in birth-rate last year New Zealand, with the exception of South Australia, has the lowest birth-rate in Australia.

There is, says a writer in the London Chronicle, grave danger of a famine of labor in rural England. In twos and threes, as a crowd dislodges on a city street, labor is deserting the land and unless the movement is speedily checked, vast areas must go out of cultivation. The cause is the low wage level and a level which might be easily raised. Millionaire land owners, it is said are among the meanest paymasters, giving only thirteen to seventeen shillings per week. "If," says the writer quoted, "Parliament does not immediately raise the standard of life in rural England my own knowledge leads me to a conclusion similar to that of Mr. Rowntree's. It is the women who will probably break the suffocating silence, and it may be we shall witness a recurrence of the amazing revolt of laborers' wives that in 1795 spread like a prairie on fire."

Certain beautiful maidens in Toronto, have conspired to set up standards in men below which they will not wed. Strange to say, there isn't a eugenic requirement among them. The candidate, to get a look-in, must—

- (1) Be as kind to his wife as her fathers and brothers were.
- (2) Be a useful worker and church member.
- (3) Not drink at all or smoke to excess.
- (4) Be willing cheerfully to pay for wife's Easter hat, not grumble over the light bills, not stay out late at nights, and then come home with a lying, musty excuse, or question her explanations when home things don't go to suit.

(5) Kiss her goodbye in the morning not as if he were doing a tiresome duty, but soulfully, as if he meant it.

(6) Share home responsibilities, even to night-walking the floor with baby; and

(7) Give mother-in-law as hearty a welcome as he would give to his own mother.

Great Scott, girls, how are you going to know all this in advance? You can't trust what the candidates promise; for at that stage all men are liars. And even if Mr. Northrup gets that divorce bill through it might prove embarrassing, mightn't it, to have so many trial marriages?

But stop! We have it. Choose widowers. Take no chances on any male biper who hasn't been through the paces and established a reputation for form.

You'll find plenty of 'em as willin' as Barkis.

A railway which will penetrate 500 miles into the interior of Africa is now under construction in Nigeria. The line is estimated to cost £3,000,000, and is to occupy four or five years in construction. The part of Africa which will be opened up by the line is not only the thickly populated region of the continent, but also includes the richest palm oil belt in the world, and a coal-field extending for over a thousand square miles and yielding coal showing 75 per cent. of the value of the best Welsh coal.

The Government will operate the coalfield as a public enterprise.

The United States army, says the New York Sun, contains 81,000 men. Of this number approximately 60,000 are on duty in the United States, the others being in service in the Philippines, Panama, Alaska, Porto Rico and the Hawaiian Islands. The navy has 57,000 men exclusive of the Marine Corps. The militia numbers 122,000 officers and enlisted men.

This is a formidable force on a peace footing, but experts say that in case of war the nation probably could not get on the firing line within three months as many trained soldiers as were engaged in the two armies that fought at Gettysburg fifty years ago. Of the regular army, the mobile force—the body that could be hurled to the front for early action—is estimated at less than 40,000. Of the militia, army men say, not more than one-half are fit for field service.

It is said these are a quarter of a million of Ruthenians from Russia in Canada. Most of the aliens have settled in the West 10,000 of whom live in a solid block in Alberta. "They expect," says a writer in Woman's Companion, "to live as Ruthenians lived in Russia, do the do the things they did in that country, irrespective of the laws and ideals of this land, in which they have made their home. They are a fine people, but an infant race, so far as civilization and education is concerned. A Ruthenian man tells out to his wife the amount of farm labor she is to accomplish in a day. At evening the work-worn woman finds her task is not completed and a thrashing awaits her from her loving husband. The fathers force their girls into marriage as early as twelve years of age. It is considered a disgrace for a girl not to be mother of one or two children at the age of fifteen years. What is the result of these early marriages? At 35 years of age the girl is an old woman, appearing much as of sixty does here. Many of them can neither read nor write their own language, much less that of their adopted country."

Still they have the franchise, and in a recent election campaign a Ruthenian urged his compatriots to vote for him on the ground that he would endeavor to have the law so changed that their language would be the only language used in the schools. Outside of Quebec there should be no votes for those who cannot speak the language of the country, and "one language and one school system" should voice an unchangeable policy.

During the Administration of the late President Cleveland the authorities of the United States War Department persuaded Congress to vote huge sums for coast defence. Congress was assured that, with this done, the country would be invulnerable against attack. Since then coast armaments have been greatly enlarged, a navy second only to that of Great Britain has been created, the Panama Canal has been built, largely as a war measure, and still the cry is for more.

The New York Post contrasts conditions of the present with those of 28 years ago. In 1885 it says, the United States had but 22,000 soldiers and a single sea dispatch boat for a navy. Still as the Post says, nobody insulted us, nobody stole our territory or captured the San Francisco Sub-Treasury."

The fact is the United States was safer in 1885 than she is now. Carnegie was right when he said that Dreadnoughts are not a guarantee of peace but a provocation to war.

