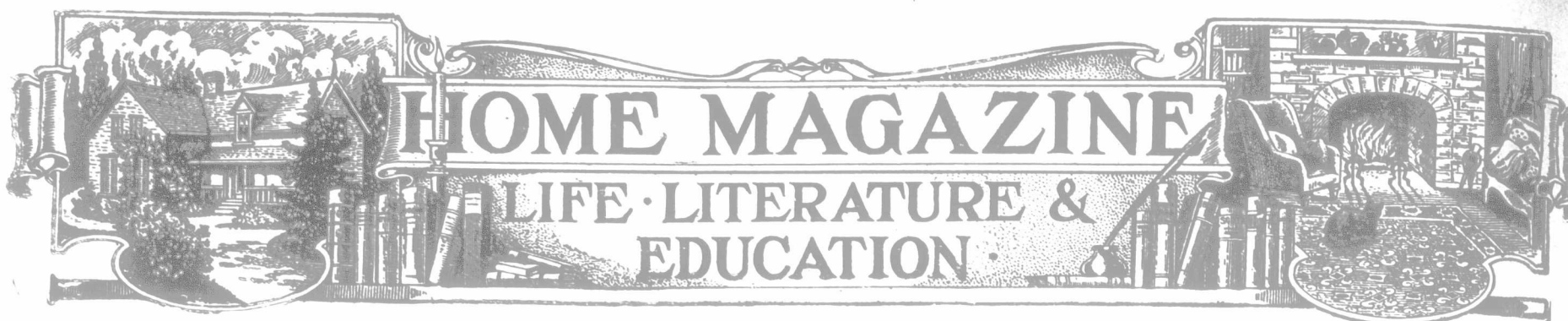




A Rainy Day.

BY L. H. BAILEY.

The soft, gray rain comes slowly down,
Settling the mist on marshes brown,
Closing the world on wood and hill,
Drifting the fog down vale and rill;
The weed stalks bend with pearly drops,
The grasses hang their misty tops,
The clean leaves drip with shiny spheres
And fence-rails run with pleasant tears.

Away with care! I walk to-day
In meadows wet and forests gray;—
'Neath heavy trees with branches low,
'Cross splashy fields where wild things
grow,

Past shining reeds in knee-deep tarns,
By soaking crops and black-wet barns,
On mossy stones in dripping nooks,
Up raining pools and brimming brooks,
With waterfalls and cascadills
Fed by the new-born grassy rills;—
And then circle home across the lots
Thru all the soft and watery spots.

Away with care! I walk to-day
In meadows wet and forests gray.
—From "Wind and Weather", published
by Charles Scribner's Sons.

Reconstruction.

On the Side Roads and Concessions.

BY I. B. W.

In many respects the world is entering upon a new era. Much that was old and decadent has been broken down by the influx of a more democratic spirit and higher ideals. Autocracy has been weighed in the balance and found wanting, and Tennyson's prediction is about to come true:

"Till the war-drums throb'd no longer,
and the battle-flags were furl'd,
In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world."

However, one must not look for the complete passing of the old order of things and the inrush of the new all at once. It will take time. Readjustment needs be gradual to be secure. Rome was not built in a day, nor will the ideals for which our soldiers fought and died be achieved overnight. In order to build up or reconstruct the community, province, county, or empire requires the united effort and thought of all classes of people. No one class, cult, profession, or trade holds a monopoly on ideas, suggestions, or plans for the reconstruction which is to make the world better than it was in the past. It requires the co-operation of all and the weaving of the best thoughts and plans into a fabric without flaws, and one which will stand the wear of time. Are we prepared to sink our little prejudices, our opinions and ideas, for the benefit of the whole state, or will the individual stand out and demand what he or she thinks is right, regardless of the effect on the masses? The future alone will tell how well we have learned to forgive and forget and to work together towards a common goal, a better Canada—a better world. The result will depend upon the action of the men and women on the side-roads and concessions, as well as of those living on Wall Street. The individual may be insignificant, but numerous individuals with a common purpose become a powerful force for good or ill.

