

"Young Folks Circle"

Where Uncle West Presides

MY SYMPHONY

To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable; and wealthy, not rich; to study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly; to listen to stars and birds, to babes and sages, with open heart; to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasions, hurry never—in a word, to let the spiritual unbidden and unconscious, grow up through the common—this is to be my symphony.

William Henry Channing.

My dear Nephews and Nieces—Next week I am going to give another competition for boys and girls, and I want you to get ready to take part with great vim and make it a huge success. It is quite time now that my boys and girls were beginning to form up their branches of the Canadian Progress Club. Very soon we will be back on the land preparing for the spring work, and I want each boy and girl to ask for a small plot of land to be their very own, on which they will grow flowers or vegetables or both according to their taste; or corn, that is squaw corn, is something that the boys can grow very easily and make quite a bit of money out of it, as everybody is fond of squaw corn and it brings a good price.

Perhaps if we have a chat on an ear of corn, it would help you to realize more about it.

AN EAR OF CORN

Take a good ear of corn, choose one that has a good shape, that is, moderately long and moderately large, and is almost as large at the tip as it is at the base. If you look at the base of the ear where it is broken from the stock, you will see that the cob is not very large. The grain at this end is rounded over (in most ears), and forms a little cup with the base of the cob. Now look at the other end. Here the grains practically cover the cob. Some ears, though good-looking otherwise, have the tip of the cob exposed. These are not the best.

Now let us examine some of the grains. In the first place they are crowded on the cob so tight that they can scarcely be moved unless they be broken from the cob. Sometimes, though, when the corn is cut green, the grains will be looser on the cob than if the corn had been allowed to ripen. The grains themselves are of good size and thickness, and the germ is much more than half as long as the grain. Each grain, like the ear, is nearly as large at one end as it is at the other.

The corn must not only be good looking, but it must have power to grow when it is planted. Not every ear or grain that is good looking has this power: it may have lost the power because it is old, or because it has not been kept well. Every boy or girl who reads this should not only help his father select the seed this spring, but should test it to see whether it has the power to grow. How shall you do this? Get some shallow boxes about two inches deep; or if your mother will let you take some plates, these are good. Fill the boxes or plates with sand, now take five or ten grains from each ear and place them in rows in the sand. Each row should bear a number corresponding to a number on the ear from which the grain was taken. The boxes or plates should be moistened, covered, and then placed near the kitchen stove, especially at night. This work is worth while, for it will not take long and the children can do it, and it may save several days of replanting and this is work that only grown up people can do well.

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If less than four grains out of five, or eight out of ten sprout, the ear should be thrown out.

STUDY OF AN EAR OF CORN

1. Is the color of the grain always the same as the color of the cob?
2. Count the rows of grain on a cob. Are there always the same number on different cobs? Is the number of rows always even or sometimes odd?
3. What is the proportion of circumference to the length of the good ears which you have selected?
4. What is the relation of space occupied by shelled corn to the space occupied by the whole ear from which it came? (To find this, wrap the ear in a piece of writing paper so that the butt comes even with the paper. Twist the paper around the tip. Pin or glue the paper so that it will keep its shape. Shell the corn and pour it in the paper wrapper.)
5. What is the percentage of grain on a good ear?
6. Toward which end of the ear is the germ of the grain placed?
7. Can you devise any other way for sprouting the grains?
8. Here is a suggestion for a special lesson on corn. Ask ten pupils in your class to bring an ear of corn. Have the ears numbered and placed in a row on a table. It might be well to ask the pupil who brought the corn to put his name on the label with the number.
9. Look at the ears of corn carefully. How many good looking ears are there? Why are they good? Sprout in the school-room some of the grains from each of the ears of corn. After you have made this experiment tell Uncle West who brought the best ear of corn.

UNCLE WEST

WINNIPEG BOYS' CLUB PROGRESS CLUB

A First Aid instruction class under the able leadership of Mr. L. G. ("Algie") Simmonds, has been organized among the younger members of the club. Mr. Simmonds, who is a recent arrival from the old sod, is an expert "X Ray" specialist at the Winnipeg General Hospital, and will, naturally, with his experience in hospital work, be able to teach the boys great things in that line of the club work.

In the Basketball series there has been keen rivalry between all eight teams entered. The Giants and Royals being tied for first place. Even greater success is being looked forward to in the second series, and the winner of this series will certainly have to travel some to win out.

Believing that the boys of Winnipeg were in need of some place to spend their Sunday evenings profitably, Mr. Finneghan, Superintendent of the Club, has inaugurated a Sunday Evening Service at the club quarters, corner of Pacific and Sherbrooke Streets, for all boys, and the success the meetings have met with is phenomenal. The speakers for all the meetings already held are experts in their line, and the boys benefited materially from the talks they received. It is a co-incidence that all these speakers appealed to the boys of the club to shape their lives so that when they became men they would be the right kind of men. With such an array of speaking material as this city affords, it is needless to say what a great success and what good results the new move will bring.

The "Leaders' Corps" of the club held a banquet at the Angelus Cafe on Thursday evening, Feb. 22, when the Corps had as their guests of honor J. H. R. Finneghan, Superintendent and Alderman Robert J. ("Bob") Shore, the popular Alderman from ward six, who is becoming so popular, not only with the citizens of Winnipeg as a whole, but more particularly with the young men of the city. He, himself is still in his twenties, and is as brilliant a speaker as a person would desire to listen to. Mr. Shore took for his subject, "Initiative and Success," citing many incidents of Winnipeg's business men who had been a success in life, simply by entering the line of business they felt the most adapted to, and sticking to it through years of hard work, until finally they succeeded in pushing it to a successful climax.

DAN DAVIES,
President W.B.C. Progress Club.

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