

## THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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W. H. MORTON, Business Manager. J. O. HERRITY, Editor-in-Chief.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1917.

## GROWTH AND DECAY

Confident optimists in Trenton predict that in two years their town will have ten thousand population and be eligible to become a city. Belleville has at present a population of rather more than twelve thousand. We are hopefully looking forward to the time in the not distant future when our total will have doubled and we shall be in the twenty-five-thousand class. Toronto with a population of half a million is anticipating that glorious time when it is to pass the million mark.

The ambition to rise in the world, to grow and expand is a laudable one, whether we speak of individuals, municipalities or nations. To stand still is to stagnate and die.

However it may be asked in passing if increase in the size of a town or city means greater opportunities and more wholesome living conditions for the average man and the average family.

For instance, is a laborer, who has his family housed in two rooms on the fifth floor of a cheap tenement in the City of Chicago, better off than the laborer in Trenton who resides in a five-room frame cottage, with a little garden at the rear, a patch of lawn at the front and the blue sky overhead?

We who are unfortunate enough to be domiciled in slow-going country villages like Belleville are prone to think of the more favored population of Toronto, Montreal and Chicago, as men and women receiving great incomes, whose lives are a continuous round of pleasure, with a plentiful admixture of theaters, golf clubs, banquets and dances.

But, strange as it may seem, work has to be performed in the highly favored City of Toronto and even in the metropolitan city of Chicago. Coal has to be hoisted, streets scraped, horses shod and parcels wrapped and delivered, much the same as we do these things in the rural center called Belleville.

And furthermore, the men who perform these necessary tasks receive very little more for their effort in Chicago than they do in Belleville or in Trenton.

But the two-room apartment in Chicago costs more in rental than did the five-room cottage in Trenton prior to the days of the present boom.

We endeavored to demonstrate a few days ago, in an editorial article, how well the Canadian policy to get the farmer "off the earth" was succeeding. In 1878 four out of every five of the inhabitants of Ontario were to be found upon farms. In 1916 only two out of every five are resident in the rural districts.

Our policy is to get the farmers into the cities and towns just as rapidly as so formidable an operation can be accomplished. No one can deny that the policy has been a tremendous success, for the figures of the census tell a story that cannot be controverted.

Some farmers who were none too successful on the farms have moved into Belleville and are now enjoying princely incomes running delivery wagons, heaving coal, carrying hods for bricklayers and removing snow from sidewalks.

Perhaps if we had shaped our policies somewhat differently in 1878 and subsequent years, many of these farmers might still have been on the farms and have had no desire to leave them and perhaps if we had made conditions easier and more favorable years ago these unsuccessful farmers might have succeeded.

Has any Canadian a satisfactory reason to advance for driving farmers off their farms and herding them in cities? If so we would like to hear it. Our columns are open, we invite correspondence on the subject.

Why is Canadian statesmanship so blind to the true interests of Canada? Its policy has been for nearly forty years to build up large cities at the expense of the

country—in other words to industrialise Canada.

Industrialism has been Canada's greatest drawback. The industrialism that we have invited now makes our laws, holds autocratic power and squeezes its dividends from the common people.

What Canada needed in 1878 and needs even more strongly today is an enlightened agricultural policy, not the present policy of agricultural strangulation.

Could anything more ridiculous be imagined than to see Canada with hundreds of millions of acres waiting for the plow, deliberately entering upon a scheme to keep people from those waiting acres and make it more pleasant and profitable to crowd into cities?

Kansas years ago began to appreciate the importance of agriculture. Every encouragement was given to the opening up of the new territory, agricultural schools and demonstration farms were established and rural life was made attractive, the educational system was specially designed and adapted to show and demonstrate the dignity of agriculture and to make of it a highly skilled and profitable occupation. The result is that in Kansas, a semi-arid desert has been made to blossom like the rose, wealth is evenly distributed and illiteracy has been banished. The farmer is the honored man of the community, rich, contented, independent, cultured, with children growing up strong, intelligent, usefully educated and happy.

The same result has in great measure been achieved in Iowa where the farmer has been treated as a human being, instead of a yokel to be cajoled, jollied and fooled in every election campaign by smooth politicians.

Great Britain successfully drove her farmers off the land by hereditary land ownership, landlordism and kindred evils. France has the wealthiest peasantry in Europe because nearly every family owns its little farm and agriculture is one of the most honored of occupations.

Industrialism is a curse because it breeds up a race with dwarfed physique. Every observer in the factory districts of British centers of population has noted the tired appearance, the narrow chests, the lowered stamina of Britain's industrial armies, and the tendency to seek diversion in drunkenness and other forms of vice.

