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50 Cents a Year

No Royal Road.

COLLEGE graduates—the classical kind, I mean—are now so numerous, as shown by the federal statistics, that they enjoy no particular prominence, even in a small community. Nor should they, unless native ability gives them a fair lead. "Culture," theoretically, makes a man contented with his lot anywhere and the better worker in any sphere. It does so in actual practice if the culture be the real thing, a genuine broadening influence. There are lots of unhappy college graduates driving street cars and doing other ill-paid work, though. In Germany, where the higher education is well nigh universal. Similar conditions prevail in parts of the United States. These things should be clearly understood by young people coming out from schools of learning, and by boys and girls just planning their education, and by their parents. There is no royal road to honor and dignity. A man stands on his own merits in this democratic age.

A Devastating Fire.

The greatest fire in the history of Canada recently swept over Hull and West Ottawa. The losses, estimated at \$20,000,000, fall heavily on several lines of business, including especially the lumber syndicate. Over 3000 families or 15,000 people were rendered homeless and many are in absolute want. Considering that 2500 buildings were destroyed it is a marvel that only seven lives were lost. The federal government has given \$100,000 toward the relief fund, the Ottawa government a liberal amount. Even the New Zealand government has sent on \$25,000, and many are contributing handsomely to assist the unfortunate.

Tightening the Web.

Gradually a web of laws is being wound around the liquor traffic so that many of its degrading features are being taken from view and the coming generation is being obliged to hunt it up rather than to have it constantly before their eyes. While the various states have all sorts of liquor laws, from absolute prohibition in some states, down to the open saloon any and almost everywhere in others, yet the Dominion can give Uncle Sam valuable pointers on suppressing the traffic. The fact that a measure has been under serious consideration in parliament, prohibiting the sale of liquor in every province and territory except Quebec, shows the strong public sentiment in Canada against this monstrous and evil traffic.

Peace, Peace!

An eastern reader, signing himself M. W., wants to see another international peace conference right away, not only to prevent war but to encourage economy and industry and to look after the wants of the worthy

poor. Our friend voices a feeling which is very general in our country, and particularly strong just now. A similar spirit animates many letters. I believe this feeling to be gaining in strength, though gradually, the world over. The Hague conference undoubtedly was the first of a series. Each new war is felt to be more abhorrent and unnecessary than its predecessor. As the people, in distinction from the few, gain in power, wars will be less frequent.

The Horse Industry

Appears to be enjoying a veritable boom. While the country is practically bare, an order was recently received for 5000 more horses for South Africa. Good remounts are indeed a scarce article. Even after the war ends, good horses will be in demand for some time. What is wanted now is a good, sound, hardy, workable horse, 14.1 to 15.3 hands and 6 to 9 years old.

Save the Birds.

The fight against insect and other pests will be half won when the public understands thoroughly the principle so earnestly set forth by scientists and the department of agriculture, that of the necessity of allowing nature's balance in the animal world to be preserved. The birds are our best friends, yet they are slaughtered needlessly, wantonly. Some of those we think troublesome are worth far more than they cost in fruit and seeds consumed. There is danger that some varieties of birds will be exterminated. The principle of balancing forces is neatly exhibited in the case of the parasite which destroys the San Jose scale. Rattlesnakes are increasing in certain parts of California, owing undoubtedly to the killing off of other kinds of snakes and of certain kinds of birds. Illustrations of the principle could be multiplied almost indefinitely. The case of the birds is a serious one. The boys should be taught their value, that they must not kill them. Farmers will stop as soon as they realize the situation.

The Labor Market.

One of the questions that will soon perplex farmers will be the labor problem. With so many off to war, labor on a boom in the states and our own factories all busy, our farmers may well afford to begin looking around now for harvest hands. 'Tis none too early.

One of the interesting features of the fall fairs in recent years has been the exhibits of farm machinery. It looks as though the magnificence of these displays is to be a thing of the past, as the largest of the manufacturers have decided not to exhibit in the future at either the large or small fairs.

If the agricultural papers of Canada many letters are appearing from prominent farmers urging organization and

to operation. Several schemes are put forward to accomplish the object, but the indications are that when the farmers get together again for mutual protection it will be in the old grange halls. There will be some maneuvering, a waste of good ink, a good deal of jaw-smithing, but that is where the farmers will land. There is no other port in sight.

