

Canada and Mexico, met in Boston last week. The order has a total membership of forty-three thousand in American.

Election results in Newfoundland indicate that the Morris administration is sustained by a majority of twenty seats. The present election killed forever the scheme for confederation with Canada which has been talked of in the island more or less since 1867.

Some serious fires occurred in England last week. At Swansea the dock district was badly damaged, while a serious forest fire broke out at Aldershot, in Hampshire, and burned up two thousand acres of woodland. The forest burned was planted by William the Conqueror in 1079, and many of the trees destroyed are believed to date back to his time.

In the International Marathon in New York on May 8th, St. Yves, the French long distance runner won his second Marathon on this continent, defeating such well known sprinters as Dorando, Hayes, and John D. Marsh, the later of Winnipeg. On the same day Shrubbs, the English Champion defeated Tom Longboat in a fifteen mile race in Montreal.

### Normal Students Studying Agriculture

The first class of normal students to take the recently prescribed course in agriculture at the Agricultural College, Winnipeg, as a part of their training for the teaching profession, started the four weeks' course last week. The studies include such subjects as field and animal husbandry, dairying, horticulture and botany, in addition the regular course in nature study. The idea of the course is to stimulate in the teachers some interest in agricultural affairs, and to equip them for the teaching of agriculture and nature subjects in the rural schools. The college staff will be engaged in a special course work most of the summer. Shortly after the normal students leave the engineering course begins, and following that, in August, the class at the Normal College for the fall term will come in for a month's instruction.

### British Press Opinion on the Cause and Affect of Higher Wheat Prices

It is amusing to read the editorial opinion of certain papers in our own country on the evils of the recent corner so called, which certain operators managed to carry through in May wheat, and from a perusal of them, one might be convinced, if he refused to exercise common sense on his own account, that a corner raising the price wheat was undesirable and a disadvantage to a country that claimed as the chiefest of its products the first cereal of the world. It has yet to be shown that any movement that advances the price of that cereal is a disadvantage to the producers of it. It has to be demonstrated too, in the first place that a corner in this case actually existed, a thing, by the way, which is a trifle awkward to do. Bulling the market rarely reacts unfavorably to the producer and it is from his view point that we are most interested in studying the situation.

There is great outcry in England too, over the high price of wheat and the resulting dearth of the poor man's loaf, coincidentally with the same condition on this continent. But it is noticeable that the British do not blame Mr. Patten for it. Many circumstances, we learn from the London press, have conspired to make wheat scarce. The area of the wheat-consuming world is becoming wider, but as a compensation wheat is being produced in ever-increasing quantities. Russia, India, Canada, and Australia all feed the London wheat market, and although a sympathetic change has resulted in Europe from the state of the Chicago quotations, everything must not be laid at the door of Mr. Patten and his confederates. The editor of *The Mark Lane Express*, the leading London agricultural organ, attributes to several causes the rise in the price of wheat, and remarks:

"Whether there has really been a 'corner' in wheat or whether Mr. Patten only showed astuteness in sizing up the position of the grain trade is a question which is hardly worth discussing here, though the fact remains that he has made a huge fortune in buying wheat for future delivery.

"Naturally this is a very real source of anxiety to all people in this country. Apart from any questions of manipulation of the American markets by a single operator or a clique, with the object of driving prices to a fictitious level, it can not be denied that the tendency has been for many years in this country for wheat and flour, and consequently bread, to get dearer. No doubt the manipulations in America have done a great deal to excite the wheat markets of the world; but the whole cause of the recent advances in this country is not to be found in the manipulations in the pit at Chicago, but rather in the shortage of supplies and the absence of stocks in this country.

"It is reckoned by the best authorities that at the present time the visible supply, in round figures, is 3,000,000 quarters less than it was twelve months ago, and it is to this fact that the recent increase in price must be ascribed. Against this shortage there is a surplus of nearly 1,500,000 quarters in the United States, but over there values are so big that

none of the wheat is likely to come here until well over 40 shillings per quarter can be got for it on this side."

