

Guide-Advocate

WATFORD, JULY 16, 1920.

The Young Folks on the Farm

An eastern farm paper prints a long series of verses purporting to be the explanation by a farmer's son of why he left the farm and went to the city. The gist of his argument is found in the following:—

I left my dad, his farm, his plough,
Because my calf became his cow;
I left my dad—'twas wrong, of course—
Because my colt became his horse.
I left my dad to sow and reap,
Because my lamb became his sheep;
I dropped my hoe and snuck my fork,
Because my pig became his pork.
The garden truck that I made grow
Was his to sell and mine to hoe.

The verses give a true picture of the old days, but it is a picture of the past and not the present. Ontario farmers are learning to take their sons and daughters into partnership, for the reason that neither son nor daughter is likely to leave a going and profitable business. Only when the boy has been treated as a hired worker, and received little aside from his board and clothing, will the lure of the city and regular wages be strong enough to take him from the farm.

COMMUNICATIONS.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinion expressed by correspondents.]

TO THE EDITOR:

At the next general election, we shall have to choose a course for the future. That choice involves both external relations and the means by which we expect to pay our way. No more vital matters have ever depended on the result of any election. The more the voter informs himself and casts aside prejudices, the more likely he is to help in arriving at a sound and workable policy.

External circumstances and the play upon them of interests remote from ours have hitherto decided our destiny without our knowledge. The American Civil War, our South African War and the World War are cases in point.

Most wars are made possible by some underlying condition so important that hostilities prefer to stake everything rather than make concessions to opponents.

The Southern States exported cotton and were not manufacturing. The North was largely manufacturing and cheap freight carriers were not yet known. Cotton was the exportable cash crop that paid interest on debt and put the Union funds in Europe for most purposes.

The South could live with free trade to cash the note within the Union. The North had no such choice. With its vast system of unobstructed internal trade, there was no future before the north comparable with that promised by the Union.

This promise time made good and incidentally showed that the South would have done better not to have elected for secession. At the time, however, the South thought it could separate without disadvantage and the North knew it could not let the South go. Except for this underlying circumstance, the war could not have happened, and the passions, politics, literature, eloquence and military glory of that epoch are best understood when it is borne in mind.

It was the Civil War and the way it ended that brought about Confederation. The end found France with an army in Mexico trying to set up an Empire under the auspices of Napoleon III., and Great Britain had one in Canada. There were in American minds grievances against both. The French in Mexico were a menace and a violation of the Monroe Doctrine. Against the English were claims for ships sunk by the Alabama and for enormous indirect damages for interference with trade. General Grant was at the head of 98,000 well equipped and victorious soldiers. Napoleon III. withdrew from Mexico and Great Britain largely withdrew from Canada her troops and stores, retaining the naval stations.

Some disposal had to be made of Canada. She was exposed to be the scene of a battle if the Alabama claims were not settled and the indirect claims amounted to a sum impossible to pay except as tribute to a conqueror.

It was believed at Washington that Great Britain would withdraw all troops and stores and arrange for a plebiscite throughout Canada as to union with the States. Sir Edward Thornton, the British Ambassador, was the source of the belief. The plebiscite and the union would be a payment in full of the Alabama claims. Meantime Canada was Federated and was to undertake her own defence.

An alternative plan was based on General Grant's humanity and common sense. It involved throwing overboard the indirect claims and payment of the direct only. The indirect damages were ruled out of court at the Geneva Arbitration by the adroit and friendly action of the American representative. Canada remained in a state of suspended animation politically until her future was decided as it then was by the liberty of action which President Grant allowed to the representative of the United States on the Arbitration Commission at Geneva in 1872.

Not contemplating any foreign wars and recognizing both the power and the good will of the United States, Sir John Macdonald did not at any time spend upon troops or armament more than a nominal sum. His emphatic refusal of money to the Soudan Campaign and Cartwright's saying "Canada owes nothing to Great Britain except a good deal of Christian forgiveness," can best be understood in the light of what had happened. Canada's existence and her being the battlefield in a quarrel not of her

making both hung in the balance and were decided by the action of others. She had no decisive word as to her destiny.

