

POOR CO

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W. N. DUCHEMIN, Manager
LESLIE B. McMURDO, Managing Director.

NEWCASTLE, NEW BRUNSWICK, NOV. 22, 1910

WHEN REUBEN GETS THE AX.

(By Herbert Quick in Collier's)

"If all the seas were one sea, what a great sea that would be!"
"If all the trees were one tree, what a great tree that would be!"
"If all the axes were one ax, what a great ax that would be!"
"And if the great man should take the great ax and fell the great tree into the great sea—what a splash splash that would be!"

What a splash splash there will be when the American farmers, our real Colossus, find out their strength, and, ax in hand, begin to act as one man! If, of course, he ever turns out to possess the organizing ability to do it.

Physically, it would be interesting to see the merger of all farmers take the financier—who can without much difficulty be imagined as merged—place him under a microscope slide, and study him. For the consolidated denizen of Wall street would, in such a way, be microscopic or ultra-microscopic. Greater Reuben would look on him with something of the fearful respect with which we examine the bacillus of cholera or bubonic plague. He would squeeze his eyelids together, shift the light, peer through the eyepiece, and when he finally got the MORGANISSIMUS GIGANTEUS in focus, he would exclaim: "Wa-ah! I snuu! That little cuss!"

And yet the real tug-of-war would be between the big fellow and the man under the microscope slide, rather than with any of the giants in whom the other occupations should be embodied—some of whom might be able to reach to his knees. For the man under the slide would have control of the railways, the mines, the wharves and docks, the banks and trust companies, the iron and steel and oil and copper and agricultural machinery, the strategic sites in cities and canyons and power lands, the lumber and coal, and almost everything except the lands of the farmer. He would be in control of the government and, through the government of the army and navy.

In Greene County, Iowa, a "home" telephone system built lines along almost every public road in the country. After a while the farmers made up their minds that this company was becoming trustified, and began building their own lines parallel with the ones with which they had so recently been identified. At last accounts the second movement had also spread to the county limits, and almost every country road had its telephone line on both sides. A waste of capital—of course; but the farmers when they made up their minds they wanted a thing, being united, got it—and then got it the second time. It was their own money, and they spent it as they pleased.

And yet the farmers are not very influential in this country. A man who has had more to do with the American farmer than any one I know, in the way of working for and teaching him, said to me: "The farmers of this country are like dry sand in the hand—they lack cohesion. They run out and leave you empty handed after you think you have grasped them." You remember that the verse with which we began contains the line, "If all the men were one man, what a great man he would be!" The farmer can be all-powerful when he acts as one man. He could then say to the Midget Magistrate under the cover slide: "You own the railroads? Well, we'll build railroads of our own, if you don't

do the right thing!" They did that with the telephone lines in that Iowa county whereof we spoke. And if all the farmers were one farmer he could mine his own coal, and refine his own oil, and operate his own packing houses, and run his own elevators and warehouses, and buy his merchandise of all sorts in carloads and trainloads, and run his own banks, and deliver his fruits and eggs and everything he grows in car lots to the ultimate consumer—and the price of living might be lower for us all.

The other word for this teamwork on the part of the farmers is cooperation through agricultural organization.

It has been suggested here that if all the farmers were one farmer they might own their own packing houses. The farmers of Denmark do this—their cooperative pork packing house fought and defeated a British bacon trust formed to beat down the price of their meats in England.

Denmark has cooperative organizations for farm insurance, poultry raising and marketing eggs and poultry, for buying farm necessities, including seeds, feeds, fertilizers, and machinery, and for keeping bees and selling honey. There are also many cooperative breeding associations. The farmers buy together and buy cheap, and sell together and reach the ultimate consumer or pretty nearly to him. The result is that nowhere do the farmers get as much of the consumer's dollar as in Denmark; and there can be no doubt that the results of this system of cooperation are equally beneficial to the consumer and the producer. The middleman? Well, he can always go to producing, can he not?

