

## The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOV. 30, 1910

## FARM WORK TOO EASY.

Many explanations are offered to us why boys leave the farm. What has been written and spoken upon the subject would fill volumes, but when it is all reduced to its lowest terms the consensus of conclusion seems to be that their drift city-ward is caused by the drudgery and monotony of their occupation. Certainly, in some localities it cannot be denied that it does involve drudgery. The monotony depends upon the imaginative quality and the love of nature that is developed in the boy. To one well endowed in these respects there is no place that presents a richer variety of interests than the farm, so in a few instances, at least, the boy makes his final decision on the basis of drudgery alone.

An Arkansas philosopher, who is also a farmer on a large scale, presents a novel theory, no less than that the great strides made in perfecting farm machinery are responsible for this movement among the rising generation of farmers' boys. In other words farming is too easy. They are getting the monotony without the drudgery. The plough, the cultivator, the mowing machine, the reaper, the hay stacker and a hundred other things give the lad whose ideas and visions are in the formative period nothing to build upon. He is simply a part of the machinery. Any boy who can drive a team can do a man's work. His value develops at an earlier age and consequently he is kept out of school and put in the treadmill of the farm, backward and forward day after day.

There is quite likely some fact underlying this theory. There were certain duties on a farm in the old days that challenged rivalry. The young man who could lead his fellows in laying a wide and straight swath across the meadow was a person of mark in a rural community. People spoke of him admiringly as of one possessed of a valuable accomplishment. The champion cradler in a grain field enjoyed a like distinction, and raking and binding tested mettle and muscle to as great an extent as baseball and tennis do today. There was no monotony about that striving. It was not even regarded as drudgery. It took the place of the sports of today. There was just as much enthusiasm, just as vigorous endeavor, and just as much satisfaction with victory.

The past fifty years have revolutionized these conditions. Labor-saving processes have been developed. Not only are the hours of labor fewer on the farm, as elsewhere, than they were in days gone by, but the standards are lower. Labor itself is less intelligent, less ambitious, and the man today who does more than his fellow who receives the same pay is almost ashamed of himself. He has been too easy. He is self-defrauded. There is little for the farmer's boy to measure himself against, almost nothing if he simply holds the reins and guides the horse or the machine that does the work.

## IRRITABLE.

Discussing the irritability of the Liberals, which has been much in evidence during the present session of Parliament, the Toronto News points out that their attitude is easily understood. They lost Drummond and Arthabaska. They have sought a petty satisfaction in shooting out the lip at the Nationalists. The Bourassa forces and their sympathizers are aggressive and boastful. The secret lies in the fact that both sides are found out. For years the Liberals have sought Quebec support for Sir Wilfrid Laurier solely because he was a French-Canadian. The Premier has boasted a great deal about saying the same things in Quebec as he does in Ontario and the West. But did he? At Sorel before the last general election he made a race appeal in indirect form. His workers constantly have made reference to the Orange fanatics of Ontario, and have sought to set French-Canadians in antagonism to the Conservative party.

Since 1896 the Government has sown in Quebec distrust of Great Britain and of the English speaking portions of Canada. The record of the Ministry has not been fairly examined. Opposition newspapers could not be maintained. Opposition speakers have not had a hearing. "Vote for Laurier, the greatest man of our race," was the sum of Liberal appeals to the electors. Le Canada published a certain cartoon in 1904 showing John Bull picking the pockets of a habitant. In those days the Liberals practised and enjoyed this style of fighting. But not long ago the same cartoon appeared in Le Devoir, Mr. Bourassa's paper, established to oppose Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Then the forgetful Liberals shouted "Traitor!"

Mr. Bourassa and the Nationalists have followed a Liberal example in making race and creed appeals. They also misrepresent English speaking Canada and Great Britain. But they do it in the open, while the Liberals have tried to conceal this feature of their campaign.

The Drummond and Arthabaska election has brought everything to light—not only the threats of conscription made by Mr. Lavergne and his friends, but the separatist and racial appeals in Mr. Perrault's pamphlet. The Quebec Liberals fired the prairie industriously for every election. This time the wind changed and blew the flames back upon them. They labored for a solid Quebec which would vote for a personal idol, instead of expressing honest opinion on the Government's record.

Quebec has chosen a new idol but there will continue to be discussion of national questions in the contemplation of Nationalist pettiness. Bourassa can beat Laurier in Quebec, and will do so. A bloc of Nationalists will be in the next Parliament and Mr. Sorden will be Premier.

## WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The voters in the State of Washington by ratifying an amendment to the constitution have added 130,000 women to the electorate. This victory for the cause of woman suffrage is naturally being hailed with much jubilation by leaders of the movement. In the brief space of years since the movement started in the United States five stars have been added to the woman's suffrage banner. It is evidently something which in the future will have to be reckoned with.

Looking back we find that the State of Wyoming established woman's suffrage as long ago as 1869. Colorado followed in 1893, Utah and Idaho in 1896, and now Washington joins them. The growth of the movement where full suffrage does not obtain is shown in Kansas, where women possess school suffrage, established in 1887, and bond suffrage, established in 1903. School suffrage for women now prevails in thirty states, including Washington. Most of the states have recognized in some form the right to the ballot of women who pay taxes, and have enacted legislation accordingly. These steps, perhaps, are only forerunners of others that will lead to the elimination of restrictions which bar women in the United States from voting on every public officer.

It is interesting in this connection to note that women vote for all officers in Great Britain except members of Parliament. In Australia, New Zealand, the Isle of Man and Finland they have full suffrage, and municipal suffrage has been granted them in many of the provinces of the Dominion, also in Iceland, Denmark and Sweden. In France women engaged in commerce vote for judges of the tribunal of commerce, and in Cape Colony women also have some voting privileges. The showing already made by the woman's suffrage cause, in fact, is not at all soothing to those who as yet cannot regard it with unqualified favor, although the movement is, of course, looked upon as still experimental when considered in its entirety. Suffragist propagandas have their quiescent spells, but the broad tide thus far has not ebbed appreciably.

## BRITISH POSTAL STATISTICS.

One of the remarkable facts given in the British Postmaster-General's report, recently issued, is a decrease in the number of London letters due to the growth of the telephone. This is the first decrease for years. The number of telephone calls increased from 54,500,000 to 70,000,000. The number of London letters was about 800,000,000. On an average each person in the United Kingdom receives sixty letters a year, or fully one a week. The total number of letters, postcards, newspapers, and parcels delivered was 5,195,890,000. There was a great falling off of postcards, presumably picture ones, in Scotland and of postal newspapers in London.

The British public is growing more careless in sending money in unaddressed or undelivered packets which totalled 31,241,000. Registered letters, containing \$75,635 in cash and notes and \$3,163,825 in checks, postal orders, bills, and the like found their way to the returned letter office.

The effect of penny postage to the United States has been to increase the number of letters by one-fourth. Reduced newspaper and magazine postage to Canada and Newfoundland mean that nearly 3,000,000 lbs. of journals was dispatched from the Old Country. The cash on delivery system with many of the Overseas Dominions is rapidly fostering a trade within the Empire in small articles.

For the first time for years there was great increase in telegrams, home, press, and foreign. On an average each person received two. Much of the increase was due to the general election; and in the last fortnight of January the post office dealt with 200,000 more messages than for the similar period in 1909. The delivery of telegrams by telephone will be extended. The growth of wireless telegraphy marks the progress of the times. During the year, 3,266 messages were sent to ships at sea, an increase of 1,449 over the previous year, and 27,727 messages were received, being 4,995 more than in 1908-09.

## Current Comment

## (Toronto News.)

There was a young man of Berlin  
Who often remarked with a grin:  
"Your free trade is free  
To the Yankee and me,  
But I don't see where Britain comes in."

This election limerick, posted on walls and fences all over the British Isles presents in brief form the Unionist argument that one-sided free trade is not fair trade, and that it exposes the nation to unchecked competition from abroad without bringing adequate compensation of any kind. England and Ireland are already converted to tariff reform. With the Home Rule question and the House of Lords issue out of the way the electors would not be long in adopting moderate protection with preference to the colonies.

## (Fredericton Gleaner.)

The Telegraph, the servile organ of the St. John dredging grafters, heads its Fredericton despatch today: "Jas. H. Crockett held in \$500 bail; Fredericton editor charged with criminal libel," etc. It was the Telegraph which said, when Henry R. Emmerson made his demonstration over the swearing out of his warrant, that Mr. Crockett had run away to escape the process. Are the grafters getting panicky again?

## (Toronto News.)

In ten years American manufacturers have expended \$225,000,000 in establishing 175 branch factories in Canada. Mr. Eugene Foss tells the people of Massachusetts that unless reciprocity is obtained \$300,000,000 more of good United States cash will be spent in the same way in this country. Why should we move our hands to check this flow of capital, industries and employment in our direction?

