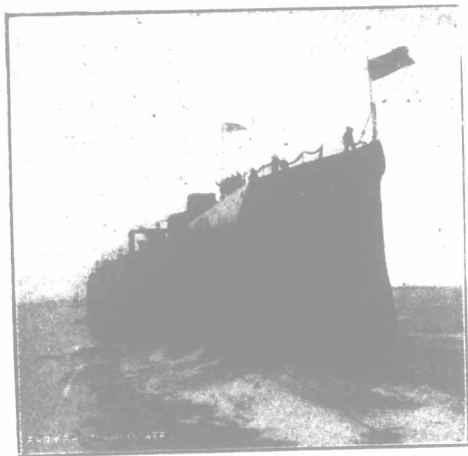
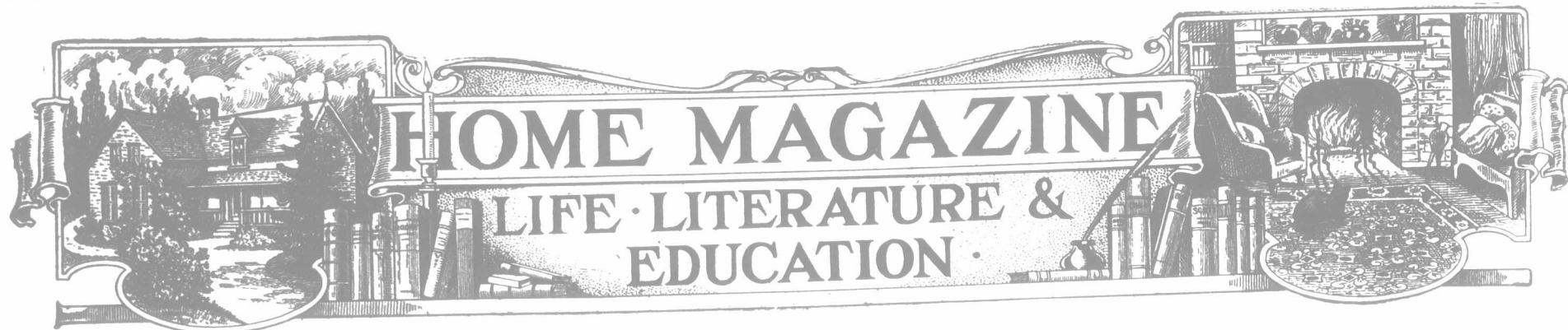




The Vanguard.

A mastless battleship England's latest Dreadnought type. The ships now under construction will be improved by 30 per cent. on this.

As time goes on, interest in the construction of the Panama Canal, the gigantic project which baffled De Lesseps a score of years ago, increases. So far, the work progresses apace, and promises a brilliant triumph for twentieth-century enterprise. The plan is to lift the canal by a system of huge locks, capable of taking the largest ships to a height of 85 feet above sea-level for a considerable part of its course. In order to obviate digging for a part of the way, an immense dam, the Gatun, is being constructed to dam back the Chagres River, which flows into the Atlantic, and thereby form a lake, twenty-three miles in length, along the malarial flats of the Chagres. By doing this, two objects will be accomplished—the forming of a considerable waterway, and the stamping out of disease over a large extent of country. On the western side of this lake, a channel fed by it, on the same level, will extend for nine miles, the remainder of the total fifty miles being covered by locks, as on the eastern side of the waterway.

At present, sixty huge steam shovels are at work, and an army of 31,815 employees, made up of Spaniards, Italians, Americans, British and negroes. Most of these men would rather be "back in God's country," as they say, yet the wages, which average from 40 to 80 per cent. more than in the United States, hold them to the work. As may be imagined, a very complete system of government and of commissariat has been found necessary, and, for the protection of the workmen, an indefatigable war has been kept in progress against the species of mosquitoes which carry the germs of yellow fever and malaria. Thanks to the measures taken, especially the use of petroleum on stagnant pools and marshes, this danger has been greatly reduced.

If it prove possible to construct the Gatun dam in such a way that it will resist the pressure of the proposed lake, no fears are entertained that the waterway will not be ready for use, as planned, in 1915, a date which will mark an epoch in the commercial history of the world. The entire cost will be about \$300,000,000.

A hopeful sign of our time is the increasing interest that farmers everywhere are taking in education, general and otherwise. Indeed, it is

becoming very generally recognized that a University education, plus an agricultural college course, where such can be obtained, is none too good for any farmer.

At the same time, it is, no doubt, true that, with the raising of the standard for high-school and University examinations, fewer farmers will be able to take advantage of the higher education. In the old days, when it was possible to teach on a third-class certificate, many a boy was enabled to work his way up; under present conditions, financial difficulties often stand in the way. All the more reason, then, that our rural schools be brought to the very highest point of efficiency, and that special efforts be made to bring educative influences of every kind—lectures, reading clubs, rural libraries, etc.—into every country district. Whatever obstacles may stand in the way otherwise, the university afforded by books and magazines is always possible.

People, Books and Doings.

A combination of the phonograph and the siren, whose voice, speaking intelligible words, may be heard for miles, has been invented in Germany.

The battleships to be built this year in Great Britain will be superior by 30 per cent to their immediate predecessors of the Dreadnought type.

More than eighty orders for airships, to be used in the United States, are now in the hands of the Wright Brothers.

The German military authorities, for personal reasons, it is said, have refused to buy any more airships from Count Zeppelin, investing, instead, in vessels of the Gross and Parseval type. Moreover, all the airship stations now under construction in the German Empire are too small to shelter the Zeppelin ships.

The number of French battleships is to be brought up to 38. The addition will place France as fourth among the naval powers of the world.