The Boer War arose out of a private and money making ambition. Going north from Cape Town along the high lands which stretch to the Soudan were Cape Colony, the Boer Republics and Rhodesia, the latter being a private speculation with a charter, stock and bonds and the temptations and difficulties incident to that kind of an enterprise. The Boer Republics were the seat of great mining companies that wished for forced native labor in the mines. The Rhodesian Company would be benefited or at all events better advertised by being on a trunk line railway. Hence the Cape to Cairo cry and the Jamieson Raid. The mining interests and the Rhodesian Company fell out just as the raid started because the former wished to preserve and dominate the Boer Republics and thus make their own labor conditions a thing they were not likely to be able to do if the Republics become Colonies.

These intrigues and the interests behind them were wholly remote from Canada and we were ignorant of them except through highly colored labors of the Boers and their Government as furnished gratuitously to our press by the propaganda of their adversaries. The raid, however, led to the South African War which mattered enormously to us. That war did what Jamieson failed to do and what the mining interests were adverse to doing. It wiped out the Boer Republics. It did not produce a Cape to Cairo Railway nor forced labor for the mines. As is often the case, the conquerors stepped into the troubles of the conquered and could not find any new solution. Kruger beaten and dead had his judgement vindicated by events. The Dutch majority had to be recognized as predominant. No forced labour was available for the mines. The railway, after twenty years, is yet to come. From beginning to end of this war, Canada's part was to furnish troops, not to consider the policy that led to it nor the conduct of it nor the final solution.

The world war is recent. In the diplomacy that led up to it, Canada had no part. Without full details it is known that the situation was brought about in which if Russia went to war, France had to go in. If France went in, England had to go in, and so had Canada. Of military and political conditions in Russia, we knew nothing. Sir Edward Grey admits he did not know of the agreement between France and Russia, but only what passed between France and Great Britain. Canada did not even know that, but France and Russia knew both ends. The action of the Russian War Office in disobeying the Czar's order to stop mobilizing precipitated the German declaration of war. The moral responsibility is not here the question. The point is that for years it lay in the power of anyone who could gain the ear of the Russian autocrat to dispose of Canada's future and the lives of thousands of her citizens.

Sir John Macdonald, as is well known, desired to call Canada a Kingdom, not a

Dominion. It was not a mere fancy as to names. He foresaw many many risks and would have made provision against them. As a Kingdom, Canada would have ranked with other Kingdoms. It would have conducted its own foreign affairs. Its subjects would not have been Canadians in Canada and British subjects outside, but Canadian subjects within or without. Last but not least, no one serving her could have been in doubt that his sole duty was to her. It would not have been possible as it is now for an able and conscientious public servant to feel that it is his duty to place the Empire first and Canada second.

No words are strong enough to impress upon the voter the importance of making up his mind as to our status as a nation and being represented by someone, who thinks as he does. The situation created by the Peace Treaty is an artificial one, giving weight to some factors, ignoring others. France insisting on her position in Europe with a diminished population and relying partly on negro troops may not receive the sympathy she did as the victim of 1870. The seventy-five millions of German speaking people even if split up over several states are still the most important commercial group on the continent. For centuries they held back the Slav from Europe. Now large Slav states have been created in Central Europe, whose racial affiliations are with Russia. The heading off of German enterprise from the west and from over sea must result in a change of the role hitherto played by the Germans and they may cultivate these new Slav States and Russia as well.

We can only see dimly what is emerging from the Peace Treaty and only the high spots through the fog, but enough to see a very unstable and doubtful future. We have with a diminished population and the same possibilities for trouble as went with the Cape to Cairo cry. Here are independent states on the route just as were the Boer Republics. The only difference this time is that it is oil and not gold mines.

The Poles are making the first use of their liberty in conquering countries two hundred miles beyond the limits of Polish-speaking lands. As their country was a battle ground twice over, they must get the sinews of war from one or other of the great powers who so recently pledged us to peace.

The French show their disregard for the League by enforcing their own views of the Treaty with their own troops, and of public opinion by using negro troops. They show us what future they look for by introducing conscription in their negro colonies.

