

Sowing and Reaping.

In the Canadian West the month of August spells the beginning of harvest. Then is it proven on every hillside and in every valley that as man soweth so also shall he reap. He who is scrupulously careful in the choice of his seed has the greatest of all pleasures, that of viewing fields free from weed and blight; he who plants what comes to hand regardless of its cleanliness, has this disappointment of a poor yield and of fields cursed for years to come. He who plows carefully and fertilizes in season has his reward in a bountiful harvest; he who simply tickles the surface and who disregards the laws of crop rotation most surely fails to receive an adequate return for his labor. But apart from the choice of seed and the preparation of the land there is a factor in production more important than either—a factor beyond the power of man to control. Without temperature and moisture suitable to local conditions the best efforts of men are unavailing. Such, however, is the magnitude of our land, and such the diversity in climate, that while from year to year some districts may suffer, there is, on the whole, a certainty of abundance. When a few years ago it was suggested that perhaps some day we might supply the markets of the world with a million or two bushels of grain, the suggestion was received with derision. Now that we can easily send out one or two hundred million bushels, it is no great stretch of imagination to picture these prairies as contributing before many years to the food supply of the nations no less than a thousand million bushels.

The wealth represented by this amount or by the amount of the present yield is enormous. When we remember the truism that "no nation has ever achieved permanent greatness which obtained its wealth from the soil too easily," we may be thankful that in the dispensation of Providence there is an occasional year when the yield is far below expectations.

THE HARVEST OF CHARACTER.

If we are to achieve permanent greatness we must depend upon more than wheat production. Material wealth alone will not make a nation great and strong. Rome, Egypt, India, Spain, and Persia, all represent powers that declined when material wealth rather than intellectual and moral progress was made the ideal of existence. The greatest calamity that could befall us is that we should become rich in money and all that it can provide, and poor in those qualities of mind and heart which make for strong manhood and pure womanhood. As individuals, as members of families, and as factors in the community, we must have regard to all those things which make for permanence and righteousness. If an abundant wheat harvest depends upon the careful cultivation of the soil and an equally careful selection of seed, the harvest of noble deeds and kind actions which characterizes life in an ideal state must be prepared for by the sowing of right ideals in minds carefully prepared to receive them.

INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTION.

In the life of each individual it is necessary that purity find a place, for out of the heart are the issues of life. What signifies money and material prosperity if the heart is impure and the speech unfit for hearing? Yet, is it not too true that in many of the towns and villages of the West there is a coarseness of manner and a vileness of expression that are disgusting? Nor is this confined to the male adults. It is among the young men that the faults are chiefly noticeable. If good seed has been sown in the home and the school, then some enemy

has been diligently sowing tares, for the crop is anything but gratifying.

HOME FARMING.

This brings us to the greater home life in the Canadian West. Our whole sympathy goes out to the mother of the lonely home on the prairies. Her duties are so many and her responsibilities so great that it is small wonder if the children come in for less than their proper share of attention. Yet it is necessary to reiterate what has been said again and again that what the children are, is of far greater importance than what they know or what they have. One of the wisest men in this whole West is that capitalist of Winnipeg who said to his children "I will give you every advantage possible in the way of education and home attractions, but I shall bequeath you practically nothing in the way of money or lands. You must make your own future." And so in his home he is sowing the seeds of honor, diligence, respect for all that is true and holy. He surrounds his boys with an that tends to manliness, and his girls are learning all those arts which make for self-dependence, refinement and usefulness. Never was it more necessary than it is to-day for parents to direct the lives of their children and train them in right habits of thought. There must be time found for this even if one-half the farm has to be sold. The end of existence is not a bank balance but a sweet and lovely disposition. Frankness, honesty, generosity, brotherly-kindness, these are the fruits that crown every true life, and the seeds are sown by every wise parent. It is a great and good thing for parents to make money, but it should be made to be spent again in the best manner possible. To provide children with the best reading obtainable, to engage for them the best teacher that money and interest can secure, to give them the best in companionship and conversation and to hold before them the highest ideals—these are the first duties of the parent who is truly wise; of the citizen who is truly patriotic.

