

# FARM AND HOME

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## Dominion and Provincial Affairs

### A Second Call for Troops.

Owing to the recent reverses to the British arms in South Africa, the Canadian government has decided to send a second contingent of 1000 men to the seat of war. It is expected that the force will consist of two or three battalions of artillery, with 12 or 18 guns and three or four squadrons of cavalry. The artillery will be composed of the two batteries of the permanent force with 12 guns, and the cavalry will be made up from the northwest mounted police and the royal Canadian regiment of dragoons.

There is also likely to be a volunteer regiment of infantry. The force will be a strong one, as there is no finer or better trained body of men than the northwest mounted police and the Canadian cavalry, and they are just the kind of men that are required in South Africa at present. The weakness of the British forces has apparently been in their scouting arrangements and the men who will compose the second Canadian contingent will make excellent scouts. The second contingent, it is expected, will sail from Halifax about Jan 15.

### The Taxpayers Say

At the present, war has, however, given an impetus to the military spirit and the government will have to be very careful that it does not saddle the taxpayers with unnecessary burdens. Maj-Gen Hutton and a few other military cranks are still agitating their pet scheme for a standing army. The militia strength of Canada at present is about 35,000 men which is amply sufficient, but Maj-Gen Hutton wishes to have the strength increased to 100,000 men, which would mean an additional burden on the taxpayers. The Canadian farmers would of course have to pay the greater part of this and they will not stand it. It is all right to come to the assistance of the empire when it is in danger, but there is no need for the Dominion to be saddled with a huge standing army.

### Start the New Year Right.

Find out just how you stand. Make a list of everything you own and its actual value. Add to the total, the value of what is owing to you by others. These make up your assets. Then set down everything you owe—your liabilities. You will then be able to tell at a glance what your estate is worth. Compare this inventory with the one you made a year ago. It will teach you some lessons. Such an inventory once a year is the least you can do in the way of accounts, yet millions of farmers don't even do this much. I think it is also well for each of us to inventory our own characters. Are we happy or making others happy? Do we know more than we did a year ago? Are our characters stronger or weaker?

Have we done our duty to our family or friends, to society, or the church and school? If not, why not? A mental and spiritual inventory like this may do each one of us more real good than to list our personal property or real estate. When in doubt, or tangled up in any of the troubles of life, ask yourself the familiar question: What would Jesus do? How much more than money there is to life!

### Business Throughout the Dominion

is good and there is no abatement in the general prosperity, yet the recent British reverses in Natal and the stringency of the money market have had a serious effect on financial markets. The end of the year has been marked by a slump in values on the Canadian stock markets. Prices of leading stocks and securities have had a big drop, in some instances falling as much as 20 points.

### Manitoba's Elections

resulted in the defeat of the Greenway government. The conservatives under Hugh John McDonald, a son of the late Sir John McDonald, only had six seats in the last legislature but in the late elections they carried 23 districts while the liberals carried only 17. There was considerable dissatisfaction among the farmer electors of the province with the Greenway administration and they decided upon a change.

### A Word for the Children.

Once in a great while some crusty bachelor "kicks" against our children's page. But what is home without young folks? One trouble with many a farm is that it isn't raising children enough! Did you ever realize that if two generations of children could grow to perfect manhood and womanhood—physically powerful, mentally vigorous, morally strong—about all the evils of humanity would be reformed? Think a bit, and you will see how true this is. And you will also see better than ever that farm life is the best for rearing the young folks. The children shall continue to be delightfully interested and vitally helped by this paper as long as I live. And older people who don't read the young folks' page, miss much of the joy of life.

### Farmers' Institutes

have scored great success in New York and Ohio the past few years and to some extent in Pennsylvania. In New England, they are not as numerous or as well attended as they ought to be. The same is true in Quebec and the maritime provinces, and quite generally in the middle and southern states. Institute managers must work up new ideas, new methods, and novel ways of attracting and holding the interest

of farmers and their families. In some places a cooking school is being run in connection with the institute, and all the farmers' wives and daughters attend—to see how little the cooking teacher knows! One trouble heretofore has been that time and place of institutes was not properly advertised.

### Rascality Punished.

The officials of the defunct Ville Marie, whose management was responsible for serious losses to depositors, including many farmers of Quebec, are being punished as they deserved. The president of the bank has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment for furnishing a false statement of the bank's affairs to the government and the accountant of the bank is now on trial on a similar charge.

### The Wife's Market.

Where a woman's energies are not all needed in the home she often has access to what is sometimes called the "personal market," in distinction from the general market; the market afforded by the best customers in a nearby town or city. Its prices are 30 per cent higher than those of the general market. Products are sent directly from the producer to the consumers, people who want the best and are willing to pay for it. This trade demands not only fine quality but attractive appearance. This work can be done better by women than by men, as it requires taste, patience and ingenuity.

### New Years' Hints.

Eight additional pages, 28 pages in all, make this the largest and finest number of Farm and Home ever gotten out. The material herein contained would make a magazine of nearly or quite one-hundred pages. And every line counts, being of real value, as is the rule with Farm and Home. There is something for every member of the family, not only something, but a great deal, and that first-class. For the low subscription price there is nothing else like it.

Farming is going to be a better business during the next ten years than during the past decade. Mark this. It's no idle statement. The opinion is justified.

Old junk—metals, rags, paper, etc.—wasn't worth anything, hardly, last year. Now prices are up so that such old truck can be sold at a profit. Clean up and realize.

The winter season ought to be full of life in every rural community. Meetings, institutes, lectures, reading circles, social affairs can be made more useful and attractive in country



Good news! Only a moment to tell it! First, the Big Three, one dollar—Farm and Home for three years and three great books. See Page 26.

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The only semi-monthly in the United States which gives a sworn statement of its circulation is Farm and Home. It gives maps showing the number of subscribers in each state.

See the Big Three, Page 26.

than in city. It only needs a little effort. What plans along this line are being made in your neighborhood? In this marvelous twentieth century era, none of us can afford to stagnate intellectually or socially—nor financially or industrially, for that matter.

Better keep at it than hustle by spasms.

The farmer is obliged to pay an advance for many of his necessary purchases, but this is offset by the increased price received for important products of the farm. The speculators on the stock exchanges have been seriously hurt by the December slump in prices of shares and inflated "securities," but this need not affect the general prosperity of agricultural interests during the new year of excellent promise we are about to enter.

One good acre farmed well is worth ten poor acres poorly tilled.

Fall in love with the farm and it will soon begin to smile back at harvest time.

It isn't necessary to take half our space to tell readers how good the other half is. They know it. The way old subscribers are renewing is a caution. Their words of praise stimulate me to even greater effort in giving the most value for the nominal subscription price of Farm and Home. Let each old friend send in with his own renewal one new name and you will be well paid for it.

The model hired man should be first cousin to the lark.

**BIG 3** Farm and Home three years and three great books (see Page 26, this issue), all for **\$1.00.**