

The Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine

"Persevere and Succeed."

Established 1866.

VOL. XLI.

LONDON, ONT., JUNE 7, 1906.

No. 715

EDITORIAL.

A Note of True Patriotism.

Truth of more than Provincial application is voiced in the letter of our esteemed Maritime correspondent, Rev. A. E. Burke, who points out in his communication on another page the mistake being made by many of his native Province, Prince Edward Island, in leaving substantial but despised attractions at home, to pursue Fortune in other Provinces and States. His loyalty is not Provincialism. He does not contrast the Canadian West and the American Republic with his own Province from any sense of jealousy or narrowness. He has faith in the West and in the great Canadian Federation; but he sees clearly that a great nation cannot be built up by impetuous rushing from place to place. We must hold and develop the ground we gain, instead of forsaking it when a tempting chance offers elsewhere. The need in Canada to-day is not for more confidence in the West, which is already getting possibly more than its share of attention, but for a sustained and renewed progress in the older-settled parts. The truest patriot, the broadest nationalist, is he who recognizes this fact, and acts accordingly. Father Burke does recognize it, and recognizes, further, that this progress can spring only from well-placed confidence, based upon knowledge, which shall lead to a truer appreciation of the blessings at hand. It would be idle to contend that Prince Edward Island is the best land to get rich in, or that its inhabitants enjoy the highest degree of material prosperity, but it is not idle to assert that nowhere is there less poverty, nowhere a stancher, more upright, brainy people, a more devoted loyalty, or warmer hearts, than in the little sea-girt Garden of the Gulf. It deserves this title. There is bolder scenery, more expansive areas, and more variegated landscape, but for refreshing summer climate, and exquisite rural scenery of the quiet, pastoral character, commend us to Prince Edward Island. If there is a more charming place on this continent to spend a summer holiday, we have yet to find it.

There is just one serious drawback. The land is good, and nearly all arable, the people intelligent and thrifty, the distance from world's markets is not great, but the Province is off by itself, apart from the continental arteries of commerce, removed to a great extent from its currents of thought and material progress. Water communication only is its lot, and frequently in the winter this is interrupted for weeks. There are people on the Island who have never been off it, never seen a city larger than Charlottetown. That the Islanders have kept so well abreast of the times as they have is amazing in the circumstances. In spite of all, they have produced men of the largest calibre, and contributed a fair share of talent to the ranks of Dominion statesmen. The implied inference is, that with so much to show in the face of such difficulties, what might we not expect from people of that inherent capacity brought into closer touch with the national life, and within profitable reach of the best markets? Meanwhile, we commend to the inhabitants the view of our correspondent, that they prize truly those blessings they have.

There are golden opportunities, if we look about us, rather than abroad. True patriotism begins with the individual, and his first demonstration of it lies in making the best of his own circumstances. The broadest Canadian to-day is he who divines and proclaims the advantages and potentialities of his home Province, and resolutely addresses himself to the task of its fullest and best development as part and parcel of the great Dominion.

A Railway Without a Subsidy.

James J. Hill, the Canadian-American magnate of the Great Northern Railway System, threatens to lay a band of steel between Vancouver and Winnipeg, and is already making good by energetic preliminary action. Speculation is rife regarding his ultimate intentions. At first he was credited with a possibly vainglorious ambition to own the fourth Canadian transcontinental railroad. Then it was hinted that rivalry and retaliation against the C. P. R. was the moving influence. This suspicion obtained credence from the character of the situation. The Great Northern trunk traverses the northern part of the Western States, and from it parallel spur lines run north-westwardly to the boundary. The C. P. R.'s main theatre is the Canadian West, but of late years it has been doing a large business in transportation of American immigrants, and also of merchandise on its south-eastern branch known as the "Soo" line. At other points, also, it has been dipping down into Hill preserves, checking and counter-checking in the game of traffic-getting, till rumor has it that Mr. Hill has become nettled, and is trying to checkmate his rival with a bluff. While no doubt this figures as an element in the situation, we prefer the more satisfactory presumption that Mr. Hill has somewhat tardily awakened to the possibilities of the Canadian West, and desires to get a finger in our pie. So anxious is he that he offers to do the altogether Quixotic thing of building without a subsidy. This does such violence to the principles of the orthodox way of Canadian railway building that a sinister design is suspected of diverting Canadian trade to American ports. It is easy to understand why such a consummation should be unpalatable to the C. P. R. and G. T. R., which direct large volumes of traffic to Boston, Mass., and Portland, Maine, two winter ports situated a little south of the International boundary.

