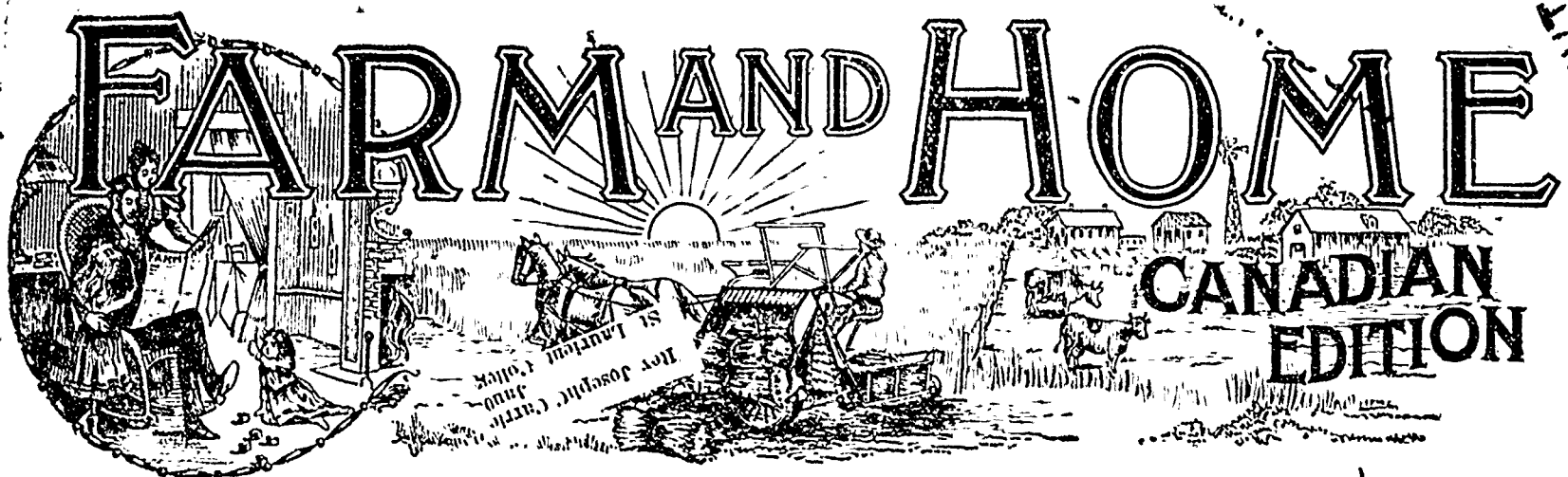


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MONTREAL, CHICAGO and SPRINGFIELD MASS APRIL 15 1900 x

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Three Questions

ARE propounded by a subscriber, as follows: 1. Is the golden rule a law of nature? 2. Is competition according to the golden rule? 3. If industrial competition is opposed to the golden rule, how can enlightened Christians do other than to work for the industrial system of collective ownership of the means of production and of the distribution of products?

This entire issue of Farm and Home would not hold the arguments which might be made, pro and con, on the first two questions, the answer to the third depending of course on how these are decided. Aeon of human struggle have not answered these very general questions so as to convince a large part of the race one way or the other, and centuries to come may not do it. Suppose everybody were to try the golden rule for one year without reference to theories or systems, wouldn't we learn something definite then?

Bring Over the Mills.

The result of the Ontario law requiring the manufacture in the province of all logs cut on crown lands, is resulting in the removal of many mills from Mich to Ont. While several large Mich concerns which had invested heavily in crown lands pine rafted their logs to mills in Mich and paid a \$2 duty, with the prohibition in the export of logs in the rough, the only alternative is to bring the mills over to this side. This means much to the Georgian bay section of the Province. A little "protection" of this sort against our neighbors to the south will do no harm, especially while the American lumber market is ruling high.

Increase of Insanity Among Farmers

The report of the Ont inspector of asylums shows an alarming increase of insanity in the province, and it is a lamentable fact that the greatest increase is in farm homes. An investigator can arrive at but one conclusion as to the principal cause and that is lack of social intercourse among the people. The old days of the logging bee, the quilting bee with the dance at night are gone and there does not appear to be anything left of a convivial character to take their places. In the old days there was no time for brooding till one got crazy. True, there is more wealth now, but this wealth has brought caste, and pride and exclusiveness.

In the pioneer days a farmer's wife would throw a shawl over her head and walk a mile to visit an acquaintance, and if she found her hostess at the wash tub the visit went on just the same. Now farmers' wives ape city customs. Many have their "calling days" and "calling cards," and visits are cold and formal. The hearty romp and laugh that had such a beneficial effect on the mental and physical system are too vulgar in these times of

false modesty. The grange in its balmy days, with its social gatherings and evening entertainments, was a blessing in disguise, in this respect, to farmers and their families. The remedy appears to be on the lines of a livelier sociability and to accomplish this there is nothing better in sight than to reopen the grange halls and bring back that freedom of intercourse characteristic of the old days. Get the mothers in the farm homes out to entertainments and make them laugh. Give them something of a jovial nature to think about. The mothers of the farm homes swell the asylum statistics. It is isolation and eternal worry that is the cause.