The influence of trusts upon trade during boom times is one thing, their influence during a period of depression may be quite another. The time to keep them within reasonable bounds is now.

Arbor day, like town meeting, "passes off quietly," but although it may be little celebrated at the time, it serves to remind people to plant trees during several weeks following. It is well worth while.

One of the best and most economical forms of fire insurance is to keep chimneys, flues, fireplaces, etc. in a safe condition. The recent report of a state insurance commissioner says that over one-fourth of the fires among farm buildings in his state the past year caught from defective chimneys and flues, and from sparks from chimneys. Where buildings are old and wood is used for fuel, the risk is great. People living within call of a steam fire engine can better afford to let their property run down.

The net cost of running the United States government in 1897 was 302 millions, the appropriations of the present congress for 1901, substituting the probable postal deficiency for the appropriation, are about 443 millions. The army appropriation jumps in this time from 23 millions to 111; navy, 30 to 61; pensions, 111 to 145. These "items" account for the most of the increase.

One of the latest speakers to tell the boys they will do better to stay on the farm is an ex-congressman who started in the country himself. Well, there are going to be more farmers in congress—though that was not his point. And a lot of money is going to be made in farming. At the same time, the city needs some of the country-bred youth. Some of the most successful young men in agricultural pursuits to-day worked in the large places long enough to catch the modern spirit of hustle and then went back home to put it in operation.

Russian officials are making plans toward converting the entire petroleum industry of the Caspian sea oil fields into a government monopoly. It does not appear that Russian oil magnates have forced consumers over there to pay a 30 per cent advance for the burning fluid, yet here is a hint for our own Standard oil company. Patience is a prominent virtue with our common people, but even this has its limits.

Dominion and Provincial.

A PROSPEROUS SEASON AHEAD.

Never was there a brighter outlook for farmers in the maritime provinces. The spring has opened up very early. Seeds of all kinds, potatoes, oats and wheat are cheaper than for many years, greatly lessening the difficulty of farmers to procure seed of the best quality. A year ago potatoes were 25 to 40c, oats 45c and wheat \$1.50 to 1.75 per bu. Now seed oats of good quality may be procured for 30c, potatoes for 20c and wheat 1 to 1.25. Much fall plowing has been done, greatly accelerating early spring seeding and the outlook for grain prices next fall was never brighter.

What has been greatly to the benefit of the maritime farmer this year was the abundance of all kinds of feed, necessitating no purchasing of feed as in many other years, thus keeping the money in the pockets of the farmer which for several years in the past has been paid out for feed. As a result more cattle were fed this past winter than for years. Good prices were realized for fat cattle this spring. A new market has sprung up in their midst in the growing town of Sydney, which will need a large amount of mutton, beef and poultry. Added to the growth of the cattle industry is the unprecedented high price of pork, which for sometime past has been selling for 5c per lb, a price not realized for many years.

But standing out centrally in bold relief amid them all is the maritime dairy industry. So mild a winter as the past has been and the abundance and cheapness of all kinds of feed strengthen the growing dairy industry as never before. The maritime creameries probably have never begun the cheese season under more favorable auspices. The number of cheese factories has increased fully 25 per cent and the most blind and pessimistic must admit that the possibilities of the biggest bonanza dairy year in the maritime provinces is now well begun. The closing year of the glorious nineteenth century is indeed bright. Let every farmer embrace the present opportunity and share the prosperity.—[J. A. McDonald, P. E.]

The N. S. government is placing some first-class horses on the Provincial farm at Truro, including Clydesdale and Hackney stallions and mares. The Clydesdale seems to be the popular and money making horse in Ont and Que and now the maritime provinces are becoming interested.

Free transportation of exhibits to and from the Halifax (N. S.) exposition of the maritime provinces over the government railways is promised by Minister Blair. With this inducement, every farmer ought to have something to place on exhibition. The bigger the fair, the better for the country. Get ready for the big fair, Sept 12-20.

The long-suffering "consuming class" have during 18 long years been "bled" to enable a few of our manufacturing magnates to amass colossal fortunes. If present arrangements to include even more favorable preferential tariff rates are to some extent lightening burdens, we are not going to weep many tears even if the British manufacturer at a distance of 5000 miles is smart enough to capture a share of the trade.—[J. A.]