He even goes so far as to see in the dearth of bread an inducement to farmers to revive the cultivation of wheat in Britain, instead of leaving the country to live on imported cereals. This eminent specialist speaks on this point as follows:

"It can not be denied that a regular price of 40 shillings the quarter for home-grown wheat would act as a great stimulus to arable farming in this country, and that large areas of land which were allowed to sow themselves down to grass during the last two decades would again become available for wheat-growing if prices remain at about the level indicated. From the farmers' point of view it would be a great advantage for wheat to remain steady in price at about 40 shillings the quarter, and this figure would not unduly press on the town-dweller, for bread would be little if any dearer than it is today, certainly not more than a halfpenny a loaf."

This opinion is echoed by the London *Daily Mail*, in which we read of the rise of the price of wheat in its effects on the farmer:

"Every shilling by which it rises will put five shillings an acre profit into the pocket of the farmer. Agriculture will revive and there will be a return movement from the cities to the land. From the national standpoint such a result would not be undesirable. Cheap food is not the end of life, and it may be very dearly purchased by losses in other directions. We are awakening to the dangers which arise where the state leads a one-sided life."

Most optimistic is the comment of *Lloyd's Weekly News*, which says:

"We may grumble at the higher prices we are called upon to pay for the necessities of life. But our



H. V. DONALDSON.

Secretary Brandon Poultry association, chief official at this year's show and who will have charge of the Provincial Poultry Show next year.

grumbling may be sweetened by the thought that higher prices mean increased prosperity for an important class—once the most important class—in our social economy. The circumstances of our position as an Island Power have compelled us to seek our food when and where we can get it at the cheapest rate. The agricultural classes have loyally accepted that position, and they have turned their attention to the supply of those articles of food which must be grown on the spot, and which can not be carried long distances. But if the time should come when we should be compelled to ask the British farmer to return to the production of cereals once more, we have not the slightest doubt that he would not be found wanting when that call was made."

In referring to the Chicago speculators, the London *Times* broaches the opinion that the increased consumption of wheat alone makes the cornering of the wheat market a feasible operation. To cite a recent editorial:

"Wheat consumption is steadily overtaking wheat production. As the margin narrows, smaller and smaller causes will produce large fluctuations in price, and we shall be more and more at the mercy of the Chicago corner-man. Later still, if the wheat-eating population of the world goes on increasing at its present rate, the struggle for existence will bring worse things than a rise in the price of bread."

"It is in fact evident," declares the London *Economist*, citing the same reasons, "that the high prices now being charged in London must be attributed to other causes than the Chicago manipulation." Nevertheless, observes the London *Chronicle*, "the gambling in America has some share in the fact" that bread is dearer. America should follow the example of certain European countries in checking this gambling, we are told. What France and Germany have done in this matter is thus stated:

"In France and Germany there are thoroughly effective regulations directed against gambling in the food of the people. In Germany a law was enacted thirteen years ago which prohibited 'term' or 'option'

trading in grain or mill products except upon application to the Bundesrat, and then only on conditions prescribed by that body. By a later law the restriction was strengthened, the issue of licenses being confined to (1) producers and consumers of the actual goods to be dealt in under the license; and (2) merchants or registered commercial organizations whose line of business includes the purchase or sale of or loans upon grain or mill products. Even these classes can deal only on conditions which exclude the mere gambling element. In France the restrictions are hardly less effective, and it is, by the strangest irony, the great democracy of the West that is left an easy and absolute prey to the gambler in food."

### Hobbies for Homesteaders

No matter how busy any man is he must have a small portion of each day to himself, involving cessation of his regular labors. How to utilize this time so that it will be beneficial, is the problem that assails each bachelor homesteader. To be alone on the prairie, far from the entertainment and society found in the city, makes this problem difficult of solution. The time can be made but how is it to be enjoyed so that the necessary relaxation may be obtained? Even if entertainments are planned and organized they cannot possibly fill all the spare time due to the bachelor.