European agriculture is being transformed by this massing of farmers into cooperative societies. Some Danish peasants belong to as many as ten of these societies. Such a farmer touches elbows with his fellows and is confident in their collective strength.

The American farmer has done comparatively little in this, but he will do more. We have now, in fact, some of the most efficient cooperative organizations in the world, mostly in the fruit, truck-farming, and dairying industries; but THE URGE TOWARD COLLECTIVE ACTION IS ON. Most of the agricultural papers are advocating in one form or another the cooperative idea. The great agricultural organizations—the American Society of Equity, the Farmers' Union, and the Grange—are in large measure favorable to the cooperative idea. Independent cooperative organizations are springing up all over the land. The error of those Missouri farmers who started the bank—that of overlooking the importance of expert management and expert leadership—is finding recognition as the dangerous thing for cooperation. The agricultural colleges are studying the problems of cooperation, and teaching, in the language of the Austrian law, "its importance and utility." The prediction may be ventured that within the next ten years we shall enter the era of agricultural organization in America, and that, taking the best tried features of European experience, and building with them on our own, we shall make of it a success equal, at least, to that of the Danes.

In those days the farmers will all be one farmer. In recognition of the underlying identity of interest subsisting between producers everywhere, THERE IS QUITE LIKELY TO BE COMMUNITY OF FEELING BETWEEN FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND THOSE OF LABORERS. The

cordial relations that were established at the Farmers' Congress at St. Louis and the American Federation of Labor seems to forecast something of the sort. For a hint as to what may occur, one may again go to Denmark, where the organized farmers—organized in business ways—have gained such power that nearly half the seats in the chief governing body of the Kingdom are held by farmers—men who work with their hands, and support families on holdings of from three to fifteen acres. Denmark has perhaps the best government in the world. THE FARMERS HAVE NO INTEREST IN BAD GOVERNMENT—good government is good for them. What will happen when all the farmers—or even half of them—are one farmer? Doubtless he will cut some wood. There may or may not be a great splash. But thus we may take for truth—there are symptoms that OUR NATIONAL COLOSSUS IS STIRRING WITH THE PREVALENT MANIA FOR COLLECTIVIST ACTION, and that a lot of things are likely to happen when Reuben gets his ax.

DIAMOND JUBILEE

On Wednesday Nov. 30th, inst., (St. Andrew's Day) the congregation of St. Andrew's church will celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the consecration of its church. On the same day St. Mark's congregation of Nelson will observe its twentieth anniversary. Special services in both churches as follows:

St. Andrews—8 a. m., Holy Communion 10 a. m., morning prayer, Venerable Archdeacon Forsythe preacher; 7 p. m., evensong.

St. Marks—3 p. m., evensong and sermon.

The choirs of St. Mary's (Chatham) and St. Paul's (Bushville) will assist at all the services.

Luncheon immediately after morning service, for visiting clergy, church wardens and choirs.

The congregation are making a strenuous effort to wipe off, or materially reduce, the present debt of \$1650 on St. Andrew's Rectory. Special offerings in St. Andrews will be for that purpose.

Archdeacon Forsythe has called a Rural Deanery Meeting for Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, at Newcastle, in connection with the apportionments from each parish in the Deanery to the Missionary Society of the church of England in Canada.

TROTTERS FOR SYDNEY

A carload of Indiana horses passed through St. John Friday on their way to Sydney, N. S., for Patrick Doherty. Among the lot were several fast trotters. They were in charge of the noted driver, Sweeney.

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Belleville, Ont.—"I was so weak and worn out from a female weakness that I concluded to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I took several bottles of it, and I gained strength so rapidly that it seemed to make a new woman of me. I can do as good a day's work as I ever did. I sincerely bless the day that I made up my mind to take your medicine for female weakness, and I am exceedingly grateful to you for your kind letters, as I certainly profited by them. I give you permission to publish this any time you wish."
Mrs. ALBERT WICKERT, Belleville, Ontario, Canada.

Women everywhere should remember that there is no other remedy known to medicine that will cure female weakness and so successfully carry women through the Change of Life as Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from native roots and herbs.

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