Industrialism produces slum conditions and slum conditions invariably debase morals, and stunt mentality and physique.

If we wish to have in Canada a big virile, capable race we must see to it that the bulk of our population is reared in the country that God made.

Does Canada want big cities with slum conditions and deserted farms?

Whether we want them or not that is the haven towards which we are relentlessly drifting and there is scarcely a voice lifted in protest.

"Till fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates and men decay, Princes and lords may flourish or may fade, A breath can make them as a breath can make; But a bold peasantry, their country's pride, When once destroyed, can never be supplied."

In these words did Oliver Goldsmith the Irish poet, more than a century and a half ago deplore the desolation surrounding "Sweet Auburn," a deserted rural village.

Canada is destroying its peasantry as rapidly as may be and allowing its wealth to accumulate in the hands of profiteers and captains of high finance.

But, says some pinched city dweller, surely agriculture cannot be suffering when the farmer receives the present sky high prices that we are now compelled to pay.

We have heard all that before and much more along the same shallow line. The present era of high prices is of course partly brought about by the war and partly by crop failure. But the high prices that prevailed prior to the war, were brought about by our own foolishness and pigheadedness.

In 1878 we set out to prepare a scourge for our own backs. The scourge that we have prepared has begun to fall in earnest.

Why should we complain if we suffer from our own folly? How can we expect food to be anything else but scarce and dear when we have driven half the food-producers away from the land and placed about the remainder all kinds of restrictions?

In 1911 we denied the farmer access to

his most profitable market for fear it might work injury to the very delicate brand of "patriotism" stored up in our cities. But like other sinners it brings about its own punishment.

Canada has gone about the securing of big cities wrong end first. Instead of securing them at the expense of the country districts the proper method is to build up the country districts and then big cities will come as a natural consequence. Canadian agriculture asks no special favors. It merely requests that the special favors accorded to others be removed.

What greater asset could Ontario possess than a rich, prosperous agricultural population of say five millions on farms intensively cultivated, with homes in which comforts, conveniences, contentment and culture prevailed?

To bring about a change in Canadian policy the need is for a greater number of agricultural representatives in our legislatures who will truly represent agricultural and not party interest.

The greatest obstacle in the accomplishment of this result is the farmer himself. He is more strongly wedded to party than any other class in the community. He views the members of his own calling very often with suspicion. This is especially the case if his fellow farmer seeks legislative honors. The farmer is hopelessly conservative. He distrusts innovations and prefers to let well enough alone. His conservatism gives business exploiters and corporation lawyers their opportunity.

Therefore we see that this greatest of industries is represented at Toronto and at Ottawa by groups of voluble ringers who care about as much for the interests of the farmer as a western real estate agent cares for the interests of the customer to whom he sells "park" lots five miles outside the city limits.

## COURAGE

There are still one or two members of our City Council who seem to fear publicity and who deplore the presence of reporters at their meetings. What are these Aldermen afraid of? Do the newspapers give unfair or biased reports? Can they name any instance in recent years where the city's interests have been sacrificed because of too much newspaper publicity? If so we can name a dozen instances where the city's interests have been sacrificed because of too little newspaper publicity.

The real trouble is not located in the newspaper offices, but in the minds of aldermen who lack the courage to take a definite stand upon the various questions that confront them. They fear the wrath of some irate voter who may marshal his friends and cause a slaughter next January. There are some things more terrible even than the loss of a situation as alderman in the municipal corporation of the City of Belleville. One of these things is the loss of self-respect such as a man must feel when he shudders at his own shadow.

"Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take!" The public may be arbitrary and act like a fool at times. But the public we find is generally disposed to be fair. The public admires a MAN. The public will pardon serious mistakes, sometimes, in their servants as long as the public knows that the servant's heart is in the right place and that his intentions are good, straightforward and honorable.

## U-BOAT SUCCESS.

German newspapers continue to speak of the "success" of the ruthless submarine campaign inaugurated the first of February.

Before that campaign began, the German experts estimated that to accomplish their purpose of crippling England so seriously as to force her to sue for peace they would be obliged to sink 1,000,000 tons of allied shipping a month.

With the returns apparently all in, it is clear that the total merchant tonnage actually sunk by the U-boat in the month of February, nearly half of it neutral shipping, was well under 500,000 tons. In other words, they accomplished less than half the work expected of them. Their effectiveness was not impressively greater than that of last November and December.

