

The Canadian Farmer

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All matters of business connected with Grange should be addressed to Toronto. All matters connected with this paper to Drawer A., Welland, Ont. Patrons will confer a favor by keeping the Grange and newspaper business entirely separate as above.

Patrons answering or in any way corresponding with those advertising in these columns will oblige us by saying they saw the advertisement in these columns.

THE DIGNITY OF LABOR AS TAUGHT IN THE MANUAL.

Worthy Master and Patrons: The subject I have chosen is the one suggested by the Worthy Lecturer at our last meeting: "How can we add dignity to labor as taught in the manual?"

That there is a dignity in labor that is to be found in nothing else will be acknowledged by every thoughtful individual when he reflects on the achievements that are accomplished through its results.

Labor clears the forests, drains the swamps that they may be utilized, and makes all nature rejoice, and the wilderness to blossom as the rose. Labor drives the plow, plants the seed, harvests and grinds the grain and converts it into bread for the sustenance of the hundreds of millions of the human race.

It is by labor that the city, with its colleges, manufactories and magnificent buildings, springs into being.

It erects beautiful homes for men and women to dwell in and converts the fibers which nature prepares into clothes for their covering and comfort.

It seems to have been the destiny intended by our Creator that man should labor, for all of his achievements, whether great or small, for which he is entitled to honor, the direct results of his own efforts and exertions.

The man who does his part in life, who tries to elevate himself and society, who pursues some worthy vocation by which he may be able to support himself and feels that he is not a burden to society, is truly a happy man. No idle man, though he may be supported by wealthy friends, or by a fortune that has fallen to him without his own exertions, can feel the genuine independence and self respect of him who honestly and manfully earns his living by the sweat of his brow.

It seems to me that we can add dignity to labor by teaching the rising generation that all there is that goes to make up the sum of human greatness and happiness is the direct results of their own efforts. Impress upon the minds of those over whom you have control that it is their duty as far as their health and strength will permit, to be industrious. Self-supporting boys and girls will be industrious self-supporting men and women. On the contrary how often do we see the mother do the drudgery, in fact, nearly all of the work, simply to make of her daughter what aristocracy would call a lady, and the father become a slave to the capricious demands of an idle spendthrift, creating in their youthful minds an aversion to labor, and fitting them to become anything but intelligent, useful men and women.

There is an aversion to farm labor caused primarily by the pernicious custom which is quite universal among farmers of working from 16 to 18 hours a day, beginning at 4 o'clock in the morning and working, toiling, and fretting until 9 o'clock at night, from month to month and from year to year, taking little time for any pleasure or recreation or for posting themselves on the general issues of the day, or to qualify themselves to elevate the calling of which they are representatives. This, Brother and Sister Patrons, I know from experience and observation, is not misrepresented or exaggerated. Then is it to be wondered that those boys possessed of the brightest intellects and highest aspirations are leaving the farm and searching for some other more pleasant and elevating occupation? No wonder, I say, that agriculture is so illy represented in our State and National Legislatures, Dominion and Provincial etc., when the farmer will not make an effort to qualify himself to honorably discharge the duties and responsibilities of the position.

If we as farmers would add dignity to labor let us at once abandon this slavish and inhuman custom and endeavor to elevate ourselves and our calling to the position to which they rightfully belong. Let us adopt the ten hour system, commencing and quitting at six, with about two hours' rest in the heat of the day. There would also be from two to three hours in the evening that might be appropriated to education, rest and recreation.

This would give us time to think as well as toil.
How we could best improve the mind & fertilize the soil.

If this plan were followed the aversion to farm labor I think would disappear and tilling the soil would be looked upon and sought after as the noblest calling known to man. May God speed the day.—ALVIN MORRIS, in Grange Pioneer.

A LEADING LAWYER ON CORPORATIONS.

Hon. Thomas J. C. Fagg, of Louisiana, Mo., in replying to an invitation sent him to be present at the Grange Picnic of August 4th, at Stuck's grove near that city, says: "In these days of corruption and general decay of public morals I know of no organization better calculated to hold in check the damage which is threatening the whole country, than the Patrons of Husbandry. Representing an interest that is the foundation upon which all other interests rest and is the basis of all material as well as State and individual prosperity, we must regard it as the chief bulwark against encroachments of monopolies. The day is not far distant when the issue will be presented to the people of this country whether they shall be permitted to rule the persons who manipulate the bonds and stocks or be ruled by them. The agricultural interest, properly organized and disciplined is the only one that can be relied upon in such a contest. Success attend it."

