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EDITORIAL

The barometer is a useful aid to haymaking.

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The hens should be grass widows from now until next spring.

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The chairman of the hail insurance commission thinks the mutual system has weak points, he favors the stock company idea.

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Which do you wish to harvest, fodder corn or weeds, if the former, keep the scuffer (cultivator) moving up and down between the rows.

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Denaturized alcohol is what the farmer needs for fuel and power purposes and the temperance advocates might do worse than help him to get it.

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Judging from the published evidence, the investigators of hail insurance methods must be republicans—they do not seem to respect the Crown!

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The settler in the new districts should exercise all possible care in the selection of seed. Weeds will reach his farm soon enough without sowing the seeds.

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Now is the time when the town girl likes to visit her country cousin, dazzle the country boys, and smell the new mown hay—unless she has hay fever.

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The day is long past when it was necessary or advisable to sell Canada's lands to syndicates in order to settle such or bring them under cultivation.

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'Investigate' is the command of the hour, even the cow is being made to show whether profitable use is made of the premiums paid in the form of feed.

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Western farmers want the highest possible return for their wheat, and they do not care whether a Hottentot consumes it or not, so long as they get their price.

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The clover grower will find it profitable to let some of the crop mature seed—good clover seed brings from eighteen to twenty cents a pound in the springtime.

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For one section of the country to refuse to be bled for the benefit of another section, is to run a risk of being charged with disloyalty to one's country by the one disappointed of its victim.

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The homesteader of 160 acres, who should be allowed to purchase an adjoining quarter of government lands, on settlement or cultivation conditions, will do more permanent good for Canada than any land syndicate.

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The alarm exhibited by some Easterners over the possible marketing of some of Canada's wheat in the U. S. is ludicrous, when compared with the anxiety of those same people to sell Uncle Sam barley and horses in the eighties.

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If a man puts in a claim for one hundred and twenty dollars and accepts seven dollars and a half on the persuasion of an agent, the community cannot be blamed very much if it considers that person either a knave, a fool or an easy mark.

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Anarchism has recently shown, to use the words of a bystander, "The impossibility of according to it the freedom which is justly and wisely accorded to all speculations and associations, however revolutionary, so long as they do not seek their ends by criminal means."

A proposition to do a couple of millions of hail insurance in Manitoba for thirty or forty thousand dollars, would suggest that the proposer is out after 'the long green.' What rebate should he make, or how much should he 'divvy up' to make the proposition sufficiently acceptable or attractive to a mutual company manager, so that he would recommend it to his directors? This is a question in high finance.

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Mr. Olds of the Canadian Pacific, in speaking before the Railway Commission last week of J. J. Hill's railway enterprises in Western Canada, said Hill's next move would be a demand on the United States Government for the free admission of Canadian wheat to the United States for the purpose of being ground in Minneapolis mills. Western farmers will sincerely hope that Mr. Olds may prove a true prophet. Free admission to the United States would add several cents to the value of every bushel of wheat produced on the Canadian prairie.—*The Sun*.

If They All Would Do This.

Last year we considered it our unpleasant duty to criticize adversely the character of the attractions provided at some of the larger fairs. The criticism we passed naturally reflected upon the innocent heads of certain persons on these fair boards, for like the gentle rain, our comments fell alike upon the just and the unjust. Our object was not to wreak personal animus upon even the persons responsible for questionable shows, but rather to influence public opinion to denounce and absolutely refuse to patronize such attractions, and we believe our aims were largely attained.

Recently we had the privilege of calling upon several of the directors of the Lakeside fair held annually at Killarney and were pleased to learn that they have secured the services of a high class entertainer to provide the grandstand and side show features at their forth coming exhibition. Their arrangement calls for the appearance of only the best class of entertainers and should anything offensive to the most fastidious moralists be presented the offender will be expelled from the grounds. The management are determined to present a clean exhibition believing that the public demand it and that it is in the best interests of the exhibition and the community.

Such earnest efforts to present wholesome entertainment at fairs is deserving of public commendation and liberal support. It is an example for others and we trust that when the history of the Lakeside fair of 1906 is written the action of the board in presenting their amusements will be honestly endorsed. We hope also that Killarney will not be alone in her efforts to discontinue improper shows, but that it may be said of all the exhibitions in Canada, that there was nothing to offend. The public have pronounced against lewd suggestive shows and the exhibition board that dares to go counter to such expressed opinion only courts the disaster which is sure to follow such action.

