



THE PHILOSOPHER

The Christmas season is a trying one to many whose purse is slender, and whose generosity is large; and the task of selection is not made any easier by the attractions which merchants have placed in their windows. Santa Claus

THE GIFT WITH- OUT THE GIVER IS BARE.

has become commercialized. Yet, as the North-West Baptist puts it, "despite any amount of brain worry on the part of the gift seekers, and the vast desecration of the idea by the commercialistic spirit of our day, we would view with sorrow the exodus of the Christmas gift. Whatever base motives may sometimes prompt the giver, the great fact remains that into these tokens of remembrance are stitched and prayed many of the kindest thoughts that ever stir the heart. The gift has a great mission to the giver if in himself it awakens to activity slumbering affection and calls up forgotten memories. It has a great message to the recipient if the heart is still open to the beauty of an unselfish thoughtfulness and if it brings to his eye the mist of gratitude."

There is nothing easier than to denounce unsparringly the trust or combine. They are looked upon as gigantic evils which are cancerous growths upon the body politic. But those who have really studied the question of trusts and combines find that

THE GOOD AND EVIL OF COMBINES.

these organizations are neither wholly evil nor wholly good. In so far as they lead to economics in production by doing away with the duplication of expenses, and thus are enabled to place their products on the market at a lower price, combines are a natural development of the universal and commendable effort to employ capital to the best advantage and extend the market for its productions. It is when combines take advantage of existing conditions to crush out competition, to restrict production, and to raise prices that they become an evil. This they are only too prone to do. The sweat shop, and many of its attendant evils are the results of a violation of the true principle for which the combine exists.

The good work done by farmers before the Tariff Commission in Ontario has been splendidly supported by organized efforts on the part of the farmers of Manitoba. But what do Western farmers want? They want adequate

WESTERN FARMERS DEMAND PROTECTION.

protection, not from agriculturalists of other lands, but from those manufacturers east and west whose desire to become wealthy in a short time at the expense of the farmers has caused them to be dissatisfied with their present prosperity, and the unfair and large protection they now enjoy. It is from this greed and selfishness they expect to be protected by those in whose hands the revision of the tariff will fall. Says Andrew Graham: "To shut out entirely the American farm implements would have a baneful effect in lowering the standard of our Canadian-made goods, as American machinery is generally admitted to be superior to Canadian makes."

How often a man will say to himself, "If I only knew where such or such a thing was to be had!" Thousands of our readers are directly interested in machinery, pianos and hundreds of other commodities, and would be glad of an opportunity to buy.

IF I ONLY KNEW!

To all such our advertising columns become as they are indeed intended to be,

reading notices of substantial interest, and often of great pecuniary value because of the saving of time, money and worry that they bring right to hand. The lines of goods spoken of in these pages cover a wide range of the material wants of all classes of society. Catalogues, often displaying great artistic beauty, are in most cases sent free on application. The firms represented in the Western Home Monthly are reputable and safe to do business with. It will pay the reader to keep in touch with them. It will be to his advantage also to use these columns to place his goods before the people. The Western Home Monthly has over 30,000 subscribers.

There are few public men who have the advantage of Dr. Osler in throwing interest around threadbare subjects. His observations, if not always correct, are original and enlivening. His latest utterance is about death. "As a rule," he

DR. OSLER ON DEATH.

says, "a man dies as he has lived, uninfluenced practically by the thought of a future life. I have careful records of about 500 deathbeds studied particularly with reference to the modes of death and the sensations of the dying. Ninety suffered bodily pain and distress of some kind or another; eleven showed mental apprehension; one bitter remorse. Two expressed positive terror. The great majority gave no sign one way or the other; like their birth, their death was a sleep and a forgetting. The preacher was right in this matter. Man hath no pre-eminence over the beast—as one dieth, so dieth the other." We suspect the preachers will fall foul of Dr. Osler for this pronouncement. But the province entered by Professor Osler is not the express property of the preacher. The scientist and philosopher are also keenly alive to the subject of the future life. The article will provoke widespread interest.

