

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

Published weekly by
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (Limited).

JOHN WELD, Manager.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
Winnipeg, Man.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers of any publication in Canada.
 2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries, 12s. in advance.
 3. ADVERTISING RATES.—30 cents per line, agate, flat. Live-stock advertising rates given on application.
 4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until the explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payment of arrears must be made as required by law.
 5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid, and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
 6. REMITTANCES should be made direct to us, either by Money Order, Postal Note, Express Order or Registered Letter, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we will not be responsible.
 7. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
 8. ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention. In every case the "Full Name and Post Office Address Must be Given."
 9. WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED to Urgent Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.
 10. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
 11. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P.O. address.
 12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
 13. ADDRESSES OF CORRESPONDENTS ARE CONSIDERED AS CONFIDENTIAL and will not be forwarded.
 14. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.
- ADDRESS—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (Limited),
London, Canada

First Aid to Old Bachelors.

By ALLAN McDIARMID.

I was asked lately if I wouldn't put in a good word for the Bachelors, sometime when I was trying to give expression to my ideas on paper. He's the under dog that everybody kicks or throws a stone at, so I suppose that it's no more than fair that I should say a word in his behalf; that is, if I can think of anything to say. A task like this compels us to sort of reverse our mental machinery and begin thinking in a direction opposite to what has always been our habit and contrary to public opinion in general. For who ever wasted sympathy on the man that hasn't had "git up and git" enough to shoulder his share of life's responsibilities? Who ever saw anybody shed tears at his funeral? He's a sort of outcast from society and if it wasn't for the fact that his numbers are becoming greater, year by year, we might safely consign him to oblivion, "unwept, unhonored and unsung."

But he is a problem that, under the circumstances, we must take into consideration, like war, famine or pestilence, whose existence we deplore but which must, nevertheless, be fairly met and dealt with.

For thousands of years, whenever mankind got into a tight corner, it would always take refuge in the passing of a statute, or law, that it was hoped would help to get everyone safely over the difficulty.

For war we have prescribed a League of Nations. For famine we try the cure of jailing the profiteers. For pestilence we quarantine and vaccinate, and all these things are backed up by law. And we even took to passing rules and regulations as to the manner in which the inhabitants of our country should quench their thirst.

It is little wonder then that that defenceless, and often

homeless, being, the bachelor, should be made the subject of this legislating habit of ours. A brilliant idea occurred to some one. They would impose a tax on all unmarried men who had come to the years of understanding, and back it up by the law of the land; tax him off the face of the earth and out of existence, as it were. "Desperate diseases require desperate remedies," and that sort of thing. Force him into matrimony or give him an alternative almost as bad. Make him take up the duties and responsibilities of the average citizen or pay the expenses of those that do. No allowance made for circumstances—a regular holdup—your money, or your life, as you wished to live it.

Going back to the dawn of history, can we find another instance where a person has been subjected to a tax on what they didn't have? Tax a man for his farm or his dog, or his wife, if you like, but don't tax him because of his lack of these things. It's against reason and common-sense, and the matter ought to be taken to the Supreme Court, that is if it too is not swayed by the general prejudice against the Ishmael who has every man's hand against him.

But as to whether the bachelor, be he young or old, shall be taxed or put on the "free list," is not the most important question we have before us. The real point is, what is his place in the community? Is he a member of society in good standing? Is there room for a difference of opinion as to his moral right to take the attitude he does towards his fellow-men in general and his fellow-women in particular? We claim there is. And the best way to prove it is to quote the words of men of wisdom and experience who have left themselves on record as to this matter.

Bacon says that "a wife and children are a hindrance to great enterprises."

An old Scotch proverb says: "If marriages were made in Heaven we had but few friends there."

Another proverb, not taken from the Bible either, says: "When going to sea say a prayer; when going to war say two prayers; but before marrying, say three prayers."

