

CURRENT TOPICS.

The new world of the twentieth century in Canada's fertile northland on the Arctic slope, The Canadian prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta have nearly reached the 100,000,000 bushel mark of annual wheat production, and there is also being produced nearly a million bushels of other grains annually. The tract of country from which this enormous yield of grain is being produced is practically confined to what has been known in past years as the fertile belt. The limit of product on in this area is far from being reached. In the country north of this is a great clay belt estimated to contain at least 10,000 square miles, where all the ordinary vegetables and harder grains can be grown. There are other sources of wealth here. About eleven years ago there was bred on the Athabasca, 170 miles north of Edmonton, a prospect hole looking for natural gas. The gas came in such force as to stop the operations, and this was the largest known in the world, has been burning continually ever since. Up and down the Athabasca, above and below this point, are remarkable deposits of oil sands, as they are called, which, if utilized, would furnish paving material in abundance.

Moreover, there is indisputable evidence of enormous wealth in petroleum, which is oozing out as it has done through centuries has caused these strange deposits. In the vicinity of the tar sands, along the Athabasca, also are extensive deposits of salt, where it can be taken from the surface in great masses, pure white. Along the banks of the lower Mackenzie for many miles are great areas of burning coal. When the discoverer of this river, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, passed down about 1780 the same coal was burning, and it never has stopped since. The country is so large and so little known that no one could say what hidden sources of wealth there may be. In view of the development of Cobalt, from an unmarked spot in the wilderness seven years ago to the greatest silver mining district in the world it is difficult to predict the possibilities of this great unexpected country north of the Saskatchewan. Last winter in Ottawa the statement was made before a committee of the senate that in the north of Edmonton, extending down the Peace river as far as wheat production is possible, there is a tract of country fit for settlement as great as that now settled west of Winnipeg.

Statistics deal directly with facts, but the facts may be differently interpreted, and possibly there will be much diversity in the reasoning on the statistics of suicide that are presented by George Kennan in an article in McClure's Magazine. There will be general agreement with the author, however, upon certain points that he emphasizes and general interest in the figures, statements and explanations that he offers for consideration.

Mr. Kennan finds that suicide is especially prevalent between the 45th and 55th parallels of north latitude, the number within these parallels being 172 to the million, and the largest number outside being ninety-three to the million. The annual number of suicides is about 10,000 in the United States and about 70,000 in all Europe. It is increasing rapidly everywhere, and in the United States it has increased from twelve in the million in 1881 to 126 in the million in 1907. Climate, Mr. Kennan says, has little or nothing to do with it, but season and weather a great deal. Contrary to the general impression, suicides are least numerous in December and most numerous in June, and far more numerous in the clear and beautiful days of June than in its wet or cloudy days.

The suicide rate is always reduced by any great and absorbing public calamity or excitement. This is universally true of wars, but was just as marked in connection with the destruction of San Francisco. The suicidal impulse increases rapidly from childhood to old age. It is much higher among the officers and soldiers or sailors of armies and navies than among any other people. The rate is higher among physicians, lawyers, journalists, teachers and all professional men except clergymen than among other classes. There are fewer suicides by far among women than among men.

By a comparison of the north of Ireland with the south of Ireland, and the Protestant cantons of Switzerland with its Catholic cantons, Mr. Kennan shows that suicides are much more common among Protestants than Catholics. In Switzerland they are four to one. It is more common among all Christians than among Jews and Mohammedans. It is impracticable to give all of the writer's conclusions, but his most significant comment is that appearances seem to teach "that suicide is a by-product of the great complicated machine that we call civilization."

THE CANADIAN ORDER OF FORESTIERS

THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION OF HIGH COURT.

The Most Prosperous Year for the Order in its History — A Large Delegation in Attendance.

The twenty-ninth annual session of the High Court of the Canadian Order of Foresters opened in the city of Niagara Falls on June 9, 1908, with a large number in attendance, including High Court officers and delegates representing subordinate courts of every Province of the Dominion. After the usual opening ceremonies and the appointment of the several standing committees, the High Court officers submitted their reports, which showed the order to be in a most robust condition. The progress made by the order during the past year far surpassed that of any previous year of its history.

The High Chief Ranger, J. A. Stewart of Perth, Ont., after extending a hearty welcome to the representatives present, submitted his report, which was replete with facts and figures relating to the growth and extension of the order during the past year.

