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## The Granite Town Greetings

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NO. 7.

**THE NEW Church Hymn Book**  
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### Farm Topics

Under the caption, "A new era on the Farms," a Missouri State paper announces the appointment of a number of agricultural experts who will reside in different counties of the State and devote their time in assisting and encouraging farmers in the adoption of better methods. The writer of the article describes the introduction of this new idea in agriculture as "ranking in importance with the advent of the reaper and the machinery age on the farm." In nearly thirty Ontario counties this summer we have similar institutions. In fact, this Province originated and was the first to successfully carry out the idea. Since it was formulated over six years ago as a result of a conference between Dr. Creelman, President of the Ontario Agricultural College; Dr. J. South, Superintendent of Education, and Mr. C. C. James, then Deputy Minister of Agriculture, a revolution has been wrought in several Ontario counties. As a result of the intelligent co-operation of our farmers and district representatives we find whole communities pruning and spraying their orchards, tilling their land, building silos, following definite rotations, buying pure bred animals, testing their seeds, driving out weeds and pests and adopting many modern practices that might not have come about for another decade or so, were it not for the introduction of the "personal" idea in educating those who work the land. The farmers who have been benefited are those who have applied for help. The Government expert can accomplish little unless the farmers call at his office, make his acquaintance and let their troubles be known. If you live in one of the thirty favored counties, do not hesitate to consult with the man who is paid to help you.

### Buying Horses

If you are buying a horse never be satisfied that he is thoroughly sound or serviceable until you have seen him in action.

In mild cases of string-halt faulty action is observed only upon the start or backing. The feet should be picked up to show how the animal will stand while being shod. The horse should next be placed in harness, and attention should be given to his behavior while the harness is being fitted. Observe whether he kicks, strikes, or lites when the girth is tightened. He should be driven in his accustomed way, single or double if for driving, and in a cart or wagon, if for heavy work. The rein should be taken so as to determine whether he has a hard

or tender mouth, and to note his manner or responding to the pill. Also observe whether he shies or frightens at strange objects when being hitched to the cart. One should be certain that this is not due to improper fitting harness before rejecting him. A tight fitting collar may make the difference between a proper acting animal and one that is wholly objectionable. The wind should be thoroughly tested for whistling, for roaring, and for heaves. The ear of the examiner should be placed to the nostrils, to the throat and to the sides of the chest, and the hands placed upon the flanks to detect any unnatural sounds of jerking and breathing.

### Use the Hoe

It will pay every farmer to go through his whole crop with a hoe. It is altogether likely that some weeds have escaped the eye, and now these pests are making ready for seeding. No time will be better spent than a day's hunt after these robber pests. In these days, when so much weed killing is done by horse power, the hoe is apt to be neglected and this neglect means in a short while a dirty farm and loss. It seems a pity that a farmer should have the value of his years work lessened by his failure to put in the one or two day's extra labor that would render his victory over the weeds for this and for succeeding years very neatly complete.

### Sorghum As Silage

In view of the fact that a number of farmers have wholly or partially replanted their corn fields with sorghum, the following notes on sorghum for silage, by C. W. Warburton, in U. S. Farmers' Bulletin 288, will be read with practical interest:

We notice that nothing is said about the difficulty some claim to have experienced in elevating the cut sorghum through ensilage blowers. On this particular point we would be pleased to hear from readers who have cut sorghum into silos thirty or forty feet high.

There is still difference of opinion as to the value of sorghum for silage, owing to the saccharine juice, and hence does not always keep as well. There is no question as to its value when well preserved. Sorghum is a better yielder than corn on poor soils, and a super crop in semi-arid regions. In the great corn belt its use is slowly increasing, while along the Gulf coast, where the heavy rainfall makes it difficult to care feeders, sorghum is a profitable silage crop, and can be most successfully handled in this way.

In feeding value, sorghum silage appears to be slightly inferior to corn silage, the protein content being rather lower and the fibre rather higher. However the amount of water to the ton is lower so that the total amount of nutrients in each ton is larger than in corn silage.

The feeding value of both corn and sorghum silage can be increased by adding some leguminous crop. The two crops may be sown separately, and mixed while being cut into the silo, or grown and harvested together. The cowpea is probably the best crop for this purpose. Such varieties as the Black, Blackeye, Clay, Red Ripper and Whipperwill are commonly used. Soy beans may also be used. Numerous cases have been reported, however, where soy beans alone, or a large proportion of soy beans in corn or sorghum silage have produced a silage which imparted bad odors to milk and other dairy products. Experiments show no bad effects from using a small proportion of soy beans, one part of soy beans to five or six parts of the other silage crop being regarded as safe.

