

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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as in Nova Scotia, perhaps, carrying out the principles of assisting the live-stock industry as laid down by the very first societies, by assisting in the elimination of the scrub bull and the substitution of pure-bred stock.

Away back as far as 1765 there is a record of a fair being established at Windsor, in Nova Scotia, where horse racing was carried on and where cattle, sheep, butter and cheese were exhibited. Not until 1789, however, was the first agricultural society formed in Canada. This took place in Quebec on April 6, and 61 members, including the rank and file of the nobility, were enrolled. This society was only four years behind the first society organized in the United States—at Charleston, in 1785—and preceded the society in Kings and Hants Counties, Nova Scotia, by about seven months. The first one organized in Ontario was in 1792 under the patronage of Governor Simcoe, although it was not until 1830 that these societies in Ontario received legislative recognition, and were given a grant of two hundred pounds if they would import valuable live stock, grain, or implements, and raise fifty pounds themselves.

"The Farmer's Advocate" was established in 1866, and is older than Confederation; it is eight years older than the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and twenty years older than the extensive Dominion Experimental Farms System; but it was not established for three-quarters of a century after the first agricultural societies came into existence. We should give every support to these societies, whose roots strike deep into the heart of Canadian agriculture, and whose span of life has extended through all the vicissitudes and changing conditions of agriculture in a new and developing country. That they have survived proves their worth indeed; and that which is worthy is deserving of our support.

Overcoming Handicaps.

BY SANDY FRASER.

I was readin' in a wee book, that I picked up the ither day, that there are four things that will help a man to mak' a success o' his life, an' wi'oot these four things as part o' his general constitution the idea seemed tae be that one might as weel quit tryin' to dae anything. I found out when I got to the end o' the article that it was a quotation from a speech that the new president o' oor great C.P.R. had been makin'. He's some talker, is that Beatty chap, and maist o' the time what he says is a'richt. But this time I hae a mind to argue the point wi' him, since he's na mair than a young chap and maybe

hasn't had ony mair experience than mysel' along some lines, seein' I'm auld enough tae be his uncle onyway.

Weel, the four things that he says ye must hae, to get yersel' onywhere, are first, good health; second, honesty; third, education, and fourth, work.

Noo, I hae naething to say against ony o' the last three qualifications he mentions. Ye'll no' gang far wi'oot honesty. Onyone that has ever tried the ither thing kens that. As for education, if we dinna ken onything ye canna dae onything, there's naething surer than that. While, as for work, there should be na mair than one opinion aboot that. It's only tramps an' such like ill-balanced bodies that dinna consider work the one great necessity for mankind. The one thing that keeps him frae gaein' to the bad entirely and which may become a pleasure as weel as a means o' discipline. That's a'richt. Young Mr. Beatty can navigate the C. P. R. along these lines frae Montreal tae Vancouver wi'oot ony danger o' rinnin' her off the track. But what sticks in my crop is that first condition o' his aboot guid health an' makin' a strong body-o' as muckle importance as a strong mind. And mair, because he pits it first on the list.

It's a'richt to be strong an' healthy, we a' ken that, but the point is that some that were neither hae made oot to get a lot o' guid wark done in the course o' their natural life on this earth. Their poor physical make-up wis juist anither o' the difficulties that they had tae overcome, an' they did it. They maybe didn't get sae muckle fun oot o' their job as some, but they got results, an' that's what counts on Saturday night.

And the thing is that on the ither hand I've known plenty chaps that were as strong an' healthy as a hired man an' at the same time they were as lazy as a pet coon. Gettin' up in the mornin' an' workin' between meals came mighty hard on them. I saw a corn-field the ither day that belonged to one o' these healthy fellows. At least I'm thinkin' it wis a corn-field, for when ye wad look close ye could see a spear o' corn here an' there, makin' a fight for it wi' the weeds. How some men mak' oot tae keep sae fat lookin' an' cheerful an' them raisin' the kind o' crops they do, beats me. Perhaps they think that, if the worst comes, they can den up for the winter like the bear an' live on the flesh they hae been pittin' on all summer.

