

The Glowworm

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TO OUR READERS.

In this issue the GLOWWORM makes its first bow to the reading public.

The GLOWWORM will be published as a monthly journal, replete with subjects of interest to the family circle; our aim being in every case to place before our readers only high class literary matter, embracing original serials and carefully written short stories by well-known Canadian and foreign authors, from which we will always carefully exclude everything bordering on the sensational or immoral. In short, we desire to place in the hands of our patrons such a periodical that the most scrupulous could have no objection in introducing within the family.

In this world of science it is proposed to keep abreast of the times by enabling our readers, both young and old, to keep in touch with the progress of scientific thought, in an age when science and civilization march hand in hand, endeavoring especially to direct attention to the practical application of the most advanced thought to the affairs of everyday life.

In the interest of our readers whose lives are devoted to agriculture, it is proposed to maintain a special department which will have for its object the monthly presentation of many subjects of importance to the farmer and stock raiser, together with valuable veterinary notes, including from time to time safe and practical recipes for the treatment of the common ailments of domestic animals.

Not forgetful of the ladies, there will be found in each issue practical notes on flowers and their culture, fancy work, and last though not least in importance, cooking and the kitchen, besides many of those nameless trifles dear to the heart of women, but which nevertheless contribute in so large degree to making the home happy within and attractive without.

The attention of our young friends is also called to our GRAND PRIZE COMPETITION, full particulars of which will be found in another column, this being no humbugging advertisement, as we mean exactly what we say and propose to carry out all our promises.

In conclusion we would ask all our friends to aid us by showing this paper to their neighbors and saying a kind word when the opportunity offers, as every new subscriber enables us to improve the quality of the paper and to make it still more worthy of support.

At periodic intervals a wave of unrest sweeps over our rural districts, awakening amongst the young of both sexes aspirations for wider scenes of activity. Increased means of communication between large cities and the country, has rendered our rising generation of farmers more ambitious, and perhaps a trifle more avaricious than their ancestors. Closer contact with the more polished city bred folks, has exhibited to country cousins the latter's superiority of dress and manner, without disclosing their shortcomings. The buzz of the factory wheel echoes through the daily press in the depths of our Dominion forests and reverberates across the great north-western prairies, and the feverish desire for wealth possesses alike the son of the western pioneer and the young Ontario farmer. And so we find our rural youths and maidens forsaking country districts in hordes, and flocking to industrial centres, some in pursuit of wealth and distinction, others seeking pleasure and changed conditions of life. Recent statistics showing the influx of our rural population to the great cities, and the consequent depopulation of the country, have started an interesting discussion amongst scientists regarding our agricultural future.

Perhaps the greatest evil of this pilgrimage is wrought in the already overcrowded ranks of unskilled labor. Generally speaking country boys are launched on the tempestuous sea of business life untutored in aught that pertains to mercantile pursuits; or if they have been fortunate enough to receive a short course in some business college, they find themselves at a great disadvantage to city boys of their age, through want of practical experience. The consequence is that having but little money, as a rule, they are glad to take any description of work offered, starting in this manner at a much lower round of life's ladder than would have been necessary had they taken a few precautions.

The foregoing reflections were suggested to us lately. The first step towards securing employment, adopted by most country boys, is to advertise; they seem

to think that no other effort is necessary on their part. On general principles we approve of this abundant confidence in the power of the press, but we must discourage any tendency towards a belief in its infallibility as a situation hunter. This work can best be accomplished by the person himself, and even he cannot hope to gain large success unless he is fully equipped by education for the position he seeks.

We would first, and in preference to all other courses, recommend every boy raised on a farm to round out his life there if possible. The glare and glamour of city life is seductive to some, but unsatisfying to all, and city workers are usually of less benefit to the nation than farm laborers.

To tell our farm boys that the chances are ten to one against their ever achieving the success they anticipate in mercantile life, discourages them but little, for everyone expects he will be counted in the minority. From a comparative standpoint, however, the farmers' chances for attaining an easy independence are now infinitely better than those of his city cousins. Stock has risen in price, and we believe that grain will advance in value during the ensuing winter. Our city population is increasing vastly, while the agricultural classes are multiplying slowly. All this presages that the enhancement in value of farm products in the future will be certain and continuous.

In spite of the bitter experience of thousands who have forsaken the farm to founder in the city, we know that others will not be deterred from trying their luck on the same wheel of fortune. These we would admonish not to see the city at first in any other capacity than as learners. The conditions of life are widely different, and no one can reach the top without building a solid foundation. The menial positions in all walks of life are over supplied, and consequently underpaid, so the student must go provided with enough money to board and clothe himself, if necessary, during this period of discipline and tuition. And so, too, as the lower strata of mercantile life are overcrowded, secure, if possible, a position before finally removing to the city; or if this is inconvenient, take sufficient money along to pay your board while seeking employment, having a balance large enough to return with in case you meet with disappointment. If you should fail at the first attempt don't hesitate to return to the farm, from any feelings of false pride; the folks at home will wel-