COMMUNITY HYGIENE.

The thought of citizenship suggests that there are many things that must be attended to if our national life is to be all that is desirable and possible. And some of these things must be attended to right here and now. In the first place, more attention must be given to the physical health of the community. A few summers ago there were hundreds of cases of typhoid fever in the towns of one of the western provinces. All this was due to the neglect of ordinary sanitary precautions. A few hundred dollars spent in drainage and in arranging for the disposal of garbage would have saved thousands of dollars in doctor's fees and spared many families the loss of precious lives. There is such a thing as community hygiene, and it is good economy to practice it. The village which through its neglect permits an infectious disease to break out and spread, when prevention would have been possible, is just as blameworthy as an individual who by neglecting ordinary physical precautions finds himself an easy prey to disease and the rigors of climate. The very first thing for a town to give attention to, is the election of officials who will look after the public good in a sensible way—who in all matters of health and education will see to it that the very best is provided. The worst man in the community is the alderman or school trustee of the Cheap John type, for he not only saves a penny and loses a pound, but sacrifices the physical and moral health of the community on the altar of false economy.

PURE GOVERNMENT.

But physical health is only secondary. Right moral conditions are of first importance. It is not because it is customary to revile governments that we repeat what has been said by so many men of discernment and what is common knowledge with those who are in a position to judge; but our people must awake to the fact that our national life cannot prosper, and our liberties remain secure, so long as those entrusted with the administration of public affairs are in the pay of corporations, or subject to denominational control, or influenced unduly by those whose business it is to manufacture and sell liquor; nor can we hope that the people will ever reap the reward of their long struggle so long as legislators dispose of the national resources to personal and political friends, nor so long as judges are the nominees of political bosses, and public administrators are chosen from the ward-healers and expert manipulators at the ballot-box.

RAILWAY KINGS.

It is true that the corporations unduly control our affairs, and that the legislatures are but as clay in the hands of the railway magnates. The story of the three transcontinental roads is a story of bleeding the people not for their own sake, but that the transfusion might give added life to those whose strength is already too great. The story of bonusing great corporations is ever the same. Those who should be our servants become our masters. And when in any country the mass of the people become servants to the privileged few, patriotism is at an end, for men are loyal only to that which they cherish as their own. So if any man thinks he perceives a lack of loyalty among our people let him not lay the blame upon the undue admixture of the foreign element, but let him consider that we are but reaping the legitimate harvest from our own sowing.

THE NATIONAL CURSE.

Yet in spite of this handicap we are bound to prosper, for railways must in the long run yield to reasonable legislation and have regard for the people upon whose labors they live. They are in any case a public necessity. It is not so with the saloons. For the harvest they reap and the incalculable evil they work, they offer nothing in compensation. That on the whole their influence is most damaging none will deny. That it is the duty of every good citizen to fight the evil and use his influence in opposition to the moneyed combination that directs the traffic there can be no doubt. When the fathers and mothers awake to the magnitude of the wrong that is being done to their children they will have something to say and they will have something to do. They will form such a defensive league that no government and no organized effort to promote the evil can withstand the movement for prohibition.

EDUCATION.

The banishment of the bar will lessen the cost of operating the Courts, and will free additional funds for purposes of education. Any country which neglects the education of her children commits a crime against posterity. The richest legacy from parent to child is the gift of good teachers. There is no seed so pure and perfect as the kernels of truth, beauty and duty, and this is the seed for which the school stands. It is impossible that as a people we should be too rich in intelligence or have too exalted ideals of beauty or be too particular in all matters of conduct. Whether we raise a few million bushels more or less is comparatively small matter, whether we found our life in intelligence and righteousness is the all-important consideration.



THE BEST CROP OF ALL—Winnipeg School Cadets over 2000 strong Annual Inspection, Happyland, June 20th. Twenty thousand spectators watched manoeuvres.