Gambling at the Races.

"In homely, bad-spelled philosophy, Josh Billings once put it down that about the worst day that ever overtakes any man is when he thinks there is some better way of getting a dollar than by squarely earning it. This spirit underlies gambling, one of the most widespread and demoralizing vices of the day. Its prevalence in Great Britain is notorious, and long ago it infected a large element of the United States population, bringing in its train widespread fraud, embezzlement and dishonor. In various forms, we regret to note its inroads among the Canadian people, chiefly those of the cities and towns, but as the poison of these moral disorders spreads fast from one class in the community to another, a note of warning is not out of place, even to the sons of the soil. During the progress of the re-

cent annual race meeting of the Ontario Jockey Club, Rev. Canon Cody, one of the ablest of Toronto divines, with good reason, felt constrained to raise his voice in protest against the evils of betting and gambling.

In many ordinary transactions of life there is an element of chance or speculation, and the distance a man may go, Canon Cody wisely indicated, must remain a matter of his individual conscience, but in games and pastimes the issue was clear-cut and well defined. He described gambling as "a stake upon chance for gain without labor," and gambling as "a contract to give or receive money or goods without a just equivalent or exchange, and on conditions which are, for the most part, beyond the foresight or control of the parties engaged in the transactions." In betting, people violated or ignored their responsibility for the use of money entrusted them as stewards by the Divine Being. Fundamentally, the loser was spending his money in an immoral way. Winning money on a wager involved a gain without effort and profit without merit. It was a discouragement of honest labor and a violation of the Golden Rule, involving gain from another's loss and profit from another's misery. So philosophical an authority as Mr. Herbert Spencer, most emphatically condemns it upon the latter ground. The winner gives no equivalent satisfaction directly or indirectly, but has his happiness at the expense of the loser. The gambler is distracted from legitimate business. Deception and bluff are fostered for the purpose of influencing the issue. Chas. Kingsley, the eminent novelist, condemned it as unchristian and unchristian, and the economist, Selby, as a violation of the public sense of the sacredness of property. Mr. W. A. Fraser, the popular Canadian author whose acquaintance with the turf is intimate and world-wide, as readers of his stories well know, in a recent article, entitled, "Fools' Money," in the Saturday Evening Post, dealing particularly with betting on race-horses, branded gambling as the acme of human foolishness which creates a fevered desire that never satisfies. It is the direct cause of most of the bank failures, and responsible for at least nine-tenths of the defaulters, wrecking lives and ruining homes. In all his observations in the betting world, he knew of but one man, now dead, who succeeded in the end, and he told Mr. Fraser that were he to write a book about racing and tell the truth, nobody would ever go near a race-course again. There is no known rule or method, crooked or straight that will prevail against the great percentage of chance, and so men lose and plunge and lose again, in the hopeless pursuit of easy wealth."

The above, quoted from an esteemed agricultural contemporary, portrays our idea of 'turf gambling' to a nicety.

In this connection, the Industrial authorities are 'up against it' to use a slang term. Racing now-a-days cannot go along, it would seem, without betting, and betting there will be to the end, whether it be for dollars, a box of candies, a hat or a pair of gloves. Heretofore the betting privilege, to make books, has brought in annually, approximately five thousand dollars to the Exhibition people, and whatever the opinion as to betting, the reprehensible practice was followed of giving the privilege to one man or one syndicate with the result that, the betting was controlled by one head, and the races were decided beforehand by the syndicate bookmakers, and the public were fleeced, because they paid to see races which were in reality 'fixed.' The only way to get straight races is to abolish the syndicate book, and give anyone the privilege to make a book on payment of a daily fee of \$75 to \$100, and arrange matters so that at any time during the meeting any bookmaker shall when requested by the racing officials, at once produce his betting sheets to the judges so that they may judge as to collusion between owners, jockeys and bookmaker. Then again, any jockey or owner found guilty should be fined not fifty, but five hundred, dollars and the races would be more likely to run straight. Pools