Sorghum silage has been largely used as a winter ration for dairy herds, with highly satisfactory and profitable results. This is especially true in parts of the south, where from a hundred to over a thousand tons are put up annually at several points. In the north it is growing in favor, even in competition with an abundant and profitable corn crop.

### The Fall Plowing

By all means the best way to kill weeds is to destroy them wholesale. For this destruction on a large scale no implement compares with the plow, and no occasion is more important than the season between harvest and the early winter. In order that the weeds may be destroyed two plowings are advisable. The first plowing should be done immediately after harvest. This operation cannot be done carefully, though the practice of many farmers is to treat this plowing as if it were, to save the least, of secondary importance. The best practice is to use a broad shared plow, and to draw a furrow just deep enough to turn over completely and to be flat on the field. The plowshare should be kept sharp and when the field is finished not the head of a weed should be in sight.

When this plowing is done carefully a dull share slips round a tough weed root or an uncovered weed head is left exposed to mature its seeds and prepare the way for trouble the following season. When, on the other hand, the weed roots are all cut and the weeds buried, they are got rid of once and for all. The shallow plowing conserves the moisture and at the same time helps the germination of all weed seeds.

The second plowing should be what is called the deep plowing. It completes the process begun by the first plowing and cannot be done too carefully. Care should be taken to secure a level crown and a narrow finish in order that the harvest machinery may have a chance to work as smoothly as possible.

### The Finances of the Dominion

Mr. White, as Minister of Finance, decided last session, in the session, to retain the fielding fiscal system virtually unchanged. What the political financiers might have proposed under the circumstances cannot safely be pre-

dicted, but Mr. White has gained his experience as a business man, and not as a Conservative politician. It is safe to predict that he will be slow to make radical alterations in a Customs tariff that has effected such exceptional results as a revenue producer.

The fielding policy of debt reduction has been carried out during the year. A considerable proportion of the superfluous revenue will be spent in paying for undertakings such as were in the good old Conservative times carried out by means of borrowed capital. Instead of increasing the national debt the Government, following the example of its Liberal predecessor, is trying to diminish it. The amounts spent during the past few years on the construction of the East end Division Transcontinental Railway have been very large, but that outlay will soon be an end, and then the reduction of debt should go on with great rapidity. There seems to be no permanent obstacle to its complete liquidation. Ex-

### Nature's Barometers

There are two kinds of clouds—wind clouds and rain clouds, the former in summer being as black as night. Clouds banded together in the west mean coming rain. The walls of houses are usually damp before rain. Cows and sheep instinctively lie down when it is going to rain. In order to keep a dry spot for themselves, swallows are good weather prophets. If, when flying low, they suddenly congregate and fly very high it is a sure sign of a coming storm. When geese clamor and peacocks scream, rain is pretty sure to be near. Flowers are highly sensitive to rain. The pimpernel has been called the "poor man's weather glass," its proclivities being so true: "Closed is the pink-eyed pimpernel, 'Twill surely rain; I see, with sorrow."

Our jaunt must be put off till tomorrow. The crocus forecasts rain by shutting up its leaves in a most determined way, so also do the dandelion, the pansy, the hellebore, and the wild oats curl up in dry weather and contract in damp. Fire-crests are good weather indicators, closing for wet weather and open for fine. They retain this power even after they are dead. The weather becomes moist and clammy when rain is near. They have a curious method of forecasting the weather in some parts of Germany and Switzerland. A small green frog is kept in a bottle half full of water, with a flight of wooden strips leading down from the top of the bottle into the water. If the frog stays down below they say the weather will be fine, but if it comes up and sits down on the strips it will be dull, and rain and cold may be expected.

### DEVELOPING THE NORTH

Wagon Road From Edmonton to Peace River Means Much for Alberta

The Alberta Government is using all possible effort to complete the wagon road from Edmonton to the Grand Trunk Pacific to Grand Prairie and the Peace River. A large force of men is employed completing the last 40 miles of road so as to enable heavy transport wagons to move north and south at all seasons of the year. With a good road completed it is expected that the Peace River settlement will grow rapidly.

### No Interference From Britain

The Government, and Parliament, and people of Canada must decide what is and what is not to be Canada's policy on the question of naval defence. Nothing but harm will result if, directly or indirectly, pressure from Britain is made a determining factor. The prospect of united action on Canada's part would be seriously imperilled by the suspicion of interference from Britain with Canada's democratic freedom of action. That suspicion would not be without warrant were the proposed spectacular demonstration of "a squadron of battleships" in Canadian waters carried out, accompanied or followed by "a tour of Canada by Right Hon. Winston Churchill and Mr. Hamar Greenwood, speaking in the principal cities on the subject of naval defence."

