

The Beaver Circle. OUR SENIOR BEAVERS.

[For all pupils from Senior Third to Continuation Classes, inclusive.]
Dear Beavers:—

The following are the results of the competition on "The Work I do at Home."

Prize-winners:—Enoch Arden, Bruce Co., Ont.; Winnifred Baker, Elgin Co., Ont.; Anna Brownlee, Lambton Co., Ont.; Loyd Grose, Peel Co., Ont.; Edith Bates, Wolfe Island, Ont.

Honor Roll:—James Atchison, Louise Shales, Ida Buchanan, Winnifred Colwell. Winnifred Colwell, by the way, wrote a delightful little composition which we will publish later, but she did not keep to her "text," as very little of it was about the "work" she does.

We are glad to see that so many of our boys and girls are not afraid of work, and that so many say they really "like" to do it. A fair amount of work always helps to make manly men and useful women, such as all our boys and girls should aim to be.

The Prize Essays.

No. I.

When the winter months set in, my work, as a farmer's boy, lies chiefly in doing chores—feeding and attending to live-stock and getting up wood. As we do not do much teaming, this season of the year is comparatively easy.

After the snow has all gone and the ground is dry enough I commence spring work. With the exception of looking after the team I work, I do not have many chores to do then. Fortunately the horses are rather soft and must not be worked too hard, or I do not know what I would do. I get pretty hungry as it is. As I am the oldest boy at home I have the most of the heavy part of spring work to do.

There comes a short breathing spell after seeding, when we fix up fences or do some chores of that nature. Then haying starts. I do most of the cutting and help to coil up and pitch on. We unload with a hay fork, and I help in the mow. Fall-wheat harvest comes in after haying, and hoeing roots. Of course we hoe roots before this, but the bulk of it is done at this time.

The next work is the oat and barley harvest. I do not do any cutting, but do most of the stooking. I build most of the loads also, and as we have no slings I have to pitch the grain off again. We do not have a great deal of this crop, and it does not take long to complete it.

After harvesting there is a time for fixing up stables, and making different improvements about the place before fall ploughing starts. With the exception of taking up the roots, fall ploughing continues, then without any interruption till the snow flies again. I do most of it.

As I do not think I would like to be a farmer, I will not state an untruth by saying I really love this kind of work. One pleasing feature about a farmer's life is that his work is not monotonous. It is not the same daily routine. Of course there are things I like in a farmer's work, to say nothing of his surroundings.

Whatever I may think when I am working it is a well-known fact that work is one of the greatest forces in character building. With few exceptions our great men and women of the past and to-day can trace their lives back to the day when they had to work for what they got. More than that it is a pleasant reflection to think that a great many of them did that work on the farm.

ENOCH ARDEN.

There is nothing like being honest, Enoch. I do not for a moment think that all boys born on farms should be farmers. It quite stands to reason that some born there may have marked talent for other things, and surely each boy and girl in the world should do just what he or she is best fitted for. At the same time everyone who takes up anything else as a life-work must expect to come upon hard places in that as well as farming. There is no occupation that has not its hardships and difficulties, and perhaps it is well that this is so. We grow strong by overcoming.

By the way, Enoch, why do you choose a nom-de-plume? We like real names best in the Beaver Circle, and, as a rule, insist upon them. Is it because you are sixteen years old and so

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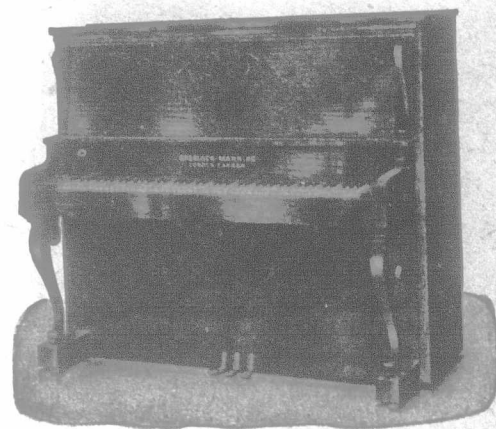
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