

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DANGER THAT LURKS IN THE HOME.

In previous issues we have had something to say on the subjects of law reform and rural crime, pointing out, among other things, the increasing frequency of violent crimes, especially assaults upon unprotected women and girls. The need of effective rural police force or constabulary to apprehend criminals, and of more drastic punishment to deter persons with vicious or criminal propensities, has been strongly insisted upon. But not alone from the tramps and ruffians who prowl about the country is trouble to be feared. It not infrequently lurks in the farm home in the guise of a hired man, who may have hailed from the slums of a European city, born, perhaps, of vicious parents, and reared in companionship with the offscourings of humanity. Some day the family are aroused to discover that an unmentionable crime has been committed, and a daughter of the family ravished and shamed. A peculiarly heinous crime of this nature was recently ventilated in the police court at St. Thomas, Ont. The victim was a fourteen-year-old farmer's daughter, the culprit a forty-year-old man, brought out from the slums of London. The crime was committed on a Sunday, while the parents were away at church, and the recital of the girl's story, as well as that of her little brothers, who had had evil thoughts instilled into their minds, brought forth strong condemnation from the magistrate. In sentencing the prisoner, the full limit of the law was allowed. Had the victim not been over fourteen years of age, the culprit would have been liable to imprisonment for life, and to be whipped. As it was, he could be given only two years.

In pronouncing sentence, Police Magistrate Hunt remarked that the great peril of the farm home in Canada was the hired man. "A man brought up probably in immoral surroundings is hired by a farmer and taken into the family circle. The employer finds, too late, that his confidence has been misplaced; his own head is bowed with shame; his wife's heart is broken, and she lies on a sick-bed, which she may never

leave until she is borne to her grave. His boys' minds are polluted with filth and stored with the vilest immorality practiced by the most degraded classes in the slums of the Old World; and his daughter, whom he loves tenderly, is debauched and degraded in early youth. This is a sad picture, but it is borne out by the evidence.

"It is necessary, in most cases, for the farmer to make the hired man one of the family," continued the magistrate, "but he should not be admitted to the family circle until it is learned what manner of man he is. In former years the peril of the farm home was not so great, when the hired man was raised in the neighborhood and under Canadian ideas of ethics, and under the sense of an obligation not to bring disgrace on his parents and relatives who lived in the neighborhood. This was a guarantee for his behavior which is lacking in many dumped into Canada for various reasons. Many of these people are honest and moral, but as is shown in this case, all of them are not, and it would be better for the farmer to let his cows go unmilked and his crops rot in the field, than have his sons' minds made into cesspools and his daughters debauched and blighted for life, as in this case.

"In the performance of my duties through the country I have heard of other cases of a similar character, where the parties most interested did not have the moral courage and sense of duty displayed by the head of the family in this instance; and, therefore, men who should be in the penitentiary were turned out to debauch other homes. If they had done their duty, possibly I would not be here to-day trying this case. The lesson to be learned by farmers is this: The man you take into your home may be vile and dangerous to your children. Do not give him your confidence or let him gain the confidence of your children till you find he is worthy of it."

We are asked for an opinion on the above matter, but cannot do better than endorse the Police Magistrate's advice. In some cases separate houses may be provided for hired help, and married men employed, but this is not always feasible. In other cases the farmer and his family could do their own work with the aid of more labor-saving machinery. When this is not possible, the utmost discretion should be used, and no opportunity for licentious liberty allowed, if it can be avoided. In hiring, it would be well to prefer respectable Canadian men, even at double or treble the wages, to the cheap help which so often, in more ways than one, proves dear. Further, we would suggest amendment to the law to make the punishment in such cases far more severe, including repeated application of the lash. Finally, we would strongly commend the advice of a leading American home magazine, that parents should, from early years, take their children into intimate confidence concerning the facts of their physical selves, and thus, by acquainting them with the knowledge which their curiosity demands, and at the same time impressing on them the awful consequences of immorality, guard them against the special temptation of salacious suggestion and moral filth.

OUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

For many years past the publishers of "The Farmer's Advocate" have prepared for their readers an annual Christmas treat in the form of a large, handsomely-illustrated holiday number, with numerous, carefully-prepared articles dealing with agricultural and other subjects of outstanding interest and importance. Much labor and expense are involved in the preparation of these special numbers, but we have our reward in the appreciation with which they are received throughout the Dominion and beyond.

