

SEE CO-OPERATIVE FARMS IN ITALY

Agricultural Commission of States and Canada Study Development.

PHILANTHROPIC WORK

Being Done on Estate of Count di Ponti With a Score of Families.

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MILAN, Italy, June 29.—Members of the commission on agricultural co-operation visited one of the model farms of Northern Italy, the property of the Count di Ponti. The estate comprises about 1000 acres. The farm is divided into two parts—an irrigated portion which the proprietor reserves for his own use for dairy farming, and a dry portion rented on the share basis, known in Italy as the "mezzadria" system.

The visit of the Americans and Canadians was made a holiday for the laborers and farm hands, although men were kept at work to demonstrate the co-operative enterprises on the farm. Automobiles of the American party were taken to a farm yard, inclosed by a brick house, the porches of which gave a vivid scene of drying clothes, bandannas, wrinkled old peasant women, and a swarm of curious children. Fourteen families are hired by the proprietor to farm his part of the estate.

The score of families engaged in farming the "dry" part live in a little village, and here the members of the commission were given their first view of the many possible phases of agricultural co-operation. Men, women and children were lined up along the little street; hats and bandannas were waved in welcome, and the little children murmured a half-frightened "Grazie" when the visitors were slipped into their hands. This part of the estate is divided into holdings of about thirty acres each.

The principal men specialists of the little farms are cheese and silkworms. Each farmer raises enough of general farm crops to support his family, but most of his attention is given to dairying and to raising silkworms. The cheese is made in a plant co-operatively owned by the farmers and built with their own money. Three men were at work making Swiss cheese at the time. The farmers bring their milk to the dairy, where it is weighed and made into cheese. According to the amount of milk given to the dairy the farmers receive a percentage of the profits derived from the sale of the cheese. The waste from the milk used in cheese-making is fed to the silkworms co-operatively owned, which, when fattened, are killed in an abattoir, likewise co-operatively owned; for nothing is lost on an Italian farm, there is also a sausage factory. Everything these farmers buy comes from a co-operatively owned store. The warehouse held familiar types of American agricultural machinery. The silkworms are turned over to the proprietor, who takes a certain portion of the cocoons as his share.

All the farming is done on a share basis, the proprietor putting up the buildings, the farmers contributing the labor, and the farm products being divided between them. It was evident that the Count di Ponti was very popular with his tenants. Some years ago, when his tenants were required to strike because of general strikes in the country, he was elected by the tenants president of the strike committee, so that to him fell the odd task of settling a strike against himself.

Paternalism Prevails. Undoubtedly the paternalism which exists in the co-operative system of enterprises of this type prevents Canadians from receiving many impressions of practical value from them. But it made a very great impression upon the delegates, that farmers of this class could be brought to such comparative economic independence through the life of a co-operative. Above all, the extreme utilization of everything impressed the Americans. No trees are cut down for fuel, for instance. Each year as many branches are cut off as are necessary, and the next year the same process is followed with the same result. The land is mostly cultivated in long narrow strips, and altogether there is an aspect of artificiality to the garden farms of northern Italy. There were peasant farmers, swarms of the produce of the co-operative, small that it apparently would have been impossible to market them, and yet thru the great force of co-operation these farmers were given a far greater control over the manufacture and marketing of their produce than is possessed by most American farmers.

FIREMAN MARRIES GIRL HE SAVED FROM DEATH

First Meets Her Unconscious in Burning House—Carries Her to Safety.

Special to The Toronto World. MILWAUKEE, June 28.—A romance which began when a little arrow-headed man accompanied Truckman Herbert Post up to the top of a fire ladder culminated the other day when Post and Miss Ella Strehlow of Cudahy were married.

Several years ago, when Post was a "rookie" on the department, an alarm was sent in from a home on the east side. The new man jumped onto the truck in No. 1 hose and went to the blaze.

When he reached the burning building his eyes met a sight that was to influence his life. In a second story window, almost overcome by smoke, was the figure of a young woman. As Post assisted in placing the ladder against the wall, she fainted. Hurrying upward he caught the unconscious girl in his arms and carried her to safety.

The little girl had done his work in a way that was a case of love at first sight. The couple are at home No. 1412 Greenbush street.

Notice

On and after Wednesday next, July 2nd, the Head Office and Main Branch of The Bank of Toronto will be in its new premises at the corner of King and Bay Streets, Toronto.

THE BANK OF TORONTO

INCORPORATED 1855.

R. C. OFFERINGS TO MISSIONS "HUMBLE"

Director of Society of Faith Reports Million and a Half Given in Year.

Special to The Toronto World. NEW YORK, June 29.—Rev. Mgr. J. Freer, national director in the United States of the Society of Faith, which is the chief foreign mission body of the Catholic Church, has made public the annual report of that organization for 1912. It shows that Catholics all over the world contributed to the society \$1,610,315, an increase of \$155,469 over 1911. It is the largest sum collected by the society since its foundation 91 years ago.

As has been heard since the society was organized, France claims the first honors, leading with a total contribution of \$691,336. Of this amount the archdiocese of Lyons gave \$89,660, Cambrai \$31,048, Paris \$22,146, Quimper \$25,865, Saint Brienne \$29,842, Saint Die \$27,427, Nantes \$29,160.

The United States is second with a gift of \$336,480, an increase of \$55,236 over its contribution for 1911. Of this sum New York gathered \$151,045, Brooklyn (a separate ecclesiastical jurisdiction) \$12,314, Boston \$46,428, Baltimore \$7916, Philadelphia \$22,921, Pittsburgh \$5663. Mgr. Freer gives especial praise to three cardinals, Rayley, Gibbons and O'Connell, for the revival of interest in foreign missions. Germany gave \$138,013, Belgium \$71,216, Argentina \$61,138, Italy \$54,476, Ireland \$52,736, Spain \$40,355, Mexico \$24,330, Switzerland \$20,414, England \$20,137, Chili \$10,129. The national office of the society is at No. 627 Lexington avenue. The home offices are in France, from which all funds are disbursed by a committee of laymen.

The first meeting of the society was held in Lyons in 1822. Branches were organized in this country in 1832, and the first aims for the missions were forwarded by Bishop Dubourg of New Orleans. From 1822 to 1912 the society distributed among the missions a total of \$81,464,846. For a long time sections of the United States received aid from the society, and even now the insular possessions are included in the foreign mission budget.

Last year the combined gifts of the several non-Catholic denominations for their foreign missions was above \$15,000,000.

According to the last figures the Catholic Church has more than 10,000 priests, 4000 lay brothers, and 40,000 nuns engaged in foreign mission work. Mgr. Freer says the average allowance for each missionary is not more than \$11 a year.

LAWRENCE PARK

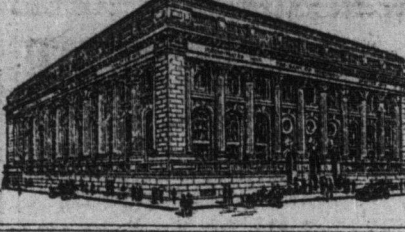
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