THE GRANGE AN EDUCATOR.

We hear from many sources great surprise expressed at the rapid growth of public sentiment in favor of an equality of rights, and particularly in regard to the fact that progress seems more rapid in our agricultural districts than in the larger towns and cities, and we are requested to suggest a reason. We think the answer may be embodied in two words: "The Grange."

Silently and unobtrusively there is developing in our country an organization destined in the near future to effect results, startling in their character, to the careless observer. The fact that during the past nine years the thoughtful men and women from our farm homes have convened together on an exact equality to consult upon questions pertaining to the better methods of government in the school and State, may not have attracted general attention, but influences may have been set in motion, incalculable in their results, and, as we believe, incalculable for good.

A list of the topics to be discussed during the year at meetings where men and women meet as human beings, mutually interested in all that pertains to life and living, includes the following: Some advantages of a government system of savings banks, Arbitration the true principle for individuals and nations, Compulsory education, How farmers can make the most of life, Home part of education, Limitation of ownership in land, Experience and review.

We know of no better form of club, or no association that suggests such possibilities of usefulness as the Grange, and our earnest hope is, that the earnest women of rich and varied experience, to-day living in our farm homes, may appreciate and use this organization and render it strong and pure.—E. B. HENDERY, in Farmers Friend.

BENEFITS OF THOROUGH CULTIVATION.

Thorough culture is often recommended by our agricultural writers for advancing plant growth and obtaining large crops, leaving out of sight other and equally important benefits. At the present time the cultivator finds his crops infested by myriads of insect foes. All these intruders are wonderfully fond of a quiet life, and if frequently disturbed are apt to seek other more quiet places. Especially is this so with such as work beneath the soil, at the roots of plants. Frequent culture induces vigorous growth,

and thus enables the plant to repel insects. A vigorous, healthy animal seldom or never becomes lousy or sickly, because it is weakness which invites the enemy. Thus we see that frequent cultivation kills more than one bird with the same stone. Rapid growth induces early maturity, and if the crop be for seed, or future planting, all the better for being thoroughly well ripened, as most crops propagated year after year in the same way prove harder, healthier and seldom deteriorate in quality or productiveness, provided natural laws in other respects are followed. The many advantages of frequent, thorough cultivation are obvious to the practical worker.—W. H. White, in Country Gentleman.

The fact that farmers are taking a great interest in public questions is a hopeful sign of the times. A few years ago a public meeting of farmers was an occurrence extremely rare. Now a-days during the summer and early autumn scarcely a day passes without a farmers' meeting, a picnic or gathering of some kind, pleasure and recreation constituting an important incentive, but in nearly all these meetings questions that concern the material interest of farmers, their labor and its products, are discussed. It is common for some speaker to be selected and for him to address his audience formally upon these topics. Many of these gatherings have attendance running up into thousands. Instances are not rare when the meetings are held one, two or three days. Under the influences exerted by these farmers' meetings, it is absolutely certain that there must be substantial growth of thought, of practical knowledge, sure to give valuable results. These meetings are never used for political purposes, using the adjective in its ordinary sense as referring to partisan politics, but they are used to acquaint farmers with that sound political economy which leads to intelligent appropriation of labor, of means, and to true economy in the government. The truth is, farmers are really becoming that independent class they have been called in past years, that is to say, they are acquiring independence in thought and action. By and by it will be difficult to hold them within party lines except as those lines may be drawn to accommodate them very nicely.—The Husbandman.

[We hope the farmers of Canada will become sufficiently awake to their interests as not to tie themselves to party lines much longer, but assert their independence as free men.—Ed.]

"All national wealth depends upon an enlightened agriculture."—David Webster.

AGRICULTURAL colleges and agricultural papers are working slowly, steadily, surely, a revolution through the country. They exalt that which of all human callings most deserves exaltation—agriculture, the foundation of a nation's integrity and strength.

ON the farm more than most anywhere else, brain work can constantly lighten hand work and make it more effective. It is all right to "get a living by our wits" if we only earn it: that is, if we by our wits increase the production of real values; the things the world demands and must have.—W. I. Chamberlain.

OUR Grange halls are our college rooms in which we should always learn something or benefit others by reciting what we have learned. Without ill-will towards any and with kind wishes