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Dominion and Provincial Affairs.

Canadians in Africa.

The Canadian contingent, which was recruited in Canada for service in South Africa, is now on its way to the front of the war, being due to arrive late this month. The soldiers received a magnificent send-off when they sailed. The prevailing feeling has resulted in the government offering the Imperial authorities to send a second contingent to assist England in subduing the Boers. The offer has not yet been accepted, but in case it is, there is no doubt that plenty will offer their services.

This is the first occasion in the country's history when her sons have gone to help in fighting the battles of the empire and whatever opinions may be held as to the justice of the present war, there is no doubt that the country presents a united spectacle. The French-Canadians, however loyal they may be as a people, would certainly be opposed to any time that might result at any time their being called on to fight against France, which they still fondly call their mere patrie. This is not to be wondered at, as blood is always thicker than water. The sending out of Canadian soldiers to South Africa has opened up an important political issue which will undoubtedly come before the next session of the Dominion parliament.

Fathers of Confederation.

The little band of men who framed the constitution of the Dominion and are known as the "fathers of confederation" is gradually disappearing. It has now removed Peter Mitchell B. who was instrumental in bringing his native province into the confederation scheme. Mr Mitchell was an aggressive statesman and in his day much for the Dominion, but in later years he was only a relic of his own self.

Down with This Military Spirit.

By reasonable and proper effort to promote Canadian agriculture and industry will receive the cordial indorsement of F & H, but this paper is utterly opposed to the ideas being propounded by Maj-Gen Hutton, the representative of the British war office in the Dominion. In our Oct 1 issue, reference was made to his address at Toronto fair, in which he said, "The possession of arms was higher and nobler than any other occupation in Canada and that it was more for the Dominion than any other." His statements were clinched by making a strong plea for immense appropriations for enlarging the militia.

A later and similar outbreak is recorded from this gentleman of gold who is now said to be preaching that Canada should be ready at any

time to furnish 50,000 to 100,000 men to fight for the empire.

Loyalty to the empire is all very well, but it is questionable whether the taxpayers of the Dominion will be willing to keep up a huge standing army. The farming community, which generally has to pay the piper, is already heavily enough taxed without having to bear further imposts to keep up an idle military set.

Twenty-Five Dollars Reward.

It is offered for a very little thing. A report on Jan 1, 1900, from the person who has done business with the greatest number of advertisers in this issue of Farm and Home. This issue is of such extraordinary value that I want you all to carefully preserve it and refer to it frequently throughout the year. Keep a memorandum of the date you write any of our advertisers, and what you inquire for or order. Jan 1, next, send us the list, adding also price paid for anything you may buy that is advertised in our Premium List number. The person who has done business with the greatest number of our advertisers will be paid \$25. Be sure to state, in writing our advertisers, that you "saw their ad in Farm and Home Premium List number," so your report may be verified. The prize goes to the person who writes to or does business with the greatest number of our patrons, not the largest amount of business, for that would be manifestly unfair.

Let's Have a "Bracer."

It is natural for men to "feel backward about coming forward," when not as well dressed or as much "slicked up" as their fellows. Perhaps this is why farmers so often take back seats at meetings, or are retiring in public affairs. But it isn't right. Just because our work won't allow us to always wear our Sunday best to town, is no reason why we should be unwisely dissident. Moreover, this sort of thing is apt to make us careless of personal appearances. Many a man whose farm is a thing of beauty is himself unshaven, hair untrimmed, or clothed like a tramp. In fact, most of us would be like that but for the good wife's care. With just a little thought to these things, it is easy enough to correct them. A bit of such care gives us all a better feeling. It is so easy to "run down at the heel like," unless one guards against it.

The Wife's Burden.

"A man always has time to stop by the roadside and gossip or talk politics by the hour, in the busiest time of year," says a city friend of mine who spends much time in farming districts. "While his wife can hardly snatch a minute for rest or recreation from sunrise till late bedtime. The women are much harder worked than the men." How much truth is there in this wholesale accusation? The friend

was speaking of a district in which household help is extremely difficult to get. It is true anywhere that a man's wider range gives him frequent change of scene, which is a rest in itself, and also affords excuse or opportunity for pauses and visits of greater or less length with his fellows. These chances if rightly used are for his advantage as a business man, too. It is easy, though, for him to abuse these privileges by unloading too great a part of his work and care upon the frail shoulders at home. Change, outside air and new faces in reasonable measure do wonders for the wife as well as the husband. They cost less than doctor's bills, and they count in the health and power of the next generation.