## (Vancouver World.)

A Vancouver little girl, some five years old, saying her prayers before retiring, the other evening, introduced some variation into the language. She duly invoked the divine blessing on her father, her mother, her brothers and her sisters, and then paused. Presently she proceeded:—"And, now, what about me? Shall I say me and Buster?" Buster, it is almost unnecessary to point out, is a dog.

## (London Free Press.)

The Western Grain Growers' Association are wise in arranging to have their tariff deputation wait upon the whole House of Commons instead of members of the Government alone. They probably have a hunch suspicion that there may be others holding the reins before long, in whose hands the final decision may rest.

## (Windsor Record.)

Instead of promising franchise laws for women, the British Government should revive an old law that placed common scolds and female shrews in the public stocks. The suffragette movement has reached the frenzied stage and they are too easy in the old land with a nuisance of this kind.

## WATSON TO ASQUITH

London, Nov. 29.—William Watson, who obtained great notoriety by his attack on Mrs. Asquith in "The Woman with the Serpent's Tongue," came out last week with some verses directed against that lady's husband. The Morning Post accorded to his attack a place of honor in its columns to the poem, which is entitled "The Chief." "Strange and yet true, in it's not long. Fleeted we thought him cold and strong, Prudent, deliberate, cautious, brave, Moulded without a passion and For hard chill light on level ways And for a lucid, well turned phrase, His lack of genius seemed to be itself a best security. Behold him now, caught up as he whirled into a wild and alien world Where demagogues with doctrine crude Debate the phraselated multitude. And truth is pawed for power, and they Who govern must themselves obey Him of the falcon beak and eye. That hawk-like o'er them poses high. Laugh if ye will, Olympian Gods, Who watch from your unweavable robes; But ask not men to share you mirth— Much wearied men on English earth."

## AMERICAN SPEAKS

## WELL OF BRITISH NAVY

S. S. McClure Addresses Canadian Club at Ottawa on Problems of Government—Would Reduce Status of Provinces.

Ottawa, Nov. 28.—S. S. McClure, of New York, editor of McClure's Magazine, addressed the Canadian Club on Saturday on Some Problems of Government. He dealt with question of law enforcement, corporation control, restricted immigration, arbitration and world peace. Dealing more particularly with Canadian problems, he said: "First, I would make it a matter so clear and plain that every man, woman and child should know it in his heart that the most important institution in the world today for human peace and justice and the maintaining of the great highways of trade is the British navy. Second, I should regard the breed of men as important as the breed of horses and cattle. Now, my next point will not get the same applause. I am afraid. I should reduce the status of provinces to about that of city charters and make this a real nation, and not an assembly of more or less semi-sovereign states."

## OF INTEREST TO METHODISTS.

The sum of \$740 has been received at the Methodist Book Room, Toronto, in aid of the fund for the rebuilding of the Methodist church at Campbellton.

Rev. Thomas Marshall, who for some time past has been Missionary Superintendent for the three Maritime Conferences, has been, it is understood, relieved of the part of work in Newfoundland and will henceforth confine his labors to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Moncton Memorial church has raised the salary of its minister to \$900, the advance to date from the beginning of the present conference year. The Mount Allison institution, rejoice in a bright outlook, and to keep abreast of the times the authorities ask for the sum of \$40,000, and they will no doubt get it.

A statement has been going the rounds lately that at a recent meeting of the Truro Presbytery, out of 14 who voted on the union question, 13 were in favor, with but one opposing. The Eastern Chronicle furnishes the information that many of the members did not vote at all.

## RICHIBUCTO.

Richibucto, Nov. 29.—R. Phinney and W. D. Carter returned on Saturday from a five weeks trip to the West. During the time they met a good number of people who have gone out from here and are now doing well.

J. A. Edmunds a former teacher in the advanced department of the Grammar School, is at present teaching in the High School at North Head, Grand Manan.

Vital Richard of Moncton has charge of Dr. Bourque's drug store during his absence.

Mrs. Rankine McKinnon is quite ill and Dr. Doherty is attending her. Pratt Perry who attended the Grammar school here two years ago, after securing a normal school license last June, went to the West, where he now holds a good position as teacher in Tular, Alta.

Richard Kingston, of Stratford, N. H., is visiting his old home in Kouchibouguac.

George Jardine was in Fredericton last week as guest of his daughter, Mrs. John Palmer.

Robert Irving came home from Jacques River yesterday to remain over Christmas.

It is reported that smallpox has broken out in the family of William Curwen of this town.

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