Reconstruction on the war-torn fields of Belgium and Flanders embodies more than reconstruction in Canada. There the debris, the aftermath of war, must be cleared away before the foundation for the new structure can be laid. The people have learned to depend upon their neighbors for strength, and undoubtedly in the new era now ushered in will pull together towards a common goal. Here we have a structure already under way, but during the years since the foundation

was laid it has suffered many contortions, and to-day is badly warped in many places. A remodelling is required, and this is, in many respects, more difficult than building anew. "Every man for himself" appears to have been the idea imbedded in every man's thought; capital has been made out of the other man's necessity. The present seems to be an opportune time to change the old order of things and to practice the golden rule—"Do unto others as you would that others should do unto you." If this had always been adhered to there would not be the friction between nations, between capital and labor, between employer and employees, between neighbors, between father and son, that exists. Families would not to-day be living in hovels; there would be less class and race antagonism. Let us profit by the mistakes of the past and work for the betterment of our country.

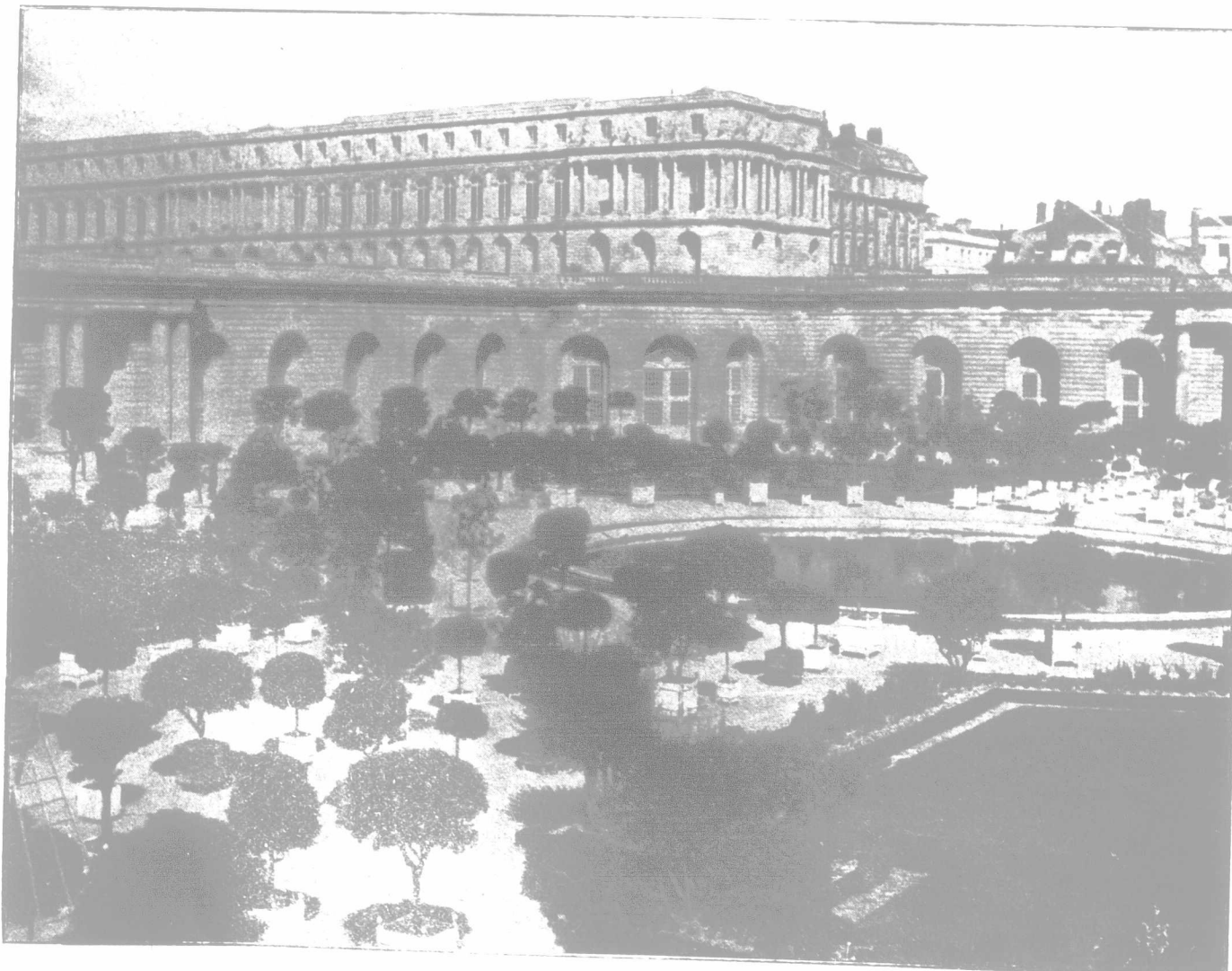
Canada is essentially an agricultural country with vast areas capable of producing the finest of wheat and of raising stock second to none. Owing to lack of representative organization, tillers of the soil have for many years not received their just dues. Prices of produce raised were low, and the farmer was—and in many respects is yet—at the mercy of the dealers, packers, etc. Farm produce is the only product placed on the market for which the producer has no say in the price received. The farmer is forced to take the price offered, and this price is not always such as to give him wages, let alone profit. Low prices, long hours, few home conveniences and the attitude of the city man to the farm folk has resulted in an exodus from farm to city, there to swell the demand for food while at the same time reducing the supply. Food prices have soared high as compared with prices ten years ago, but compared with the cost of production the price is not yet high enough to permit the farmer