But out comes Mr. Hill with a repudiation of the aforesaid malign intention, a declaration that he will spend \$3,000,000 on Winnipeg terminals, and a plausible forecast that his prairie line will prove a feeder in summer of the Canadian water route. In any case, the healthy competition set up in transportation bids fair to result in great advantage to the West, and in lesser degree to the Dominion generally. Experience has been that when Americans enter the Canadian field of business they usually set the pace, and a little pacemaking in railroading promises substantial benefits, in rate reduction and improved service, to those who are at the mercy of the enfranchised corporations. It is hinted that Mr. Hill's prospective venture will not pan out as anticipated. As to that, Mr. Hill is perhaps the most responsible judge. The theory that nation-building, after the railroad company's pattern, cannot be made profitable in this northern country without subsidies, is entirely too welcome to Canadian capitalists, and even the much overworked loyalty cry will not avail to suppress a feeling of satisfaction at the advent of Hill enterprise and the Great Northern lines.

Patent Medicine Control.

As announced in these columns, the Pratt bill, for regulating the patent-medicine business, introduced at the late session of the Ontario Legislature, was withdrawn, in order to save it from slaughter. A similar, though less drastic measure, introduced in the Dominion House, was referred to a special committee which has decided to have a bill for the control of these medicines drafted by Dr. MacFarlane, Chief Analyst of the Dominion, in order that the public may be protected from improper preparations. This action

is in accordance with the suggestion made by "The Farmer's Advocate," in discussing this important subject some time ago.

Turf Gambling.

In homely, bad-spelled philosophy, Josh Billings once put it down that about the worst day that ever overtakes any man is when he thinks there is some better way of getting a dollar than by squarely earning it. This spirit underlies gambling, one of the most widespread and demoralizing vices of the day. Its prevalence in Great Britain is notorious, and long ago it infected a large element of the United States population, bringing in its train widespread fraud, embezzlement and dishonor. In various forms, we regret to note its inroads among the Canadian people, chiefly those of the cities and towns, but as the poison of these moral disorders spreads fast from one class in the community to another, a note of warning is not out of place, even to the sons of the soil. During the progress of the recent annual race meeting of the Ontario Jockey Club, Rev. Canon Cody, one of the ablest of Toronto divines, with good reason, felt constrained to raise his voice in protest against the evils of betting and gambling.

In many of the ordinary transactions of life there is an element of chance or speculation, and the distance a man may go, Canon Cody wisely indicated, must remain a matter of his individual conscience, but in games and pastimes the issue was clear-cut and well defined. He described gambling as "a stake upon chance for gain without labor," and gambling as "a contract to give or receive money or goods without a just equivalent or exchange, and on conditions which are, for the most part, beyond the foresight or control of the parties engaged in the transactions." In betting, people violated or ignored their responsibility for the use of money entrusted them as stewards by the Divine Being. Fundamentally, the loser was spending his money in an immoral way. Winning money on a wager involved a gain without effort and profit without merit. It was a discouragement of honest labor and a violation of the Golden Rule, involving gain from another's loss and profit from another's misery. So philosophical an authority as Mr. Herbert Spencer, most emphatically condemns it upon the latter ground. The winner gives no equivalent satisfaction directly or indirectly, but has his happiness at the expense of the loser. The gambler is distracted from legitimate business. Deception and bluff are fostered for the purpose of influencing the issue. Chas. Kingsley, the eminent novelist, condemned it as unchivalrous and unchristian, and the economist, Selby, as a violation of the public sense of the sacredness of property. Mr. W. A. Fraser, the popular Canadian author, whose acquaintance with the turf is intimate and world-wide, as readers of his stories well know, in a recent article, entitled, "Fools' Money," in the Saturday Evening Post, dealing particularly with betting on race-horses, branded gambling as the acme of human foolishness which creates a fevered desire that never satisfies. It is the direct cause of most of the bank failures, and responsible for at least nine-tenths of the defaulters, wrecking lives and ruining homes. In all his observations in the betting world, he knew of but one man, now dead, who succeeded in the end, and he told Mr. Fraser that were he to write a book about racing and tell the truth, nobody would ever go near a race-course again. There is no known rule or method, crooked or straight, that will prevail against the great percentage of chance, and so men lose and plunge and lose again, in the hopeless pursuit of easy wealth.