On the 1st of January, 1907, the order had a membership of 64,655, and there were initiated during the year 7,912 new members, being an increase of 7.1 over the previous year. During 1907, 2,134 members lapsed and 409 died, leaving a net membership at the close of the year of 68,424.

The increase in the insurance reserve of the order during the year amounted to \$251,818.42. On January 1st, 1907, the amount on hand in this branch was \$2,174,872.45, and at the close of the year \$2,426,690.87. The amount paid in death claims was \$412,295.24.

The Sick and Funeral Benefit Department is also in a flourishing condition. During the year no less a sum than \$134,418.44, covering 5,903 claims, was paid in this branch. The amount of the credit of this fund at the close of the year was \$112,867.48.

The High Chief Ranger in concluding his address, expressed the hope that the meeting would be a pleasant one for the members and a profitable one for the order, and that the large volume of business transacted through the head office at Brantford.

The amount of insurance premiums received during the year was \$75,316.29, which with the interest on the reserve account made the total receipts in this branch \$665,149.96. There were 409 death claims paid, amounting to \$413,331.54, leaving the sum of \$251,818.42 to carry to the reserve fund, which at the close of the year was \$2,426,690.87.

The Sick and Funeral Benefit Branch of the order also showed a marked advance. The amount of fees received during the year was \$151,650.01, and interest \$2,159.81. The total receipts amounted to \$153,809.82. There were 5,903 claims paid, amounting to \$134,418.44, leaving \$19,431.38 to carry to the reserve fund, which at the close of the year amounted to \$112,867.48.

There were 68,424 members in good standing at the close of the year, carrying \$69,653,560.00 insurance.

There were issued from the High Secretary's office 8,064 insurance certificates and 7,965 membership certificates, or a total of 16,029, and in addition there were endorsements made on 1,455 insurance certificates.

The report of Robert Elliott, High Treasurer, showed the funds of the order to be in a most satisfactory condition. The receipts in the several funds were: Insurance, \$665,149.96; Sick and funeral benefit fund, \$153,809.82; general fund, \$91,669.93; total receipts, \$910,669.71. The total expenditure in these funds amounted to \$642,867.63. The surplus income over expenditure amounted to \$267,802.02.

The total assets of the order amounted to \$2,587,037.70, and its liabilities \$33,976.68. Assets over liabilities, \$2,553,061.02.

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DON'T EAT WHITE MEN.

Preference of Pacific Cannibals Based on Superstition. It was only recently that news came out of the western Pacific of the killing of a missionary on one of the Solomon Islands to be the funeral baked meat of a cannibal feast.

Private advices from the official charged with the investigation of the murder comment upon the probability that the cannibalism in this region had been kindled, the writer said, by trespassing upon the sacred precincts of one of the native secret societies while their solemn mummery was in progress, due warning of which had been given by the deep reverberation made by energetic swinging of the bull roarer.

But there was no evidence of any sort to offset the statement made by the murderers that they had not eaten the white man. Their statement found confirmation in the condition of such of the bones as were recovered, for each had been brought to a high polish and stained with turmeric to a brilliant yellow.

The charge of eating white men seems very hard to down. Even now, when every one should know better, it is by no means unusual to find the statement made by the Hawaiians at Kealakekua that Capt. Cook, yet they were not cannibals at all.

In the western Pacific, where cannibalism is constantly practiced except under the immediate eye of white men, it is natural to be suspicious of practitioners of such gastronomy. Yet it is highly improbable that a white man, who might be killed in the most jovial way by these savages, would ever be eaten by them.

Here is a piece of testimony on the subject from a seafaring German who has lived for thirty years and more among these cannibals of the Pacific, Herr Parkinson of the Bismarck Archipelago.

"During my long residence in these islands," he writes, "I have not yet been able to establish a satisfactory connection in a single case in which white men, though but here, have actually been eaten by the Melanians. The bodies of the murdered have often enough been discovered and simple peeps sent to remind the cannibals of their crime, but the eating of any of these portions no definite information can be had.

"It seems quite difficult to comprehend why the cannibal who eats his own kind should reject the white man as an article of food. Yet if we consider the senseless superstition of the Melanians, which in my opinion has driven him to cannibalism, because through eating the bodies of the slain he expects to come into a full enjoyment of all the powers of his white man, thus does it become comprehensible that he will not eat the body of a white man whom he has killed because of his belief that the spirit of the murdered man will exert an influence over him which he does not at all regard as desirable.