THE EXCEPTION

Drink; you say is a terrible thing
Made to curse us and not to bless,
A poisonous draft for beggar or king,
Bringer of sorrow and deep distress!
Doubtless you're accurate, more or less
I wouldn't question the facts you've shown.
But the harm all comes from a great excess—
I can take it or let it alone!

I know the trouble that booze will bring,
There's many a man in an awful mess,
Because of alcohol's dreadful sting.
Which seemed at first but a soft caress;
And mothers and children weep, I guess,
When the father into a beast has grown—
But I can handle it with finesse,
I can take it or let it alone.

It's true I've frequently had my fling,
On various wines from the vintage press
Until I've wanted to shout and sing
And act like a fool in motley dress;
I've shown some symptoms of strain and stress
In brief, I've been pickled a bit, I own;
But a Will of iron do I possess,
I can take it or let it alone!

ENVOY

I was full last week, as I may confess,
And my head this morning makes me groan,
For I drank with the bunch last night, ah, yes!—
But I can take it or let it alone!

BERTON BRALEY.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson IX.—First Quarter, For
March 1, 1914.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Luke xii, 13-34.
Memory Verses, 15—Golden Text, Luke
xii, 34—Commentary Prepared by
Rev. D. M. Stearns.

In the last verse of the previous lesson He said, "The Holy Ghost shall teach you." On the last night that He was with them, ere He suffered, He said, "The Comforter, the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things. He will guide you into all truth. He will show you things to come. He shall testify of Me (John xiv, 26; xv, 26; xvi, 13), and many other things He said of the Spirit of Truth. But we are blind and deaf and so slow to perceive or hear spiritual things."

Well might He say of each of us, "I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing" (Hos. vii, 12). When He spoke of false teaching even the disciples thought He referred to bread for the body, and now here is a man, one of the company, so little impressed by the great truths of our last lesson and the solemn things of the future that he is more concerned about a bit of earthly property.

Is it not so still, and are not men, with rare exceptions, so occupied with things temporal that they can scarce find time to give a thought to things eternal? How weighty and heart-searching the Master's words, "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (verse 15). Since "covetousness is idolatry" (Col. iii, 5), how much we need the words, "Having food and raiment, let us be therewith content." "Trust not in uncertain riches, but in the Living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Tim. vi, 6-8, 17).

How aptly and forcibly our Lord set forth the truth in the parable of the rich poor man who could only talk with himself about the smallness of his barns and the abundance of his fruits and his goods, and if he had larger barns what an easy, merry time he might have for many years to come. He seemed to have no thought of God, who had caused his ground to bring forth plentifully, nor of the poor, with whom he might share his goods. There was no one to be considered but himself. He knew nothing of the love of God and therefore had no love for God nor for his fellow men. "But God said unto him, 'Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee' (verse 20).

Now what were barns and fruits and goods to him? He had to leave all and went out of the world poor indeed. Like the rich man of Luke xvi, 19-26. How often we read of one who died at his desk in the office or sitting in his home or taken by an accident, and the words come to mind, "Thy soul is required of thee," and the great question is, Was he saved? and then, Was he rich toward God? It is possible to be saved as by fire and have no rewards for service, no crowns to cast at His feet (1 Cor. iii, 11-15; Rev. iv, 10).

A true believer may still be so blinded by the god of this world as to fail to see the advantage of treasure in heaven and so lay up treasure for himself in this world which must all be left behind when he is called out of the world. From verse 22 He speaks to His disciples, truly saved men, all but Judas Iscariot (John xiii, 10, 11), and teaches them that since they are now children of God there is no room for anxiety about food or raiment. The kingdom is made sure to them (verse 32), and if they will now live to hasten its coming by living xvi, into God and winning souls to Him He will see that all things necessary for this life are given to them.

The teaching of verse 31 and Matt. vi, 33, is not that of seeking our souls' salvation, for the words were spoken to saved men, but it teaches saved people that as such their first aim in life should be the coming of the kingdom for which we pray when we say from the heart, "Our Father, who art in heaven. . . Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as in heaven." There is no use talking of extending the kingdom, for there is no kingdom to extend. It was at hand when our Lord was here, in their very midst in the person of Himself, the King, but when they cried "We have no king but Cæsar" and killed their Messiah they caused the kingdom to be postponed till He shall come again. See carefully Luke xix, 11-15; Matt. xxiii, 20; Acts iii, 20, 21. We are in the age between the postponement of the kingdom and its coming at the second coming of Christ, the mystery hid in God from the beginning of the world, but specially revealed to Paul (Eph. iii, 9-11; Rom. xvi, 25-27). Seeking the kingdom seems to me to mean "counting all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord" (Phil. iii, 8) and making the supreme object in all church life, social life and business life, to make known in all nations as quickly as possible His great salvation for "whosoever will" that His body, the church, may be completed, this age end and the kingdom come.

Thus we may learn restful lessons from the ravens and the lilies and become rich toward God. As one has said, "Make thou His service thy delight: He'll make thy wants His care." It is no part of His service to entertain or amuse people, but the one great thing is to save souls.