and his family to receive wages equivalent to those paid in towns and cities. Organization is being effected, and the farmer's voice will be heard in our legislative assemblies more than in the past. It requires representation of occupation or business according to the numbers engaged in such in order. If manufacturing were in the ascendancy then they would be entitled to more of their class than the farmers. However, in Canada where agriculture is first, it is essential that more real farmers sit in Parliament, and it is encouraging to see steps to this end being taken. Agricultural produce last year was valued at many millions more than manufactured goods. It is generally admitted that Canada's future economic and financial strength depends upon agricultural development. Therefore, it is important that everything possible be done to put farming on a sound business basis as regards production and marketing.

To hold the young men and women on the land the returns must be as remunerative as in the city. This does not necessarily mean higher prices of produce to the consumer, but it does necessitate the farmer getting a square deal from the manufacturers, transportation companies, middlemen, etc., and that he plan his work so as to get maximum returns for the labor performed. On many farms there are leaks which might be stopped, and steps saved by a little planning. A study might also be made of the farm, in order to ascertain what that particular soil will produce to best advantage. To continue sowing a crop which at best gives but small returns is poor business, if a more remunerative crop can be grown. It is imperative that the individual farmer make a closer study of his business and eliminate waste of time, efforts and land so far as is advisable. It is possible but improbable for some years at least for farmers to be so organized as to be in a position to set the price on all their produce. Owing to the uncertainty of production, it would be difficult to set a fair price over a given area that would be fair to all, as some farms are more productive than others, and the elements are kinder in some districts than in others. Organization is one of the chief cornerstones on which the farmer must build for the future. It will not be all smooth sailing, as we have not learned to give and take as we should. There is yet too much jealousy and envy in our natures to allow us to co-operate amiably. These things, however, can be lived down if we set our minds to it. In numbers there is strength, but agriculturists have not yet been broken to team work as well as the men of some of the other trades and businesses.

Throughout the country there is land which once was covered with forests, and as woodland would return a good revenue. However, men wanting to farm and not knowing soil conditions were permitted to purchase this land from the Crown or real estate dealer, but after the forests were removed and the stumps cleared it was found that after all the hard manual labor of clearing land and erecting buildings, the soil was unfitted for the growing of cereals and grass crops. These farms are now abandoned and the owners, in many cases, bankrupt and discouraged. The buildings falling into ruins and the barren fields are monuments to the folly of ever clearing the land for cultivation. An annual revenue could have been gathered from timber. Such places now give opportunity for reforestation, and in twenty or thirty years the now practically waste land will, if set to trees, yield a profitable crop. The Government might well make a survey of new lands offered for settlement and ascertain whether or not it is desirable to clear the forests, and to learn what crops the soil is capable of producing. The prospective farmer would then not waste time, money and labor blindly.

At the present time there is considerable friction between capital and labor.



The Palace at Versailles.

Underwood & Underwood

This has reports of business or naturally wealth is the feels that so Many firms conditions u and the wag increased in the cost of l profit-sharing employees accruing from system more doubtedly be realize that they do to i firm. On the ployees who in their dema flesh from t good deal c country. W to say. The greater co-op labor. There business or pr reign. In Eur has been ma the establish all reports su Then, too, s deal more tha employer or