But what I'm drivin' at is the fact that it's in no kind o' a way necessary for a man to think that because he hasn't a fair share o' health or has some sort o' a handicap along that line, that he canna be expected to dae his part in the wark o' the world.

We ken better. We've heard o' too many o' the men that did guid wark in their day, who were cripples or in bad health or knocked oot in some way or ither, not to ken that where the mind is as strong an active as it should be the body can be carried along some way. But there's lots o' men will lie doon on their jobs when they get a wee bit sick or hae some little accident or other that they think gies them an excuse for not earnin' their ain livin'. I've felt that way mysel' at times when I would be havin' a touch o' the rheumatism or somethin' like that. It tries a mon to keep goin' when he's oot o' whack that way, but there's plenty that are daein' it.

I read a little story along this line juist lately in one o' those Yankee magazines that my niece Jennie will be sending to us noo an' again. It is aboot a chap by the name o' Dowling wha lives oot in Minnesota. He started in life as a poor boy, which gies a fellow a pretty guid chance to mak' something o' himself, I'll admit, but that wis aboot all that luck ever did for him. The rest o' the tricks she played on him were pretty mean ones, I can tell ye. When he wis fourteen years old he went to herding cattle on the plains for a dollar an' a half a head for the season. Everything went weel enough till on towards the end o' October o' that first year. Then one night he an' his bunch o' cattle were caught in a blizzard, like they will be havin' at every opportunity oot in that country. It wis as bad a one o' the kind as they make and ilka farmer in the district lost mair or less o' his live-stock. But this young Dowling chap kept gaein aboot among his herd, knockin' the ice off their faces an' keepin' them movin' until the storm blew itsel' oot. He hadna lost a single head. Ye can see for yersel' that he had the right kind o' stuff in him.

It wis juist shortly after this that he wis caught in anither storm while he wis gaein' to the nearest toon. This blizzard wis worse than the last one he had been through and in the end he lost his way. To mak' a lang story short he cam' oot o' it alive, as ye may guess, but when the doctors got through wi' him he had neither hands or feet. They had all been frozen past recovery. This looked pretty much like a knock-out blow for oor young farmer boy but I'll juist be tellin' ye in a few words what Michael J. Dowling is at the present time, an' a wee bit o' what he has done since that day.

He is president o' one o' the big Banks o' Minnesota as weel as being President o' the Minnesota Bankers' Association. He has been speaker in the Minnesota Assembly, which is anither name for their parliament, I suppose, and while on this job he has made hundreds o' speeches to the crowds o' people that came tae hear him. He wis the chief push in the "Good Roads" business oot there and in his spare time he has a habit o' takin' a run up into the north country an' huntin' all sorts o' big game that can be had there by ony man active enough to get it. He has done juist aboot as much as any man could hae done, an' that wi'oot either hands or feet. A thing like that wad hae made a street beggar oot o' mony a man but it made a Special Commissioner to the Philippines oot o' Michael Dowling. And when they hae some ither hard job that they want done there's na doot that that some chap will get the offer o' it. They ken what he can do for them by what he has done for himsel'.

So, gin ony o' us hae been kickin' aboot oor "handi-

caps" in the way o' poor health or any o' the ither "physical disabilities," as the doctors call them, we can juist think o' some o' the chaps that hae got to the top o' the pile, handicaps an' all, an' ken that it wis as hard goin' for them as it is likely to be for us, to say the least. And onyway, as Dowling himsel' says, "a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight."

Sae there ye are. I think I've proved my point against that Beatty chap an' if ye say I hae I'll no' be bringin' up ony mair evidence juist at present.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M.A.