The completion of the Canadian Northern to Edmonton has been a source of great joy to that ambitious city. The Edmonton Bulletin commenting on the event says, "For the city the completion of the line means

THE NEW ROUTE TO EDMONTON.

an almost complete revision of former conditions. The railway annihilates distance, and in establishing direct connection between the city and the markets of the world, the C. N. R. has placed Edmonton a hundred leagues nearer the heart of the continent without disturbing the advantages which pertain to a frontier location. In all the commercial benefits of speedy communication, and in the comfort and convenience of a shorter route, Edmonton will quickly feel the influence of this new railway." The influence of the new road has also been felt by every community through which it passes. But one of the best features is that it has come into sharp competition with the C. P. R., which has up to this time had an uncontrolled monopoly. As a result, rates have been reduced. We wish the city of Edmonton much happiness in their new railway line.

Notwithstanding the fact that most of us know how to fall in love, some fellow assumes that we do not, and self-constitutes himself as our guide into the paradises of love-land. Mr. Sidney Oliver in the Contemporary Review has

ON FALLING IN LOVE.

capped the climax, however, as an authority. He says, "Falling in love is surely one of the most common and significant instances in which a certain mode of hypnotism produces not only visual and other hallucination, but also telepathic

sensibility, great enhancement of direct mental rapport, extension, and intensification of consciousness, and, one may say, almost invariably, marked accession of energy and faculty, sometimes to an extraordinary degree and with important substantial results. There exists a sense of sex and a sexual radiation or effluence as discernable by the nerves as an electric current. Certain dress fabrics are better conductors than others." This is all very beautiful we have no doubt, but what does it mean? 'Arry and 'Arriet could tell us by fewer and shorter words.

Cincinnati will have a millionaire for superintending her street cleaning. The new official is Joseph S. Neave, a millionaire. After the recent election in which the reform forces were successful, Mr. Neave's friends urged him

A MILLIONAIRE SCAVENGER.

to give the public the benefit of his time and experience. Being an enthusiast on well kept and well paved streets, he applied for the position of superintendent of the cleansing department. The salary attached to the office is \$2,400 a year, but the new official will spend more than that in visiting other cities to gather new ideas on the subject and in conducting experiments at his own expense. Thus, a new element is introduced into civic life, namely, the rich and intelligent business man. Mr. Neave expresses the view that every citizen should discharge some practical duty to the city, even if it means some pecuniary loss and is attended with inconvenience. Men of this type are sorely needed in municipal affairs, which only too often are controlled by ignorance and graft.

The North-west has a dearth of teachers. Saskatchewan and Alberta particularly complain that they cannot get teachers enough to man, or rather woman, their schools. There is something wrong with the teaching profession, for many are leaving

THE DEARTH OF SCHOOL TEACHERS.

it, and few are entering it. One of the wrongs that should be righted is that of salary. The fact is that the salaries paid teachers are ridiculously small, and while they are so, the supply of good teachers will never meet the demand. The situation is as bad in Ontario as it is in the West. The Toronto Globe says, "The people of this province want to know authoritatively why they have so much trouble and difficulty in securing teachers now, after having been accustomed for many years to a plethora of applicants for every vacancy that occurred. It becomes an extremely serious matter when children are forced to go for even a few months without the privilege of attending a school." In Ontario the salaries offered teachers run from two hundred and fifty to three hundred and fifty. We do a little better in the West, our minimum being five hundred and fifty, but then the difference in the cost of living must be taken into account. The compensation is too small to tempt bright young men and women into the ranks of the profession.

The farmers of Ontario have scored handsomely in the discussions of the tariff before the Commission. It has been shown that the farmer while enjoying a measure of prosperity in common with other citizens during the prosperous

THE FARMERS AND THE TARIFF COMMISSION.

years, has not been able to accumulate wealth to any considerable extent. That the better class of farmers have only secured a fair living, and others not so favorably situated have only succeeded in making a bare living, and that any increased wealth the farmers enjoy as a class is attributable almost entirely to the enhanced value of farm lands. It has also been shown very clearly that while the tariff imposes many and onerous burdens upon the farmer, its blessings for him are few and far between; and while he is willing to have his burdens increased for the benefit of struggling infant industries, he is unwilling to have those burdens perpetuated for the benefit of industries that have become well established and are able to pay handsome profits.