It has often been remarked that every man should have a hobby, and as different to his regular employment as is possible. This is really the very best way of filling the hours of recreation. To remain idle during "rest time" does not give true rest; it produces ennui which accentuates loneliness. The mind preoccupied with the cares and responsibilities of the day, has to be switched onto new lines, and if physical toil is the daily task, mental effort is the proper relaxation. Then let every man have a hobby and ride it. Let him enthuse over it, get excited about and indulge in it to his heart's content in his playtime and the "blues" will vaporize, deport and leave him contented, joyful and busy.

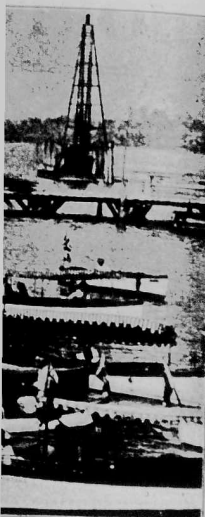
Some fellows are such "hogs" for work that they begrudge a few hours in the twenty-four for the rebuilding of the energies, and restoration of vitality. "If it don't pay we don't want it" they exclaim. But it does pay. It pays physically. A machine can't run forever, not even a human machine. Recreation, because it recuperates the powers enabling more work, and of a better sort to be accomplished. That is not all, it can be made to pay in hard cash. Take the example of a certain school master living on the Western prairies. His vocation bound him indoors but he still had time to enjoy the sunlight. He purchased a camera, and in his earliest attempts of the dark art he managed to get a fair photograph of the school and children. To his surprise every parent hearing of it offered to pay for a few prints from his negative; having a business instinct strong within him he saw possibilities, made his opportunity and pocketed the dollar bills.

Photography is the easiest and perhaps, most remunerative hobby of them all. A good camera can be had from \$3.00 upwards. A more expensive article, though, is a better money maker. Materials, if handled with economy, are not a large item in the expenses, profits are large. "Taste and tidiness" should be the motto of the worker. An enlarger for negatives 4 1/2" x 3 1/2" enlarging to 6 1/2" x 8 1/2" costs \$3.00, paper 60 cents a dozen sheets. This is sure to pay for itself. The mounted photographs are cheap at 60 or 75 cents apiece, and often equal professional work costing \$1.00 or \$2.00. If the amateur gets a mitre block and picture frame moulding his evenings will be filled, his mind kept busy and his pocket book bulging. Homesteaders are anxious to send pictures of themselves or their property "back East" or to the "Old Country," therefore, orders need hardly be solicited if the district knows that a camera is anywhere handy.

A hint that is worth money may prove suggestive to photographers. Retain all negatives photographed in the district. After about 100 are selected print lantern slides, an easy process, and print tickets announcing a lantern exhibition of *Local Views*. Get the people to expect to see themselves on the street and do not disappoint them. If their curiosity does not bring in a bagful of "quarters" the fault lies with the operator. A chatty little lecture explaining the pictures will interest the spectators, and serve as a mild advertising medium for the photographer.

Press photography needs no comment. The West is an almost virgin field, and farming papers are always ready to consider good agricultural pictures. In each of these cases it will be noticed the local tyro has superior advantages over the city professional in work of the nature described. Every print submitted should bear on back the name and address of sender, also descriptive matter. The price is a matter that cannot be considered here because it is of such a variable nature. To specialize will be found profitable. For instance "animal photography is a new field in most localities. A man with an outfit specially designed and purchased for that particular purpose and with a thorough understanding of his subject will be surprised at how many farmers are anxious for good photographs of their stock.

Tastes differ, so that suggestions that appeal to one person are impracticable to others, therefore, as varied an assortment of hobbies as possible will be



MOTOR BOATS.

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