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How to Watch Your Coal

OW many pounds are in a ton of How many pounds do you receive when a ton is put into your bin?

The average housewife takes the little slip, looks at it and reads "2,000 lbs.," looks at the driver, and past him at the ton of coal. Then she signs the slip, hands it back and—that's all.

She may check the groceries, weigh the meat, count the eggs, and measure the milk, but it seems impossible to check the number of pounds in a ton of coal.

Your coal merchant may be a respectable and reputable man, but is there any reason why the commodity you purchase from him should not be checked as carefully as your supplies from the butcher and the grocer? He neither handles nor weighs the coal himself, and his employees may not be intelligent or honest. may not be intelligent or honest.

The greatest chance for dishonesty is when a number of tons are delivered at once, whether loose or in baskets.

once, whether loose or in baskets.

Dishonesty on the part of the merchant may be practised in different ways. Notice if the receptacle part of the wagon runs clear back under the seat; if it stops flush with the seat, you may find a couple of hundred pounds of your coal under the seat—pounds which remain there. Should an inspector stop this particular load and send it to the nearest scales to be weighed, it is found to be absolutely correct, but if the apparently empty wagon were weighed, it would be several hundred pounds too heavy!

weighed, it would be several hundred pounds too heavy!

Duplicate slips is another method. Any driver is liable to be stopped by an inspector and his slip demanded. The inspector's practised eye may note that it is not a full ton, and the slip tendered confirms his suspicion; it reads "1,500 lbs."—three-quarters of a ton. But the slip presented to the mistress of the house for her signature may read "2,000 lbs."

A little coal left in each bag or basket by the driver aggregates quite a few pounds in the total number of baskets. The number of baskets or bags should be twenty. Count them.

Count them.

The remedy? Have your bin carefully and strongly made. Examine a wagon to see that there is no partition flush with the seat, and take the load to the nearest pubseat, and take the load to the nearest public scales and have it weighed. This will cost you 15 cents. Then, when it is in your bin, have it levelled, evenly and carefully. Mark where it comes on the sides of the bin. You can easily mark from this where each succeeding ton should comeand your coal is checked and the leakage stopped!

WILL MY DAUGHTER BE AN AUTHOR

(Continued from page 8)

own line. But the stories-ah! that is the goal

own line. But the stories—ah! that is the goal aimed at by most young writers.

Each magazine has its own particular wants and that which is readily accepted by one, is as readily rejected by another. The story that is accepted by a religious magazine would be promptly rejected by that devoted to farming. If you have leather to sell it is not wise to offer it to a florist, and the plants which the florist would buy are promptly rejected if offered to the hardware merchant. Study the magazines until you find one that uses the kind of material you have for sale. Again, the size and arrangement of many magazines make a certain length of story more acceptable, and thus one publisher may want and accept stories only of 1,500 words, another asks for 6,000. But all editors are agreed that the story must have a purpose, that there must be a good reason for its being written at all; and that reader is best pleased who has been not only entertained, but has also learned something more of life. Once on a time a story simply meant a love story, and this was largely responsible for the impression that love and marriage were the only things worth while, but the up-to-date story takes the reader through all phases of life—business, commerce, art, literature, science, from the cradle and the grave and through all that lies between.

The modern short story teaches geography, history, art, science, mathematics, grammar, and all the things we were taught at school but failed to learn. Ernest Seaton Thompson has done much in his animal stories toward awakening an interest in natural history. Peter MacArthur, in his own quaint way, teaches a love and knowledge of nature—human and other, and

Arthur, in his own quaint way, teaches a love and knowledge of nature-human and otherwise. Ralph Connor taught us to know and appreciate our fellow countrymen, the Scot. Pauline Johnston told us more about the Indian Pauline Johnston told us more about the Indian than we had ever dreamed of. Kirby, in his "Golden Dog" wakened our interest in old Quebec, and L. M. Montgomery makes Prince Edward Island seem very real, even to far-away British Columbia. Janet Carnachan has done much to enrich the annals of Canadian history; and Robert Service and W. A. Fraser are both dear to the heart of the Canadian people. We might go on through a long list of Canadians who have made us acquainted with our own. who have made us acquainted with our own people and our own country.

The young writer should avoid the temptation to "begin a book." A book requires much labour; and if you cannot succeed with a short story, what chance is there that you are not courting failure in a longer work?

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