The body of George Meredith was cremated, and the ashes, owing to some unorthodox opinions held and advanced by the author, were refused interment in Westminster Abbey.

A village in Massachusetts has an Improvement Society, whose object is to make the village a clean, healthy, pleasant place to live in. Such a society could find plenty of scope for activity in many of our rural districts in Canada.

In Ottawa, at a recent "Press Concert," Gertrude, the seven-year-old daughter of Amédée Tremblay, organist of the Basilica, exhibited singular talent. She played five of her own piano compositions, and also sang prettily to her own accompaniment. Her voice had the effect of an absolutely pitched flute. Tremblay's parents were not musical, but it is said of him that at three years of age he worked busily to produce tone from a corn-cob whistle. At five he first heard the organ of Notre Dame, Montreal, and shortly afterwards escaped from home, and was found absorbed in the study of a neighbor's piano. When thirteen he began teaching music, and at seventeen was appointed organist of the Ottawa Basilica. He has a cabinet

full of original compositions, but does not wish to publish them until he has accomplished something new.

"Remuneration Not Needed."

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Having heard a good deal about the unfairness of taking away liquor licenses, without compensating the late holder, I wish to make a few remarks on that phase of the temperance question. In the first place, the liquor men tell us that they do a larger business than formerly, and have to pay no license fee, so surely they are being very substantially remunerated; so I don't see what else we could do for them. But then, they are "whole-hoggers." If not, they must belong to Nemo's gang of proficient liars.

Talk about taking away a man's business! It can't be termed a business; it is nothing but a traffic, and we might just as well talk about remunerating an African slave-dealer for the loss of his means of livelihood, or compensating the keeper of a disorderly house after it has been raided. Then, again, if it does not pay to keep hotel without the bar, what class of customers have been up-keeping the house? Why, surely the men that have been buying drink, and that means that those who don't drink, but use the hotel merely for accommodation, have been letting somebody else pay for it, and I think it is mean of any person who is able to pay his own way to let someone else do it for him; and that is what it amounts to, if there are no profits in the hotel business besides what are derived from the sale of liquor. No, they are not entitled to remuneration; they have had too much already, for, as the old saying is, "It is the cheapest stuff made, and the dearest stuff bought."

Then, again, how many lives, homes and businesses have been wrecked and means of livelihood taken away through drink? And yet, how much compensation has been paid in those cases? One of your correspondents, a few weeks ago, said: "Leave the doleful stories of the drunkard's wife and family to preachers and fanatics." A very nice way of disposing of the stories, but what about the wives and families?—because all the "doleful stories" are not fictitious. I think it is a dirty slur to call temperance workers fanatics, when they are engaged in fighting the greatest curse that ever beset mankind; because, go to any place of compulsory detention, or charitable institution, and you will find that 90 per cent. of the inmates are there directly or indirectly through drink. So, I repeat, it is the greatest curse on the earth. A man goes into a clothing store, and invests \$10 in a suit of clothes. The seller and buyer are both benefited by the transaction, because the one has something substantial for his money and is enabled to go about his business properly clad, and the other is able to provide for his family out of the profits derived from a necessary business. But the man that takes \$5 and spends it in drink, has nothing substantial for his money, unless it be a big head, and that is not prudent, is it, Mr. Editor?

body else, so there was only one benefited by that deal. Then there is the time that is wasted by lounging about the bar-room, and impaired energy, both of which might have been put to some useful purpose; so it is impossible to estimate the amount of loss and waste caused yearly by drink. I think it is a piece of impudence to talk about remuneration for the loss of licenses.

Then, again, some say we have a right to take a drink if we want to, and it is nobody's business. Now, I pride myself on being a free citizen, and don't like the idea of enforcing anybody; but when the interests of the few have to be sacrificed for the benefit of the many, I don't think there is any encroachment on citizens' rights. There are laws passed to protect the public against itself, such as the vaccination law, and the law for regulating the sale of firearms, and poisons, and explosives. Why should not a citizen of a free country be allowed to purchase a revolver, or poison, or some high explosive, and have no questions asked, and be allowed to use them when and wherever he chooses? We would not hear of many more accidents or deaths from the free use of these articles than we do from drink, for there is hardly a day passes without one or more accounts of accidents or deaths being recorded in the newspapers, caused directly or indirectly through drink. We pride ourselves on being members of the mightiest empire that ever existed, an empire that has done more to educate, to elevate, to emancipate, to civilize, and spread the gospel, more than any other empire or people has ever done, and yet we allow such a parasite to exist in our midst. I think it is a burning shame and disgrace to the nation calling itself the most highly-civilized, Christianized and enlightened nation on earth to allow a traffic to exist whereby so much can be made and wasted, and causing so much crime and destitution as the drink traffic. I think the cross of St. George would be a very appropriate emblem and device for the temperance associations to adopt, as they are certainly engaged in a fight with a mighty dragon.

Thanking you for the space allowed me previously in your valuable paper, and thinking you cannot be engaged in a nobler work than publishing temperance views and news.

T. W. BALLARD.

Grey Co., Ont.

Another Question.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In a recent issue, May 13th, I read an account of "The Married Man," signed H. A. B. It struck me very forcibly, for we see so much of it at the present time. Young men will ask young ladies to be their wives, and in their courting days they think there is nothing like their company; but when they are married, the man will go up street, and leave his wife to spend the evening alone, while he is with his chums. I think, if her company was so sweet at first, it should get better and better as time goes on, as true love never dies. It has been my experience that, if you treat a woman kindly, she will return it fourfold. I say we only have to live through this life once, and we may as well try and make those happy around us.

S. A. J.