The Scarcity of Help.

In many parts of Ontario there is a scarcity of farm hands. The emigration to Manitoba accounts for it to a large extent, but the hundreds that left to Africa, with the Canadian contingent is also a factor in creating the deficiency. Good times in the manufacturing industries and the rush on the railways has drawn many from the land. The hands available for the farm are asking a large increase in wages which the farmers do not feel able to give.

Spring Has Come

and with it has ended the pleasures of winter. The boys on the farm will have to rise with the lark and keep at it till the sun goes down. Their best girls will have to be content with a ride behind tired horses, Sunday afternoons, till after corn planting. When the June picnics arrive a few days can be spared to recuperate and get the muscles in condition for the harvest field.

There is some things that the rings and combines do not control, and among them are sunshine, pure air and the songs of birds. The boys and girls on the farm can luxuriate in these all the day and pity those who are shut up in shops.

Away with Toll Roads.

The Ontario government promised a deputation from Elgin Co lately that it would pass a measure, at the next session of the legislature, abolishing toll roads. It is understood that the roads will be subject to arbitration and that the municipalities will pay one moiety of the value and the government the other. There are about 30 toll roads in the province.

Nonsense!

"Paris has always been France," asserts a writer in an April magazine. Sho! I can point this young woman to one of the cleverest articles ever written on the subject, by an American who has spent years in France, in which he shows in a most subtle,

thorough and sympathetic manner how hysterical Paris belies the sober, steady, frugal country people of France. Paris is no more truly France than New York city is New York state, or the great United States. Seldom have the plain people who are the real substance of France or England been fairly interpreted to us.

By the Way.

Immigrants are again beginning to fill up Manitoba and the northwest, arriving at the rate of 200 to 300 per day. Many come from the eastern provinces and are generally a most desirable class. The northwest, with its rich, level fields, is bound to fill up and be one of the most prosperous parts of the Dominion.

A measure before the Dominion legislature which every farmer should endorse is the Casey drainage bill. It simply provides relief for farmers whose lands are cut off from drainage by railroads. As railroads are under Dominion law, provincial acts are of no assistance. Write your representative and senator to vote for the Casey bill. It is but a matter of simple justice to land owners.

With a change of from 25 to 33 1-3 per cent in the reduction of preferential import rates of merchandise from Great Britain, the mother country should understand her western colony has got down to rock bottom in its business relations. While our exports to Great Britain show a steady increase, our neighbors over the line have been getting by far too much of the lion's share of our business.

It is well the attempt of egg buyers to organize to control prices has fallen through. But the strangest thing is why poultry men themselves do not organize and take their own business matters in hand.

According to an old adage there should be a large wheat crop in western Ontario this year. It is a poor sugar season.

After a seven weeks sitting the Nova Scotia legislature has adjourned. There was but little wrangling by the opposition, few speeches, but much quiet work. A revision of provincial statutes was ordered completed and an act passed providing for the establishment of an agricultural and technical school for the maritime provinces.

There is disappointment among Ontario farmers on account of the low price of export cattle this spring. Scarcity of vessels on account of the war is one cause; another is the ring which controls the space. There will be no relief from the ring till more tramp vessels call at Montreal.

The scheme of the Ontario government to aid in the erection of cold storage plants is a move in the right

direction, but the scheme is not extensive enough to be a benefit to the great bulk of farmers. The limited number it is proposed to assist will probably be erected in the fruit sections and in the cities.

More than five millions of dollars spent by summer boarders in the little state of New Hampshire last year! The boarder business is young yet, and there is money in it.

The good work accomplished by the Ont agri and experiment union cannot be over estimated. Work will be continued this year with fertilizers, fodder crops, roots, grains, grasses and clovers. Last year experiments were conducted on 12,035 plots on 3500 farms. Thirty experiments are planned for 1900, for particulars of which write to Prof Zavitz, Guelph.

The check of the canning factory promoters who promise 40 per cent profits if the farmers will furnish not only the vegetables, but the outfit, is colossal. The risk all on one side! These 40 per cent fellows are good people to let alone.

The Quebec legislature has adjourned after a several weeks' session in which very little was accomplished. There is room for the government to do some substantial work for the agriculture of the province, but politicians do not seem inclined that way when not forced to it. Quebec farmers should organize and co-operate and let their wants be known.

Gov Brady rises to remark that Alaska is the coming agricultural territory, producing peas, potatoes, turnips, carrots and onions that beat the world. So we haven't got to overflow into Asia yet awhile.

To help along the crystallizing of public sentiment in favor of imperial federation, it is said the prince of Wales will make a tour of the British colonies after the war is over. Her majesty's subjects regard the spirit of imperial union the most momentous result of the war and the powers that be evidently intend to foster the idea assiduously.

Try a few novelties, both in flowers and vegetables every year. Try something you have never cultivated before. For what can be more interesting than to watch the leafage and bud and blossom of a strange plant?

When potato bugs promise to be plenty the Paris green combine shows up prices, and when they start in scarce the combine "dash't." So there the potato industry is, between the two. The trust, like the bug, is a hardy perennial.

Hundreds of northwestern farmers who were born in the "old country" are going to visit their native places and the Paris exposition this summer.