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EDITORIAL

Canada's foreign trade has passed the billion-dollar mark.

Harvesting may be the rush-season of the year for the farmer, but it is not the most important by a long shot.

We go chasing health, happiness and prosperity to the ends of the earth when usually all the ingredients are lying about our own doors.

Our attention has not yet been called to any more optimistic sight than a glorious corn field waving its luxuriant arms in the summer sun.

We regret that exigencies of space have rendered it necessary to hold over two successive instalments of Nature's Diary. We shall endeavor to avoid further omissions.

Great as well as small folk feel the pinch of the high cost of living. The United States Secretary of State, William Jennings Bryan, finds himself unable to get along on \$12,000 a year, and a farm.

Last year, when thousands of barrels of good Ontario apples rotted in the orchard, Peter McArthur made money by shipping clean, good, well-packed fruit to Edmonton, cutting out three or four of the six middlemen that Mr. Hart tells about in his article. The mouth of the West is watering for good Ontario apples, but some degree of thoroughness, enterprise, and high principle has got to be injected into the trade if we are to hold it against the Pacific Slope.

A Strike of Agricultural Labor.

Is agricultural labor to become widely organized on the Union principle? In the South-east corner of the industrial County of Lancashire, Eng., a union of agricultural laborers has been formed, said to embrace ninety-five per cent of the workers and to number three thousand men. The demands are for a minimum wage of 24s. a week, a twelve-hour working day and overtime afterwards, a Saturday half holiday, and recognition of the union. These demands represent a concession from the original program, in which the men had asked for a day of ten hours. To enforce their demands a strike was begun on June 21st, and a state of guerilla warfare ensued. The laborers organized a cyclist scout system and arranged outposts to prevent farmers importing free labor or exporting their produce. Judging from British publications to hand, it would appear that most of the employers were disposed to concede the laborers' demands, except the crucial one of recognition of the union.

The lot of the English agricultural laborer has been far from alluring to the ambitious spirit of the age, but it is significant that the strike has occurred in a section where wages at least rule higher than in some other parts of the country. The movement is portentous, and may well occasion thought.

The Money-making Penalty.

It was a famous and favored saying of Louis Agassiz that he had "No time for making money." And yet in a few short years how enduring was his contribution to the enrichment of American educational life, and how few are the names more imperishably enshrined than that of the great naturalist of whose fiftieth birthday, in 1857, Longfellow sang:

"And Nature, the old nurse, took
The child upon her knee
Saying: 'Here is a story book
Thy Father has written for thee.

"Come wander with me," she said,
Into regions yet untrod;"
And read what is still unread,
In the manuscript of God.

And whenever the way seemed long,
Or his heart began to fail,
She would sing a more wonderful song
Or tell a more marvellous tale.

Anticipating more recent movements in nature study, the influence of Agassiz on methods of teaching was prompt and decisive. So the late Prof. William James has well said: "The good old way of committing abstractions to memory seems never to have received such a shock as it did at his hands. There is probably no public-school teacher now in New England who will not tell you how Agassiz used to lock a student up in a room full of turtle shells, or lobster shells or oyster shells, without a book or word to help him, and not let him out till he had discovered all the truths which the objects contained." "Go to nature, look and see for yourself," was his doctrine. He lived by faith, looked forward, not backward, and the memory of him comes up like a breath of morning that makes the world look fresh and young.

What chance has your mere money-maker to shine on the pages of posterity, or to have his name safe-guarded in public affection? Why should it? Why indeed? A few days ago one of the best informed of Canadian public librarians was being piloted on a tour of Fifth Avenue, New York City, where millionaires were thicker than farmers on any township concession line, but not one name in a dozen of them had he ever heard of. Million-dollar mansions are occupied by garbage kings "and others," or inherited from men who, a few years ago, flitted meteor-like across the financial sky, but are already forgotten except in squabbles over their "last will and testament," or in the unsavory divorce court proceedings of their "heirs and assigns." Happily here and there one of them is rescuing himself from oblivion like Andrew Carnegie by his ample library and educational benefactions, or John D. Rockefeller whose endowments move the students of Chicago University to shout the refrain:

"Praise John from whom oil blessings flow."

Happy the farmer who runs such limited risks of becoming entangled in the ranks of the millionaires! Record crops have their perils, however, if they cause us to be too keenly "on the make," forgetting what ought to be the real purposes of life. The penalty of mere money making without other endowments is just to be forgotten. And, judging by the Fifth Avenue swarms of Cash Kings, it did not seem to our librarian friend on his travels to be any particular achievement. One of these days the twentieth

century will evolve some other measuring stick for success than just the amassment of dollars, however useful they may be as a passing medium of exchange.

The Cornfield.

Corn is a magnificent crop. Planted in hills or drills with only a few quarts of seed to the acre, it sends up scattering sprouts which suggest but faintly the immense bulk of forage it is afterwards to produce. As days pass the stalks increase in height, but it is weeks before the foliage shades the ground. Then, some day after a warm July rain one looks across his field to behold an inspiring sight. Rank upon rank stand the rows of giant young stalks, tossing their glistening broad leaves toward the morning sun. If the seed was good, the land rich in humus, and the seed-bed well prepared, the plants stand even-topped, though here and there a precocious stalk throws a slight shadow under the arch of its topmost leaves. Wonderful the growth in a few short weeks of sunlight!

Is there anything prettier than a field of corn at this stage, with another of dark-green alfalfa or clover, aftermath beside it? How fresh and clean these fields look! How rich with promise of returns in milk and meat! Pick out a farm where broad acreages of these crops flourish, and you will be sure to find a mind with enterprise and vision, and almost certainly you will also learn of a good bank account or, better still, an improving farm. There is money in corn, but money is not all. There is beauty in it, and promise and hope. Interesting to study; magnificent to contemplate; profitable to grow. Themes for sermons and poems abound in the glory of the Indian corn.

Increasing Cost of Milk Production

The increasing cost of milk production is effectually illustrated by a table of figures presented by Prof. Geo. E. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College, in his 1912 annual report. This table gives a summary of the cost of feed as well as production and profit of each of thirty cows in the O. A. C. dairy herd, from November 1st, 1911, to October 31st, 1912. This method of computation, as Prof. Day explains, does not do justice to the several cows in all cases, but should work out pretty fairly on the average. The cost of feed ranged from \$38.86 up to \$86.83 for the renowned 20,000-pound cow Boutsje Q. Piertertje de Kol, which, with a yield last year of 16,091 lbs. milk and 502.95 lbs. fat, gave a balance of \$38.91 between cost of feed and value of butter-fat, this being the largest profit shown by any cow in the herd. The cow which consumed only \$38.86 worth of feed ranks fourth in profit. The average value of butter-fat per cow at 27 cents per lb. was \$67.20; average cost of feed, \$56.97; average profit over cost of feed, \$10.01. This ignores, on the one hand, the value of skim milk, calves and manure, but, on the other, it leaves out the very important item of labor, as well as depreciation, interest, housing, risk and incidentals, all together amounting to about \$30.00 or \$35.00 more. Prof. Day explains that a large part of the dairy herd is kept stabled summer and winter, which adds to the cost in their case, especially in 1911-12, when they were short of silage and had to feed considerable hay. In addition the cost of feedstuffs a year ago last winter was very high, and if anything approaching market prices is allowed