It may be that the German navy can do better than that. But all experience suggests the contrary. Submarine campaigns heretofore have always started out with a series of heavy blows, like drives on the western battle front, and then little by little have relapsed into a normal and ineffective rate of destruction. This much advertised stroke seems to be taking about the usual course. There are still occasional

days when the "bag" is as big as in the early weeks of February, but on the whole the losses appear to be decreasing slowly but surely.

Many U-boats have unquestionably been sunk or captured. The British and French navies have found added means of protection. The merchantmen themselves are more wary and better armed. The last great effort, on which the German Government based its shaken hopes and for the sake of which it risked the enmity of the whole world, seems doomed to failure.

The February rate of sinking ships, taken together with the rate of new construction in allied and neutral countries would lessen the world's shipping, outside of Germany, by about six per cent a year. If Germany, therefore, could maintain the February rate, which is hardly likely, it would obviously take her many years to reduce the shipping available to the allies sufficiently to isolate her enemies. And the German people hoped to bring England to her knees in three months.

## NURSERY ENGINEERING

How does a baby creep? This weighty answer was put to a class of girl students by a Harvard professor. And twenty representatives of a sex supposed to be instinctively wise in all matters pertaining to babyhood could think of only two answers—which unfortunately are not recorded.

Then the professor submitted the inquiry to a class of boy students, and elicited the information that babies move about in seven distinct ways, as follows:

They creep forward on all fours.

They creep backward on all fours.

They "hitch along, using the hips for navigation," whatever that may mean.

They "roll along, like a ship in a stormy sea," a poetical description also requiring more detailed elucidation to make it perfectly clear.

They "move on their hands, lifting their bodies as one would on crutches."

They "move forward with hands and feet in front, like a rabbit."

They "put their heels in front of them, propelling themselves along."

These various modes of locomotion, it should be understood, are not all used by the same babies. Each baby deliberately chooses its own process.

The professor who conducted this inquiry doesn't seem to have been really interested in babies. He merely wanted to find out whether his students were observing or not. And he deduced the conclusion that "either the male students were more observant than the girls, or they had better memories."

Far be it from a mere man-editor to grapple with the question whether men are better observers than women, concerning babies or any other theme of human interest. But disregarding any invidious considerations of sex superiority, this nursery engineering subject seems eminently worthy of further investigation for its own sake. How does a baby creep?

A person connected with this newspaper—whether man or woman doesn't matter—adds the following modes of procedure, vouched for from personal observation:

Some babies creep sideways on all fours, like a lobster.

Some babies get around by rolling over and over, raising head and feet alternately to provide the leverage necessary to topple them over.

Some babies lie flat on their backs and propel themselves headfirst by kicking the floor with their heels, incidentally wearing the hair off the backs of their heads.

What other ways are there? Like the celebrated "Japanese Schoolboy," we "inquire to know." Aren't babies as interesting as war?

Mayor Ketcheson is on the right track in the proposal he voiced at the committee meeting on Friday night to make it permissible to pay the city taxes in two semi-annual instalments, instead of in one payment as at present. This proposal, if carried out will result in more prompt payments and be a much appreciated convenience.

The special council committee did well to refuse to tamper with the present really modest salaries we pay to the very capable officials who are working so faithfully and efficiently in the civic employ. The Ontario believes in the principle of paying men where the interests of the city or the interests of economy would be served by starving out any of the members of our present able staff and engaging little, cheap men in their places.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson XII.—First Quarter, For March 25, 1917.

## THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, John xiv, 1-14.—A Quarterly Review—Golden Text, John xiv, 6.—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

Lesson I.—Jesus the life and light of men, John 1, 1-14. Golden Text, John 1, 4, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." The opening words of the lesson are away beyond us, high as heaven—what can we do? (John 1, 8.) But in verse 14 it comes near to us, becomes one of us and reveals unto us the Father, and seeing and knowing Him, we see and know the Father (chapter xiv, 8).

Lesson II.—John the Baptist and Jesus, John 1, 19-34. Golden Text, John 1, 23, "Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world." John was to Jesus as His first coming what the second coming will be as His second coming in glory, for the great and dreadful day of the Lord is at hand, and Mal. iv, 5, stands, according to Matt. xvii, 11.

Lesson III.—First disciples of the Lord Jesus, John 1, 35-51. Golden Text, John 1, 43, "Jesus saith unto Him, Follow Me." John's second testimony turned men away from him to Jesus, and that was his aim, as it should be ours. Andrew and the unnamed one, after having spent the day with Jesus, quickly brought their brothers to the Messiah, whom they had found, and Philip brought Nathanael, who confessed Christ as Son of God and King of Israel.