"The late King Gord of the Shortland Islands once told me in answer to my question the not particularly flattering reason 'Spirit belong all white man no good.' In general one receives the reply that the white man as meat does not taste good. This I hold to be a subterfuge under which the sly native hides his dread of the spirit of the slain."

FRANKNESS WITH DAUGHTERS.

Playing at hide-and-seek with our daughters is such a mistake. We cannot blind ourselves to the fact that she is changing daily, that every day adds to her development. We must be aware that each month and each year which rolls over her head carries her closer to womanhood. We know that she does not look upon life at seventeen as she looked upon it at fourteen, and she knows that we know it. It is no use for us to try to deny it. It is still a child, never gives a thought to such things. Elsie is not a child any longer, and the sooner we cease playing at her better it will be for us both. We want the broad, full light of day upon all our thoughts and all our deeds where our daughters are concerned. Ideally, she must be heart of our heartiest and soul of our souls. If we would see her develop into true, noble womanhood with a mind far above petty things, subterfuge and deceit.—Gabrielle E. Jackson.

ON THE FARM.

RAPE AS A FORAGE CROP.

Pastures will, in many districts, be short this year, owing to failure of the clover seeding last year, and the stock being turned out earlier this spring than usual, because of the shortage of feed in the barns. It will, for these reasons, be necessary, in many cases, to provide some forage crop to supplement the grass pasture and the hay crop as well. For the latter purpose, millet, or a mixture of oats and peas, will probably be as suitable and profitable as anything available, but the seeding of these will be more expensive than usual on account of the advanced market prices. For forage, there is no seeding as cheap as rape, the seed of which seldom runs higher than eight to ten cents per pound, while two or four pounds per acre is a sufficient seeding. For hogs, lambs and calves, or other young cattle, there is no better pasture than rape, though it is not suitable for milking cows, owing to its effect upon the flavor of the milk. The seed of rape is almost exactly similar to that of turnips, and may be sown with a turnip drill or the grass-seeding attachment of a grain drill, or broadcasted by hand or with the grass seeder. If sown in drills with the grain drill, all the openings except two must be plugged, and the rubber tubes for these directed to the holes the proper distance apart, say 24 to 30 inches, to admit of horse hoeing, which will greatly help the crop and keep it free from the rosettes of moisture by weeding. Rape may be sown any time in June or July, and in good soil, well prepared, in a favorable season, will be fit for pasture in six to eight weeks. It is well not to turn stock, except hogs, on it if it is eight or ten weeks old, as it is better for cattle and sheep if higher than this, as it is when the stalks attain the size of a man's finger, that the feed is the most palatable and nourishing. It is especially useful as a late fall pasture, lambs and calves flourish on it right up to snow fall, as frost does not injure, but rather improves its feeding value. On rich clean land a good crop of rape may be obtained by sowing the seed broadcast and covering it lightly with the harrow. For this seeding, about four pounds per acre is sufficient, but when sown in drills two pounds is quite sufficient. From the middle of June to the first of July, as a rule, the best time to sow, but in a showery season a barley stubble plowed down after the crop is harvested, and the land brought to a fine tilth by harrow and immediately after the plow, and repeated use of the harrow and roller, may produce a considerable crop of rape for late pasture. Rape may be successfully grown on an upland soil prepared by rolling immediately after the plowing and harrowed repeatedly to secure a fine seed bed, rolled again before sowing. A thin layer covered grass pasture, after being eaten down, may, in this way, be utilized for a crop of rape. Stock should at first be allowed to graze on it, to allow them some of the range of a grass pasture. Ewes or older sheep are more liable to bloat on rape than are lambs, which are very seldom affected in that way. If rape is sown in drills, and there is no better plan, it is better to sow it with a double-mouldboard plow, cultivation by means of the horse hoe should commence as soon as the plants are easily traced in the line of the row. This will destroy all weeds while young, and will stimulate the rapid growth of the crop. Shallow but frequent cultivation should follow at intervals.

THE DAIRY COW A WONDERFUL CREATURE.

Building up a dairy herd is not so easy to a man who has not the things ready made to his hands. It is this representative of the great American class of farmers, who are content to be bred in the sweat of his face, who can ill afford to make mistakes. He is the average, brave hearted, struggling burden bearer who ever should have concern that any message that is sent may reach him, says W. F. McSparran, Penn. To his mind, I have heard given the advice to sell and invest the proceeds in as many good cows as they will buy; but buying is the very last way to get good ones. My advice to such a man would be to get into shape to feed his cows a good full ration for a whole year.

