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EDITORIAL.

To celebrate war victories is always liable to engender a mischievous combative spirit. Peace is the real triumph. Celebrate peace.

Instead of three R's, three H's constitute the nomenclature of the new education—the Hand, the Head, the Heart.

Having corralled enough moisture to grow a good crop, the next difficulty was to secure enough help to harvest it.

The idea that anybody can dig ditches is, like many other popular impressions, a popular delusion. Of course, anyone with main strength can throw out dirt, but to do it without wasting effort, achieving a neat, smooth-bottomed, V-shaped trench, is a fine art, and fast becoming a lost one.

Objection is raised to the reciprocity arrangement on the ground that it will, by opening another market for Northwest wheat, cause farmers to pursue a poor system of husbandry. This implies a rather low estimate of the intelligence and foresight of the Canadian farmer, who must, therefore, be kept in leading strings, and directed where and what to sell, as well as what to buy.

Many honest persons, in their innocence, wonder why such diseases as typhoid spread so mysteriously. Anyone really informed on such matters, observing the criminal carelessness in respect to privies, water supply, etc., cannot but marvel at these diseases being comparatively rare. Write F. T. Shutt, Chemist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, for directions how to take and send a sample of drinking water for chemical analysis.

"Kindly tell me the name of the enclosed weed. Is it perennial?"

"SUBSCRIBER."

Such is the nature of inquiries we occasionally receive, and such the nom-de-plume attached. Supposing two people sent us weeds, and both signed "Subscriber." One answer might appear one week, and the other later. Manifestly, there is danger of confusion and the taking of wrong advice by one or both parties. For this and other reasons, inquirers are requested to append their initials for publication, giving, also, for our own information, the full name and post-office address.

The greatest disaster of the drouth, in our opinion, is the burning up of the new-seeded clover. A moist, cool summer from now out is the only hope, and in many fields even such redemption will have come too late. Considering the feed virtue and soil-improving value of clover, we would prefer to lose a crop of oats than a catch of seeds. The crop of oats is for one season only. The results of clover failure will continue years ahead, though, being a minus quantity, they may pass unobserved. The question now is, whether, by sowing of timothy seed, the stand may be thickened sufficiently to make it worth leaving the seedling, thus saving what clover remains. Experience of readers on this point is invited.

If more farmers would have seed tested for purity and germination, they would be money ahead. Wishing to sow a little Kentucky blue grass seed about the buildings this spring, we secured a sample from a prominent firm of seedsmen in London, Ont., and had it tested in the Seed Laboratory, Ottawa. The examination discovered so many weed seeds that we did not have the order filled. Recently we received from Ottawa the results of the germination test, which reveal that only 17 per cent. of the blue-grass seed had germinated in 14 days, and only 27 per cent. in 28 days.

It is habitual to dread the unknown. In the reciprocity discussion we have witnessed the anomalous situation of American farmers fearing Canadian competition, and quite a minority of Canadian producers predicting injury as the result of American competition. Both magnify the competition, and both are wrong. As well the New York farmer dread his Michigan cousin, or the Ontario farmer the habitant of Quebec. Let reciprocity come into force, and international competition will be no more feared than interprovincial. The easier access to natural markets will doubtless benefit many farmers of each country in the long run.

General Wm. H. Bixby, United States Chief of Engineers, says the battleship Maine was blown up by the explosion of three of her magazines, and that no such effect as that produced upon the vessel could have been caused by an explosion from without. And yet the cry, "Remember the Maine," carrying, as it did, an insinuation of Spanish machination, was the exciting slogan which inflamed the American people and led to the Spanish-American war. Which is another example of the fact that war is a product of blind passion, rather than sober judgment and reason. Nations need a ballast of moderation and common sense to safeguard them against sudden stampede to the beating of the jingoists' war drums. This ballast is one of the strongest temperamental assets of the British people, though even Britons could profitably cultivate more of it. Incidentally, it may be noted that possession of great war engines is a standing temptation for nations to fly off in a passion at each other's throats.

One of the best methods of increasing interest in live stock is to give the farm boys a chance to judge some of the stock at the shows, particularly the larger ones. The Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Kentucky is giving this year a scholarship worth \$100 to the farm boy who has never been to college, and who shows the most ability in judging live stock at the State fair. The college students are also remembered, \$100 being offered to them for prizes in judging. This is a very commendable departure, and is worthy of being copied by the larger exhibitions in this country. There are many farm boys who would be glad of a chance to show their ability in placing live stock, and many of these boys could use a scholarship in our agricultural colleges to good advantage. No doubt the scholarship plan is one of the best, but, no matter what form the prize may take, such a contest serves the purpose of creating, intensifying and maintaining interest in live stock; and when the boys take an interest in stock they will endeavor to improve their own animals.

A Protective League.

A story of highly efficient agricultural organization is being unfolded page by page in Mr. Dewar's well-written and valuable articles on the citrus industry of California. This week's chapter tells of the Citrus Protective League, a strong and widely-supported body of orange and lemon-growers, whose main object is to handle public-policy questions that affect the industry as a whole, also helping and advising on questions of orchard and packing-house management, but leaving actual business negotiation to its senior organization, the California Fruit-growers' Exchange.

Co-operation among the California citrus growers, as in practically every other case where it has conspicuously succeeded, was born of desperate conditions. Success in co-operative marketing paved the way for the Protective League, which was organized in 1906 to grapple with the freight rate, tariff, and similar issues. Success has been undoubtedly favored by the fact that the citrus industry is geographically compact, and prosecuted by men who operate on a sufficiently large scale to give them business training, at the same time smoothing out individual idiosyncrasies which so often snarl co-operative effort.

The record of achievements so lucidly set forth by Mr. Dewar might well arouse emulation among Canadian farmers and fruit-growers. The reduction of freight rates from \$1.25 to \$1.15 per cwt., saving shippers \$28 to \$30 a car, followed by a further reduction of icing charges, and a recent victory through the Interstate Commerce Commission regarding pre-cooling and pre-icing of refrigerator cars, are conspicuous examples of the power of organization. Again, the energetic action leading to the extermination of the white fly, which threatened the citrus groves, compels our admiration and appeals to business judgment. Such services are a benefit to the country at large, economizing the production and distribution of a valuable food product. Not quite so satisfactory, though none the less indicative of the power of union, is the account of how the League, although opposed by the rich importers of the East, secured an increase of half a cent a pound in the duty on lemons, and a maintenance of the duty on oranges. Whilst no one will waste much sympathy on the foiled importers, the public should not fail to read about the strenuous battle of the railroads to divide with the growers the spoils of protection by assessing higher freight rates; nor will they miss Mr. Dewar's statement, in another article, that he had bought second-class California oranges as cheap in Canada, where there is free trade in that product, as he could buy small, third-class oranges in California, the State where they are produced, but where there is tariff protection of a cent a pound. Of course, the idea of a protected home market looks sugary enough to the California orange and lemon grower, but from the standpoint of the American Republic as a whole, it would be more encouraging to find the League concentrating its efforts upon economy and education, leaving tariff juggling alone. In the long run, the growers would be as well off, and the general public much better. To bring the case home to Canada, while heartily welcoming co-operation, we should look with grave misgivings upon a tender-fruit-growers' combine which would dictate customs tariffs and run the price of early peaches up from 75 cents to a dollar a basket, while similar goods were laid down in New York or London at an equivalent net price of sixty cents. There is ample room in