

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Journal

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### EDITORIAL

The study of living beings always proves more interesting than that of lifeless elements.

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Through the Rockies, the G.T.P. will likely need to use dangerous explosives to a great extent, and if a Chink drops a match accidentally, why he won't be there, d'ye see!

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Perhaps fortunately, the Englishman is not a blatant advertiser at every public gathering. Some other nationalities could afford to copy his modesty.

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"Standard Oil" is said to be negotiating to form a distillery trust. Has H. H. Rodgers nothing else to do than to give young Mr. Rockefeller short corners to turn with his Sunday school class?

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Why not encourage the educated Britisher to come out as well as the illiterate lower class? The better educated man or woman will have a better influence on the home life of the country, than the other; and they (the well educated) are certainly needed to lead the mass.

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It is not in the interests of the community at large to bar out, an M.D. because he happens to have been trained in a better, though distant, medical school. Local patriotism is a good thing, but can be carried to extremes; it may be dubbed as foolish when it results in mediocrity in a learned profession.

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The following sensible resolution was passed by the police chiefs at the Toronto convention: "That in the opinion of this organization work should be provided for all persons undergoing sentence no matter how short, for the material benefit of the individual, and with a view, as far as possible, of making him self-sustaining, and that the attention of the proper authority be called to the facts where this does not exist, urging the necessity of inaugurating some system of useful work for those prisoners under their control not herewith provided."

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"Immigration authorities state that the farm hands who came to Canada from Great Britain on the special excursion are superior to the men who came west from the eastern provinces of Canada. Many of those coming from Great Britain were formerly experienced in farm work there, and of the balance the large majority were engaged in manual labor, their calloused hands and general appearance showing that they had known much of hard toil. The English workmen coming to the west at the present time are said to be quite equal to those from other parts of the Empire, and it is stated by immigration officials that the prejudice against young men from England is disappearing; many applicants for help specify that they require this class of employee and will take no other, if Englishmen can be hired."

This might be termed the vindication of the Englishman, which has been slow in coming

#### The Big IF and the Census Figures!

The prophetic eye of the *Toronto News* editor has been cast 'westward ho' and the following are some of his cogitations:

While the census figures are not complete it is estimated that the province of Alberta will show a population of 180,000, and the province of Saskatchewan of 330,000. The Province of Manitoba which had a population of 255,211 in 1901, has shown an increase of 53,000 in Winnipeg, and will probably show a population of 400,000 for the entire province. No census has been taken of British Columbia, but it is estimated that with the expansion of Vancouver and some of the cities in Southern British Columbia, the population is not far short of 250,000. These figures give a total population to the Western Provinces of 1,100,000, and the calculation will prove probably to be fairly accurate.

If there should be the same proportionate increase for five years, Manitoba would then show a population of 700,000, Saskatchewan of 1,200,000, Alberta of 600,000, and British Columbia of 500,000. It has also to be remembered that owing to the westward movement the growth of population in older Canada will be very much less rapid than in the West, and hence the prediction that within ten years the majority of the people in Canada will be west of Lake Superior is within the realm of probability. This means, also, the transfer of political dominance to the West, with many new problems and enormously wider interests for the Canadian people.

#### Shall the Doukhobor Have Special Homestead Privileges?

Extended residence in Canada but adds to the capacity of the Doukhobor to make trouble. Each year he has contributed to the sum of domestic difficulties by his fanatical pilgrimages, but this year he has become more deeply involved, not with immigration officials, but with the aggressiveness of the western pioneer. The arrangements whereby the Doukhobors were settled upon some of the very best land at the disposal of the Dominion Government now appears to be subject to conflicting interpretations. The government generously agreed to concede a point in the homestead regulations and allow their proteges to live in villages, thus waiving the residence clause. This concession on the part of the government was adversely criticized at the time, but as the Doukhobors were actually in physical fear of their lives, sympathy superseded discretion. The Doukhobors were allotted their homesteads, they established their villages and were given every reasonable encouragement to make good. At first they settled down to serious effort. They worked with their farms and stock to what advantage they could where colossal ignorance prevails, and where whole families united with neighbors in the morning and the colony trekked out to their estates on the prairie. In the fall some of their young men worked in the harvest for English, American or Canadian settlers and by the time the first year had been put in, our fellowmen from the Caucasus had awakened to the realization that they were living in a free country, and might venture five or ten miles from home alone without danger of molestation. They then began to want to know more, the novelty of their existence became too much for some of them; and in their eagerness to absorb modern ideas, to earn big wages, and to enjoy the privileges of our independent life they neglected their obligations to the government with respect to homestead duties. All this time covetous eyes were upon their land and when last spring it was found that sufficient had not been cultivated upon a Doukhobor's quarter to entitle him to a patent for his land there were men ready to step forward and cancel his claim. This is what

occurred in different Doukhobor settlements last spring, but the phlegmatic Doukhobor was not to be nonplussed and when harvest came round sallied forth with his good wife and numerous progeny to reap the bounties of nature. On arriving at his wheat fields, however, he was met by the energetic Anglo-Saxon and his hired man, and it was at once evident that before the machinery of the law could be set in motion the man who could command the most science in the game of fisticuffs would be the possessor of the crop. This considerably simplified matters at the seat of operations, but very much complicated things for the department of the interior. The Doukhobors have been slow to insure themselves against such a contingency by cultivating at least 30 acres of their land, but their defence is that their arrangement with the government allowed them, besides living in their villages to complete their homestead duties on land contiguous to their houses. The contention is absurd on the face of things, but the department of the interior is trying to discover just what the arrangement was so as to be in a position to arbitrate.

Whatever other conclusions the department comes to, it is to be hoped they will not relax in their demands for the strict observance of the homestead laws by the Doukhobors. The trouble and expense the government has been put to with these people warrants it in demanding such observance. The actions of these improvident Doukhobors is an example of the evils that may attend a too sudden visitation of prosperity. The government would have been doing a most magnanimous thing for these people to have brought them to this country and have given them an opportunity to have worked as farm laborers without having allotted them land. Later as they gained some knowledge of Canadian customs and had become citizens they would either have demonstrated their fitness for farming and have secured homesteads or would have continued to assist in the work of tilling the soil under the direction of better managers. For the past few years the cart has been put before the horse, but the time now is opportune to establish more advantageous relationships.

#### Misconceptions of the English.

It is a custom of Canadians, a declining one, albeit, we believe devoid of malice, to poke fun at the Englishman, in a milder way at the Irishman and to deride his speech. Even public men who should know better, are found guilty of taking the lower class Londoner as typical of the Englishman, witness the doggerel composed by Bengough, entitled "At Winnipeg Station." The dropping of the 'aspicate' or the picking it up, and placing the 'h' where it does not belong is a practice quite rare among the English people as a whole, in fact, not a tithe as common as the use of such ungrammatical terms as 'he done, I seen, etc.' so frequently in the mouths of many Canadians, who could well afford to copy the modulated tone in the Englishwoman's voice. During the last two or three years Canada has received a large draft from the working type of Englishmen, including what is termed in England 'upper and lower middle class people,' the bulwark of the British nation. In the early days, twenty to thirty years ago, only a few of the good ones came, the others were the unfortunates, either in wits or application, whose people in England heaved a sigh of relief when they saw their backs. It is a common thing for our public men, even journalists to deride the appalling ignorance of the stay-at-home Englishman regarding, what we are so fond of terming, 'Britain's greatest colony,' and yet the rank and file of Canadians are not one whit the wiser, in their estimation of the British or British customs; in fact an outsider would at times judge that Eastern Canada knows little of