A cow may be better than she looks or worse than she looks; the only way to tell one is to live with her. Get rid of the poor ones—they take the bread out of our mouths but the more promising ones may surprise you with judicious feeding. Put them to the test; shelter them from storms; be kind to them; don't try to half starve them on a half dry pasture but give them full round year ration. Send your scrub bull to the butcher and get the best of your breed that you can buy. The dairy cow is a wonderful creature. From the food she eats she must maintain her physical well being, nourish her young and furnish milk for her master.

SAVE THE BOYS.

Boys should be taught, at least by the time they are sent to school, something of the nature of the body, of the temptations they will have to face, and of the fearful consequences to body and soul of yielding to sin. Parents will now find that they have to contend against serious and powerful competitors for the confidence of their own children.

Lots of men are so contrary that they would refuse to take whiskey if the doctor prescribed it.

Fashion Hints.

FADS AND FANCIES.

This is a dry and a season of coats. Rows of face now have a touch of color embroidery. There is nothing English about new fashions; they are altogether French. Noisy accessories as a rule accompany the quietest of the new tailor modes. Parasols of pink lined tan linen with white tips and handles are pretty and fashionable.

The long coat is called the pelerite. The prettiest variation of it is in colored muslin. A necklace and bracelet of amethysts, connected with gold chains, have ear-rings to match.

Two silver quilts, caught with a rosset of tulle, can be arranged in many different ways in the hair. One of the smartest fashions of the summer is the long, half-rose, ornate coat worn over thin lingerie gowns.

The noisy waistcoat and hat are worn with the quietest and neatest of suits, in fine black or navy or gray herringbone serge. The turn-over collar is as fashionable as ever with a shirt waist or shirt waist suit, but it does not belong to the juniper.

The guimpe for summer dress will be pretty made of embroidered red felt net, of embroidered batiste or swiss, or of sheer lawn with a lace finish. Rape may be sown any time in June or July, and in good soil, well prepared, in a favorable season, will be fit for pasture in six to eight weeks. It is well not to turn stock, except hogs, on it if it is eight or ten weeks old, as it is better for cattle and sheep if higher than this, as it is when the stalks attain the size of a man's finger, that the feed is the most palatable and nourishing.

It is natural that as soon as all the coral tones became the ultra-fashion, the revival of coral jewelry would begin; it is now in full force. The new conventional sailor is a little higher in crown than formerly, but the brim is about the same. The new ribbon is a special feature.

Narrow silk cravats, with long fringed ends of small silk covered acorns are frequently the magnet to attract the eye to a modish confection of net and lace. Some of the hats have such balloon, bomb, tumbler and cone-shaped crowns that they are better for decoration than for use. The hats look dwarfish in comparison with them.

The college colors in stripes have disappeared and a ribbon the width of the crown has a plain foundation with the colors woven in a design not unlike those seen in Japanese matting. These seem to be a good many mistakes about the materials used for guimpe. They are made of silks, china or talina, or embroidered (a number of times) in muslin or lined net.

The hat itself need not be the same color as the coat, but it should have ribbon to correspond. As many of the new straw hats are faced with colored satin, this idea is used to carry out the color scheme. All over lace or wide lace insertion are used as pumps for handsome linen jumper frocks worn in the afternoon, but even then the guimpe is more suitable and really prettier when made of lace, inserted with muslin.

There is a rivalry between fluff and soft trimmings, with regard to the new models, with a tendency towards the latter, such as wings, birds' breasts, golden pheasants, parrot tails, and quilts. The fine, smooth herringbone serge of which the grain is so fine that one cannot distinguish the warp and the weft are being made up by the smartest tailors; it is impossible to have anything new for the tailored suit than the fine faced cloth for the frock.

Most of the firms are now showing inexpensive but pretty waistcoats of coarse colored linen, bound with braided or contrasting linings, and these are so good for morning wear, with a tailcoat hat to match, just as the brocade waistcoat and flower hat are pretty for the afternoon.

Net frocks are delightfully cool and attractive. Sensible women have made a practice of always having one white net frock for summer wear.

Money talks, but it is not heard in heaven; save when it speaks through lips which it has stirred to grateful love.

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