A turn of the wheel and we may be off again to prop up the watered stock of Land or Oil Companies in Persia to save the Poles from their own folly or to put down French Militarism in Central Africa. A little social recognition among prominent and piable people, a little suppression of truth and expansion of falsehood in the news, the bait of large gains spread before profiteers and a slight im-

perialistic bias at Ottawa would be enough. A timed outburst in a subsidized press appealing to our compassion showing us moral obliquity in the intended enemy and lauding the fighting capacity of our young men would fire the mine. We should never forget that the appeal pretended to have been made from Johannesburg to save the women and children there, an appeal with which our press wrung the country's soul with horrible memories of the Indian Mutiny was signed in Cape Town a month before hand, the date being left blank so that Dr. Jamieson could fill it in to correspond with the starting of the raid.

No oil field or gold mines in any country have ever produced two billions of dollars in five years or supported half a million of troops. If the people who can do these things are too simple to suspect false news, too inert to wish to understand foreign events and at the same time susceptible to flattery and social influences, they may expect to be exploited. Most Canadians say "never again," but to be safe, we need abroad something different from a desk in the office of a British Ambassador, we need to get our information at the source and to weigh it ourselves, knowing how it was come by.

Any political party can afford to make "entire and direct control of our Foreign Affairs" a plank in its platform. All candidates should be made to pledge themselves to it.

C. S. CAMPBELL,
Bedford, P.Q., May 30th, 1920.

WANT COLUMN.

USED PULLEYS and Belting for sale. Bargain prices.—G. CHAMBERS EST.

LOST—On July 6th, from near Arkona, 1 bay mare, 1 bay horse, pacer, no shoes.—W. R. HOLMES, Arkona.

Found—Several weeks ago, a gold stick pin. Owner may have same by proving property and paying for this ad. Apply to Mrs. J. H. Jackson, Huron st.

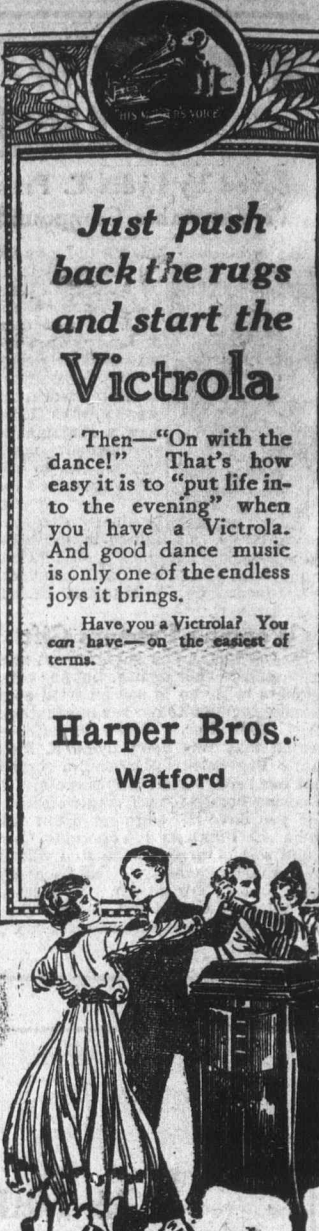
MRS. LOWRY will have a house on St. Clair st. at rent at the end of July. Also three dwelling houses for sale. Apply by letter to Watford postoffice. 3

LIVE HORSES BOUGHT at the highest price, also injured horses.—LETT Bros., fur ranchers, lot 18, con. 13, Brooke; Rural phone 48-21. Watford P. O. Phone messages at our expense.

WORK WANTED—All kinds of repairs done to Furniture, Cabinets, etc., or Upholstered. Bring your work to me or I will call for it and give estimate. Terms reasonable. Phone 85j. jllf J. TOMLIN, Erie St.

TEACHER WANTED

FOR S.S. No. 17, BROOKE. Duties to commence Sept. 1st. Apply, stating salary and qualifications, to E. H. SHIRLEY, Sec., R.R. 3, Watford.



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WATCH FOR THIS!



In the next issue, July 30th, we will tell our friends and customers in this space how they may receive absolutely free 1 share of 8% preferred stock in the Hamilton Carhartt Cotton Mills, makers of Carhartt Overalls.



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