The forthcoming number, for which preparations are now well advanced, is calculated to raise still higher the standard for which our Christmas number has become celebrated. Besides several prominent features of very general interest, there will be something that will appeal especially to readers in every Province, and to those engaged in every important branch of Agriculture. In this issue, also, will be commenced a fascinating serial, "The Golden Dog," by W. R. Kirby, an historical tale of Old Quebec in the time of Louis XV. In the way of illustrations, a rich and striking cover, executed by the tri-color process, will be supplemented by much very superior half-tone work in the body of the paper, including a number of pages printed with double-tone ink.

This splendid number goes without extra charge to every subscriber of "The Farmer's Ad-

vocate." Moreover, it will be included, as long as the supply lasts, to new subscribers. Last year the edition was exhausted within a few weeks after publication, and many who had postponed sending in their names were accordingly disappointed. Such a contingency may be avoided by promptness. For every present paid subscriber who will send us two new names, together with three dollars (a dollar and a half from each), we will advance his own subscription one year, by way of remuneration for helping to extend our circulation.

The Christmas number will be issued on December 10th. Set to work at once, send in new names before that date, and avoid disappointment.

PRACTICAL WORK IN THE HANDS OF COLLEGE MEN.

(Editorial correspondence.)

With a total enrollment of 298 students, new buildings, and an increased staff, the Ontario Agricultural College, at Guelph, continues the good work of educating the young farmers of the world. Almost every corner of the Globe is represented, but, naturally, the majority are from Ontario homes. The results of a profitable season's operations in agricultural pursuits are found in the ever-true barometer of rural prosperity—a large freshman class. This term it numbers 128.

Chief among the improved conditions, from the standpoint of buildings, is the overhauling of the barns and stables. Instead of dark and gloomy cow stalls, decades behind the times, is found up-to-date rows of stalls, and windows of sufficient size and number to give the desirable supply of sunlight. On the dairy and poultry corner, a fine red-brick building is being erected, in which further investigations may be made into incubators and incubation in its various features. Behind the main building is found a modern fruit and vegetable cool-storehouse and a huge covered coal cellar. In recognition of the fact that, to have capable men as laborers, a home must be provided, a double house of red brick is being constructed in the corner of the orchard, beside the stone house now occupied by the head gardener. This house will be used for the accommodation of teamsters required on the horticultural department.

On the farm proper, excellent crops have been produced. The live stock never was in better condition. Most of the prominent breeds are represented by typical animals of both sexes. In cattle, Shorthorns predominate, some very fine young animals bred at the College forming an important section of the herd. Experiments in feeding are being conducted with a bunch of very ordinary stockers as the center of attraction. Details of net gains from the various rations will be forthcoming in a few months. Prof. G. E. Day, R. W. Wade, B. S. A., his assistant, and Dr. Reed are busy training a cup-winning judging team for the International Show, at Chicago, next month.

In the experimental department, Prof. C. A. Zavitz and his staff find opportunity for strenuous work in computing the results of the summer's work on the College plots, as well as on the farms of members of the Experimental Union. Interesting features of the College work comprise the work being done with alfalfa. There are some 60 plots, about two thirds of which have been sown four years. Last spring, strains including Sand, Turkestan, Grimm, and some from France and other countries, were put in. All are promising and should furnish additional interest in June excursions in 1909. Seeds of a number of crops grown in Japan included a variety of Kaffir corn that seems better than any of the sorghums. What is known as Rye Buckwheat, and also called Rough or Sand buckwheat, has been grown for three or four seasons, with satisfactory results. It has given larger yields than Japan, Silver Hull and common varieties. The prowess of Yellow Leviathan, an intermediate mangel of fine texture and long-keeping quality, is demonstrated in the returns from plots on which seed of that variety from three Ontario seedsmen was sown. Turnips have not been as good as usual, owing to hot and dry weather during late summer and autumn. The ravages of the turnip aphid were referred to by Professor Zavitz, who points out that, after two sprayings with the kerosene emulsion, it was concluded that this treatment was not satisfactory on large areas of roots. In the breeding plots, several hybrids were produced that give good promise. Considerable progress has been made with wheat, oats, barley, emmer and speltz, and a start made with peas.

In horticultural work, a redistribution of labor