

Keep to the Farm

Wanted, Compulsory Agricultural Education

Letter from Mr. P.G. Butler.

(Editor Mail and Advocate)
Dear Sir,—Agricultural Education is a subject deserving consideration at any time, and especially now when patriotism and production should go together; but what are the facts of the case?

Last Saturday morning while in conversation with several farmers I learned that there was a great desire among the sons and daughters of farmers to forsake the work of farming for business life in the city. I think the reason for this is the need of Agricultural Education in agricultural districts. How can the child born and reared in the country respect the work of farming as anything but a stepping-stone, or look with ambition toward Agriculture as a vocation, when he finds that training for it is regarded as less important than preparation for a position in an office or shop? How can he think of farming, and country life generally, as anything more than a "makeshift," when he finds that in the school he attends there is not a word taught concerning crops or cattle or roads? How can he become interested in the subject?

Are we not educating our children to leave the farm, to leave the country, to rush to the city. Census returns of our city and country population, and production, reveal this deplorable fact. I have gone into the facts and figures of the case and must come to the conclusion that Agricultural Education is necessary, and it should be made compulsory in agricultural places or districts, just the same as Fishing Education is needed in fishing districts, and Commercial Education in commercial districts.

I would suggest that the F. P. U. take up this important question of practical education, and send two or three teachers who are sons of fishermen to University Schools of Fisheries in Norway and Liverpool to be trained for itinerant teaching in fishing districts in Newfoundland.

In England and in Canada people have already begun to apply their minds to the question of educating their children for practical life. In fact the movement towards increasing the efficiency of the country popula-

tion has already been considerably developed there. Newfoundland needs to wake up to this matter also. Our newspapers and public speakers and writers should acquaint people of what is being achieved in Agriculture and patriotism and production in other lands. The government should establish experimental farms throughout the country and engage, train and send out itinerant agricultural teachers and speakers; school children should be taught to study the subject of Agriculture, practically, to detect destructive insects and noxious weeds and to learn to combat them; the government should put, in all schools, books on Agriculture and samples of seeds; and send out from time to time inspectors of farms, and experts on poultry and cattle, and thus help farmers and live stock keepers. Fares and standing crop exhibitions should be held each year, and farmers' sons should be encouraged to attend Agricultural Colleges, or fairs, at least at Truro and Guelph, because these fairs are very valuable; short demonstration courses and lectures are given at each, profitable to anyone who could attend and an inspiration to the farming population of any place.

Then of course, in order to reach the children of the country most efficiently regular teachers should be trained and paid to teach in Agricultural districts. Several Agricultural colleges in Canada and in England have courses for teachers in connection with their normal training colleges. A few of our Newfoundland teachers, endowed with native energy, and trained in these places during their holidays would soon teach the young idea to shoot in the direction of Agriculture in our country schools, and establish the school garden and school farm as essential adjuncts of a Newfoundland school laboratory. (The same applies, in relation to the greatest industry—the Fishery.)

This needs to be done and done systematically too, not spasmodically and fragmentarily; then our country would have dignity and distinction; life, country art, architecture, country society and country customs.

and the words "countryman" and farmer should become synonymous of respect and independence, worthy of the best wishes and admiration of the most intelligent citizens of the community; but to accomplish this a great foundation must be built, with educated minds as material, a foundation nothing short of a sound Agricultural Economic System of Education. When is it to be accomplished? What are our Council of Higher Education and Newfoundland Teachers' Association doing in the matter.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. BUTLER.
St. John's, March 14, 1916.

Fish Waste Made into Glue

Good Opening for Men with Technical Knowledge to Establish Profitable Business.

Some attempt has been made in Canada to produce glue from fish waste, but hitherto it has usually been found that production involves too much technical knowledge and too many highly paid officers. That fish glue, however, can be manufactured in Canada at a profit is clear from the success of the Russia glue works at Gloucester. These glue works were started by two men, very humble men, some years ago; they bought fish skins and fish heads and have manufactured glue and fertilizer and such a success has their venture been that the company which they organized has become very prosperous. The works are now about ten times the extent they were a few years ago and they cannot adequately supply the demand for their product—a demand created by the excellence of the glue. There is quite an opening in regard to fish glue products. Canadian fishermen waste an enormous amount of material, which would produce fish glue, on the banks and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence fisheries, and the amount per annum would startle anybody. The fish waste is now simply dumped into the sea.—Dr. E. E. Prince, in "Canada's Unutilized Fisheries Resources."

LESS BOOZE

Temperance Lecturer—Friends, how can we stop the sale of liquor. Inebriate (in rear of hall)—Give it away.

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Some Lives That Longfellow Forgot to Mention.

By Shortfellow.

Lives of butterflies remind us
That our lives are full of woes,
We can't leave our wives behind us
Just to flit from Rose to Rose.

Lives of chickens all remind us
As we watch them now and then,
That it's mighty hard in these days
To tell a chicken from a hen!

Lives of gold fishes remind us
That their lot is very grave,
There's no privacy in glass bowls
So we'd all have to behave!

Lives of grizzly bears remind us
That their lot is not the worst,
When they want something that's nifty
They just go and bug it first!

Lives of bookworms all remind us
As we dwell with one another,
That to save a reputation
Just to eat a mess of worms?

Lives of patriots all remind us
They're like women folks, and such,
In that they are always talking,
Yet they're never saying much!

Lives of crocodiles remind us—
As their tears drop, one by one—
That their only drink is water,
So they miss a lot of fun!

Lives of ostriches remind us
We should learn their simple trick,
And if things don't seem to go right
We should just stand up and kick!