By the Way.

Good nature is worth dollars and cents, whether in the horse, the cow, or their owner.

No use to know how to run a farm right unless you try to do it. Lack of gumption is as bad as lack of knowledge.

The greatest luck of some dull farmers is that they had enterprising fathers. The sons knew just enough to jog along in the ruts.

The Dominion is all alive with enthusiasm over the departure of local troops for the Transvaal. Imperial federation of England and her colonies is already accomplished in the hearts of the people, if not yet on our statute books.

The gospel of hope never hurt any one especially one who kept right on working.

Patronize home industry. Note the ads of several of our most enterprising Canadian firms on Page 458, last issue, and on Page 509 of this number. Write them, stating that you saw their ad in F & H. This will be to your advantage as well as ours.

"I like your Canadian F & H because it is 'botted down.' We don't have to read through square yards of paper to get the meat—there's meat in every line." Our Quebec friend is dead right. We shall keep at it. No wonder F & H has more subscribers than most of the other Canadian agricultural papers put together.

There wasn't an inch nor a line in our great premium list number, from cover to cover, which was not interesting and worth while. It is the sort of publication which is preserved for reference, and enjoyed the year around.

The men and women who "got there" without mortgaging their farm are in for the prizes this time. There are 25 prizes of over a hundred dollars in cash for those who most clearly explain how they accomplished it. The first prize is \$25. Full particulars were given in the premium list number of Farm and Home, Oct 15. As remarked there, it is the facts we want, never mind about the rhetoric, the grammar or the penmanship.

Canadian Farm Affairs.

IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO.

There never has been such a demand for pure bred Shorthorn cattle as there is in western Ont at the present time. The townships have been scoured by buyers, and every animal that could be secured at a reasonable price has changed hands. Manitoba and the territories have secured the greater portion, but quite a number of shipments have been made to the states. In face of the fact that dairying has been profitable the past year, Durham, the king of the beef breeds, has never had such a boom.

There is a good deal of dissatisfaction among farmers who supply milk to creameries in towns and several of the small cities. The proprietors have a cinch only enjoyed by the great monopolies. A man comes along and interviews the farmers. He informs them that he is going to start a creamery in town and that he will make the butter and draw the milk at a certain price to be deducted from the sale of the butter. The pay is by test. The proprietor... does the testing. The farmers have not the technical knowledge nor the special instrument required for the test. One party to the transaction has to go it blind. The checks are made out in payment for so many pounds of butter fat at so much a pound. The price varies, as the proprietor fixes the market price of butter. This is all the farmer knows about the account. The proprietor gets mad when asked to show his books and wants to know if he is a thief? All summer long very little butter is made at these factories. A delivery wagon is on the road from early morning until late at night, selling cream and milk. If the proprietors of the factories who do business on this plan are honest now they are not likely to preserve their honesty for any great length of time. Some of the more intelligent farmers feel that they would be guilty of a misdemeanor by being a party to a transaction of such a character. The result will be that the farmers will start several co-operative creameries the coming year and put men in to run them who will keep books they can have properly audited and know whether or not they are getting pay for their milk.

One cheering sign of the times in Ontario is the demand for farms, and the increase in value caused thereby. A farm sold near Waterloo Nov 1 at \$102 p a and another at \$2. In Elgin county several farms which have been on the hands of loan companies for several years have been sold lately at a higher price than heretofore asked.

There does not appear to be any inclination on the part of Canadian farmers to organize. The Patron movement swept over the country like a whirlwind and dealt a fatal blow to all other farmers' organizations. A small remnant of the grange still exists, but it does not appear to possess enough recuperative power to "arise from its ashes" and again bring the farmer under its aegis. There are numbers of grange halls throughout the country which once were well filled monthly by farmers and their families, which now only harbor bats and bad boys. The Patron movement collapsed and left farmers to do the best they could for themselves individually in a world where everybody else was organized against them. Would it not be possible

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