A tour for such a purpose at the present time would be to the last degree improper and injurious. The making or the directing of political opinion in Canada on any question of Canadian policy is the duty and responsibility not of British Ministers and politicians but of ministers and political leaders of Canada. If

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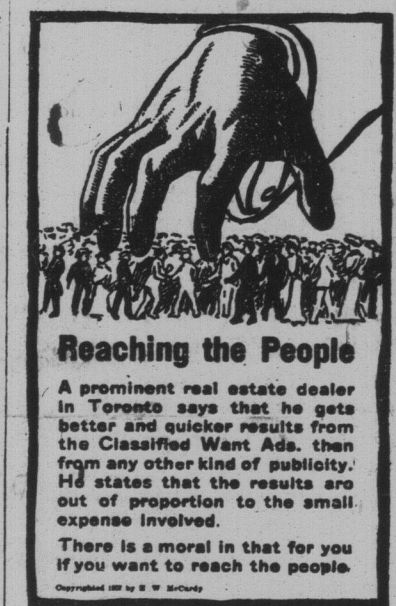
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Canada's will not follow the lead of the responsible Government, and Parliament and Press, and public teachers of Canada no ability or eloquence of Mr. Churchill and Mr. Greenwood will avail. Indeed such interference by Canadian Ministers in British political controversy would be resented and resisted by the people of Britain.

Premier Asquith exhibits the good sense and the sound statesmanship which give him pre-eminence in his decisive refusal to interfere in any way in Canadian politics, and in his dignified unwillingness to come to Canada under circumstances which would give his coming a significance, both in Canada and in foreign countries, detrimental to the very interests his visit was intended to promote. He knows that no secrets of the Government and Admiralty of Britain can be cried from the housetops in Canada. He knows, too, that all necessary confidential information has already been given to Right Hon. Mr. Borden, and it was given a year ago and on previous occasions to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He has confidence in both those trusted leaders of Canadian political thought and action. He has the full assurance from both that Canada will do her whole duty. And what is of infinitely greater moment, he knows that the impressiveness of Canada's action, its impressiveness on Germany and on the world, will depend absolutely on that action being taken by a united Canadian people, calmly, deliberately, and without either restraint or compulsion from the Admiralty, or Cabinet, or King of Britain. A hundred million dollars! A whole fleet of battleships! These would be in significant compared with the unquestioned fact that for today, and tomorrow and the long day after, the free, self governing people of all Canada are ready and

willing, as their Parliament has unhesitatingly declared "to give to the Imperial authorities the most loyal and hearty co-operation in every movement, for the maintenance of the integrity and the honor of the Empire." Tor. Globe.



On the Mergishlak Peninsula, in the Caspian Sea, there are five small lakes. One of them is covered with salt crystals strong enough to allow a man to cross the lake on foot; another is perfectly round and of a lovely rose color. Its banks of salt crystals form a setting, white as the driven snow, to the water, while not only shows all the colors from violet to rosy red, but sends forth a perfume as of violets. Both the perfume and the color are the result of the presence of sea weeds.

The Montreal Gazette, which is the "big tooter" for the big interests, evidently realizes that days of high tariff are over on this continent. - Halifax Chron.

### FOR WOMEN ONLY.

That is the nature of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription—the one remedy for women which contains no alcohol and no habit-forming drugs. Made from natural medicinal forest roots. Dr. Pierce tells its every ingredient on the bottle-wrap. Prominent physicians and some of the best medical authorities endorse these ingredients as being the very best known remedies for ailments and weaknesses peculiar to women.

This is what Mrs. GEORGETTE E. COPPEY, of Longstreet, N. Y., writes: "I feel it my duty to write and tell you what your medicines have done for me. I was a great sufferer for six years from a trouble peculiar to women, but I am thankful to say, after taking four bottles of your 'Favorite Prescription' I am not bothered with that dreadful disease any more. I feel like a new woman. When I first wrote you for advice I only weighed 115 pounds—now I weigh 135. 'I thank you very much for your kindness. You have been as a father to me in advising me what to do, so may God bless you in every effort you put forth for good. I hope this testimonial will be the means of some poor suffering woman seeking health.'"

Dr. Pierce's Medical Adviser, newly revised up-to-date edition, answers hosts of delicate questions about which every woman, single or married ought to know.

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