Lives of early birds remind us
That their stunts give us the squirms,
Who in thunder'd get up early
Just to eat a mess of worms?

GERMAN TELLS HOW ESCAPE FROM AMHERST PRISON CAMP WORKED

William Wagner Gives a Remarkable Story of the Scheming of the Huns at the Internment Station.

How the twelve prisoners who escaped from the Internment Station not long ago got hold of electric wire and other materials they needed in their plans for getting away was told at Calais the other day by William Wagner, one of the men who succeeded in making his way across the international border. Wagner's story includes the recital of 'facts' in connection with a trip he says he took from the Internment Camp to places of business in Amherst, accompanied by a guard, and other bits of interesting detail. How much of his story is really fact and how much is fiction is a matter for conjecture; a good deal of it may be the invention of a fertile mind, but all of it is interesting.

Wagner, it seems, had escaped from detention at Halifax quite early in the war and made his way to Maine. According to his story, he was sent back to Canada that time by the American authorities and was brought to Amherst. At the end of last October, he says, he made his first attempt to tunnel out of the Internment Station. After two unsuccessful attempts he gave up the job. Later on he joined hands with another prisoner, Gustav Hartwig, who had himself been making plans for an escape.

The two men, and then others, went to work at tunneling. The tunnel was started beneath the old sand room, Wagner says, and in order to have a place in which to hide in case of a surprise, it became necessary to gain access to a closet adjoining the sand room. In this connection it was necessary to remove the lock of the closet and replace it with one for which the prisoners had a key.

How to make the change was a problem, Wagner says, until one day he conceived the idea of feigning a toothache. He went to the doctor at the camp, he declares, and told him one of his teeth was bothering him and succeeded in getting an order which permitted him to visit the office of a dentist in Amherst in company of two guards. The dentist examined the tooth, recommended that it be filled and Wagner made an appointment with him for a later date. He then got the guards to take him to a hardware store, he says, for the alleged purpose of securing a lock for his suitcase and after looking the stock over thoroughly he selected a lock similar to that on the closet door referred to and returned to the camp in triumph. The next day the original lock was secretly broken and the new one substituted in its place.

While the guards and prisoners not mixed up in the tunneling operations were busy elsewhere, Wagner and his companions would be at work in the tunnel, and when they emerged from their task they would enter the closet, change their clothes and secrete them. The entrance to the tunnel was through the solid wall of masonry between the divisions of the building, the stones being carefully removed whenever the men wished to continue their operations. One day an officer at the camp noticed the locked door, Wagner says, while several of the prisoner's companions were in the closet and demanded that it be opened, but a key to fit the lock could not be found and after the party passed on the prisoners managed to get back to their quarters without trouble. At another time an officer from Ottawa or Montreal came down and made an inspection of the camp, but again fortune favored the prisoners and their private room escaped inspection.

Getting the Lights.
The electric lights used to illuminate the tunnel were 'swiped,' according to Wagner's story, and the wire was taken from an old motor, formerly used to run an electric fan. The power for the light was taken from the wire used for the fan.
Wagner says that the garments used by him and his fellow conspirators while at work in the trench, were made from potato sacks, with holes cut in them for head and arms. These were discarded when the party emerged from the tunnel on the night of their escape, and were hidden in a barn a short distance from the detention camp.

Wagner disclaims any knowledge of the civilian occupations of his former companions who escaped with him.
He is of the opinion, he says, that Bob Blackhall, or Werner Schwarzenburg, who was with him when he first escaped from the Halifax authorities, is a soldier of fortune and would not be averse to doing work of the kind which spies are supposed to perform, but he says that Blackhall was not a regular government man but was hired by other parties.

Wagner escaped arrest at the time the other prisoners were caught on the border by avoiding the international bridges, which his companions crossed and making the crossing of the river on the ice about half a mile above Milltown. He says he will take up farming in Maine.

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French Artillery Wrought Terrific Havoc with Germans In Big Battle for Verdun

PARIS, Mar. 9.—Military critics here express the opinion that, the German forces, which at the beginning of the battle around Verdun numbered probably half a million, now exceed 750,000.

"The situation is now decidedly better," is the phrase commonly used this morning in the Paris press regarding the struggle for the great French stronghold. The French are beginning to react vigorously against the German "bludgeon strokes," which are having less and less effect and are being delivered with diminishing energy. It is expected, however, that they will be renewed again to-day, but at new points.

The fact that the battle is now shifting is taken as a sign that the German general staff has begun to despair of making a real impression on the French defense.

"I fought since the beginning of the war," says a soldier who has returned to Paris and who was present at the fighting at Ornes, "I saw the shambles at Suippes and Souain. They were nothing to what I saw last week. The enemy advanced and we retired under orders, but we killed them by the dozen. It was so terrible that I, who have watched my comrades fall around me almost with indifference, shudder as my memory recalls those scenes. "As their battalions advanced upon us they were in serried masses, by files of twenty. The shrapnel from our 75-millimetre guns and the projectiles from our heavy artillery fell among them and you could see the great gaps, as if a mower had passed with a scythe. Then high explosive shells, which burst on contact, fell and limbs shot into the air. We were so close that pieces of their torn flesh fell among us. Eventually we reached Moncourt, and took shelter for a time in a wood. Although it was three o'clock in the morning, the bursting shells made it as clear

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LONDON, Mar. 7.—Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of War Trade, was invited, in the House of Commons to-day, to censure newspaper attacks on Italy for the alleged abandonment of Serbia and Montenegro. The Minister said he was glad to have the opportunity to re-affirm the Government's entire confidence in the loyal co-operation of the Italian Government in the joint efforts of the Entente Allies, to succor those two Balkan countries in circumstances of great difficulty.

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