The International Fisheries Commission has recently handed out its report of the Sockeye Salmon fishery of the Fraser River and this report is of interest not only to those concerned with our fisheries but to all Canadians as the Sockeye is a fish of national importance. The Sockeye is the most valuable of all our fishes, the catch of this species alone in some years reaching a value of over \$8,000,000.

The Fraser is the premier Sockeye stream of the world. Its tributary lakes and streams cover an area larger than that of any other river on the Pacific slope, and under normal conditions the Sockeyes ascend this river and its tributaries to their head-waters.

A curious phenomenon of the Fraser River that has occurred at least since the earliest records—those of its discoverer Simon Fraser in 1806—is an extraordinarily large run of Sockeye every fourth year, in the year following Leap-year, followed by three years of smaller runs, so that the seasons have come to be known as "big years" and "off years."

The Sockeye of the Fraser are predominantly four-year fish, that is they reach maturity and return to the river to spawn when they are four years old. It has been ascertained by Dr. C. H. Gilbert, who for many years has been doing most thorough and valuable work on the Sockeye in British Columbia, that a part of the run of each year consists of three year old, and a part of five year old fish, but that the great majority are four years old.

Commercial fishing for Sockeye began in the Fraser in 1876 and as the market for canned Sockeye increased fishing for them was carried on more intensively. While the runs of the "big years" were so enormous as to show no effect from the heavy catches, the runs of the "off years" soon began to show signs of depletion. There is little to wonder at in this when we consider that the total length of nets employed in the Fraser in 1917 was 445 miles, of which about 400 miles of nets were used in the 15 miles of river between its mouth and the New Westminster bridge, and that before the Sockeye reached the river at all they had to run the gauntlet of 500 purse seines, 200 traps and a large number of gill-nets in the United States waters of the Straits of Juan de Fuca. The success of the fishery, as the small runs became depleted, came to depend more and more on the "big years," several of the canneries being idle in some of the "off years," and more recently some of the canneries have only operated during the "big years." In 1913, however, a disaster occurred which has wiped out the "big years" and the industry thus faces a very serious outlook. In this year, a year of the "big run" blasting operations in connection with the construction of the Canadian Northern Railway roadbed along the Fraser River canon caused a rock-slide which filled in a little bay-like indentation just above the very narrow passage known as Hell's Gate. It was in the back-water of this little bay that the Sockeye used to rest and gather strength after fighting their way through the swift water of the Gate so as to be able to continue their way through the rapid water of the remainder of the canon. When this resting-place was obliterated the fish were entirely unable to make their way through the gate and early in the season of 1913 it was found that thousands and thousands of Sockeyes were congregated below the Gate, wearing themselves to death in efforts to pass through. The British Columbia Department of Fisheries took immediate action, sent the best engineer to the spot, built a temporary fish-way and cleared away the obstruction as rapidly as possible, but this action, prompt as it was, came too late to allow more than a small percentage of the fish to pass up to their spawning grounds. The result is that 1917, which should have been a "big year" had a smaller run than many of the "off years," and international action to save the industry became an obvious necessity.

An International Commission was appointed and after having considered the problem in all its aspects very carefully the Commission has presented its report. A very radical step for the betterment of the industry has been urged, that is the entire cessation of fishing for Sockeye in the Fraser and in the water which the fish traverse on their way to this river for a term of eight years. That this might be effective is probably true, but it can hardly be recommended as a practical measure, as it would not only entail great hardship on the fishermen and canners, but during such a term of years all the gear thus lying idle would become practically useless through disuse. The Commission has recommended several steps which it is hoped will allow of the industry being conducted on a reduced basis for eight years and at the same time will allow the building up of the stock of Sockeyes. These steps are the operating of more hatcheries on the depleted spawning-beds, the extension of the weekly closed-periods (i. e. the time when no fishing is permitted), the restriction in the lengths of nets, and the size of purse-seines, and the blocking of the entrances of traps during the closed-periods. If, after trying out these methods of conservation, it is found that the desired result has not been attained, more radical measures will have to be adopted.

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