Lesson IV.—Reverence of Jesus for His Father's house, John 8, 12-22. Golden Text, Matt. xxi, 18, "My house shall be called a house of prayer." By no means omit the marriage and the water changed to wine and the marriage of the Lamb which will precede the kingdom. Then shall follow Israel's great cleansing, according to Ez. xxxvi, 25.

Lesson V.—Jesus the Saviour of the world, John 3, 1-12. Golden Text, John 3, 16, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." When the most religious and moral man cannot see or enter the kingdom unless he is born again by receiving the Son of God, who loved him and gave Himself for him. But there is life for a look for all bitten ones, and they shall share the bridegroom's joy in the morning (verse 29).

Lesson VI.—Jesus and the woman of Samaria, John 4, 1-26. Golden Text, 1 Tim. 2, 14, "Christ Jesus came to save sinners." A religious moral man must be born again, and a poor, immoral outcast may be born again, for He came to seek and to save the lost. The latter became a better witness than the former and brought many souls to Him, in such service He delighted and writes us to John 4, 19, "We may rejoice together."

Lesson VII.—Jesus heals a nobleman's son, John 4, 46-54. Golden Text, Matt. viii, 13, "As thou hast believed so be it done unto thee." At Cana He had shadowed forth the glory of His own marriage, and now from Cana He sent life to a whole household. After the marriage was blessing their will to multitudes! May the childlike faith of the nobleman be ours, for he believed the word that Jesus had spoken and went his way.

Lesson VIII.—Jesus at the pool of Bethesda, John 5, 1-15. Golden Text, John 5, 4, "It was Jesus who had made him whole." A truly helpless pool for really helpless people. But there is a fountain which is better than all pools, and He gives life to all who hear His word and believe on Him—that is, receive Him. There is no book like the Scriptures, and by Scripture we learn of Him, but unless we come to Him of whom they tell we cannot obtain life (1 John v, 12).

Lesson IX.—Jesus feeds the five thousand, John 6, 1-12. Golden Text, Matt. vi, 11, "Give us this day our daily bread." Feasts of the Lord had become mere feasts of the Jews, and the multitudes were perishing. Today the public worship of God is largely mere formalities, stones for bread, and our Lord is still saying, "Give ye them to eat." He is ready to take what we have that is real bread and increase it to need.

Lesson X.—Jesus the bread of life, John 6, 22-40. Golden Text, John 6, 35, "Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life." Living Bread from heaven, and yet people despise it, even as Israel leached the manna in the wilderness and in their hearts turned back to the food of Egypt. See these men disputing and arguing instead of eating. And so it is still, just as in the invitation to the marriage feast they all made light of it, each preferring his own way. One of the most manifest delusions of the devil is the way in which men despise the love and grace of God.

Lesson XI.—Jesus saves from sin, John 8, 12, 28-37, 52-58. Golden Text, John 8, 36, "If therefore the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." He had no stones for penitent sinners, and no one else has any right to throw any, for He is the only one without sin. He came not to condemn, but to save. He is saying to all thirty-one, "Come unto Me and abide." He says just as plainly that all who will not come shall die in their sins and, preferring the devil to God, shall have to take the devil's portion.

## PURE

Thursday, DEATH

Kenneth Campbell, months old son of Nedy, 47 Geddes day.

TAKEN TO

An unfortunate with mental trouble, morning to Rock, few days ago, shence and no on tance. Finally a friends, the police

WEDNESDAY E

In the absence who is attending ance Convention week, the Br prayer meeting in charge of Mr. A. his storehouse of perience he gave address on the m vens as ordained manking. Mr. Do tributed a pleas the spirit of the

FUNER

McCONACHY, Mary and J. formerly of

LAD

The funeral of Stevenson, Jr., place on Wedne the residence of ert Stevenson, Rev. E. C. Cur Presbyterian ch floral offerings many having friends in King were deposited vault. The bear Kingston and m of Belleville.

Friday

APPOINTED

Dr. J. M. C. been appointed member of Grand Chapter Aroh Masons.

POL

Two minor Caces were b morning on cated and wer each.

DEATH

The death of Mrs. Aman late Charles S daughter, Mrs George street year, Mrs. Sec Methodist ch

ROWLAND

Richard G 33rd year.

SCOTT — D

day, Mar aged 75 ye Chas. Scott

ANOTHER

A new groc in West Belle having purch the north-ea and Dunbar tends making the present t

ENTERTAIN

TUE

Mr. J. L. general sec M. C. A. in states that City, of wh is in a vigor bership of 8 is to extend of returned, tertaind ove passed thro turned men

HAD FAM

A. corre the late Jo eighteen of as given in few days a