A French writer gives his experience and opinion in this way: "When a man says he has a wife it means that a wife has him."

Voltaire, another French author, makes this confession: "Woman was created to tame man." We can call to mind many sad examples of men who have been thus tamed.

A Welsh proverb thinks that "the man who has taken one wife deserves a crown of patience," but that "the man who has taken two wives deserves two crowns of pity."

Another from the same country says: "In buying horses and in taking a wife, shut your eyes tight and commend yourself to God."

And again: "It is easier to take care of a peck of fleas than of one woman."

A man who, for some reason, didn't sign his name to his statement, says: "How many men would laugh at the funerals of their wives if it were not the custom to weep?"

These are only a few of the examples we could give of the sentiments expressed by some of the world's great men. It all goes to prove that the bachelor of today is not without the backing of the men of past generations in regard to the matter of playing a lone hand in life's game. A lot of them did it and, apparently, a lot more wished they had. Of course, whether you do or don't, it's human nature to regret, but there's no doubt of the fact that "he travels fastest who travels alone," even if he does end in a smash-up, sometimes.

Bachelors have their place in the scheme of things, as well as that part of humanity that is given over, almost entirely, to personal and family cares and worries. They've done just as much for the world, recently, as the married men. They whipped the Germans and for that, if for nothing else, they should have our admiration and respect. They should be bonused, not taxed.

But it's the old story. He who has, gets; but he who has not, gets it in the neck.

In conclusion we can't do better than quote the words of one more great French writer. "Bachelors," he says, "are providential beings; they were created for the consolation of widows and the hope of maids."

This practically puts them in the same class as philanthropists and home missionaries.

The married man has, of course, certain advantages, but, as we heard it expressed by an old gentleman lately: "whether one is willing to go through so much to learn so little is entirely a matter of taste."

Nature's Diary.

BY A. BROOKER KLUGH, M. A.

ADMINISTERING MEDICINE TO TREES.

For many years past there have been occasional references in the press to the results which have been attained by injecting various substances into trees. Sometimes the operation has been undertaken to rid the tree of injurious insects, sometimes to kill fungi, and again with the idea of imparting some quality to the fruit or foliage. It has been asserted that if a solid piece of some chemical substance is placed in a hole bored in a tree-trunk that this chemical will be carried in the sap to all parts of the tree. Such assertions can only be made by, or believed by, those who know nothing of plant anatomy, and who think that the circulation in a tree is similar to that of the blood in the human body. As a matter of fact the living wood of a tree is made up of long tube-like cells, and it is through these cells that the current of sap ascends. There is little lateral spreading of this ascending current, so that any chemical would be transmitted only to those cells lying fairly directly above the spot at which the chemical was introduced, and none of it would reach the other side of the trunk. The elaborated sap, that is the sap which has received the food-products made by the leaves, descends through the inner layers of the bark and here also the descent is in a fairly straight line. Furthermore the effect of a strong chemical is to kill the cells about the point of its introduction and thus to stop any absorption of any kind.

In recent years the method of giving injections of medicine to trees has been tried in an effort to combat the terribly destructive chestnut bark disease which has spread with great rapidity and has wiped out nearly all the chestnut trees over large areas. Dr. Rumbold of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry has described these experiments in a recent number of "American Forestry." The first difficulty encountered was in getting the tree thoroughly injected with any kind of solution. It was found to be essential to make the holes through the bark for injection purposes under cover of a liquid, as if air entered before injection, or with the solution, air-bubbles clogged the vessels of the tree and prevented the absorption of the solution. The following method was, however, worked out to eliminate this difficulty. A glass container holding the solution was hung from a branch. The solution was led to the point of injection by a rubber tube in the end of which was a small glass tube in the form of a T was inserted into the injection hole. The free end of the horizontal arm of the T tube was tipped by a piece of rubber tubing. After the solution had filled the tube, a steel cutter was inserted through the horizontal arm of the T tube and driven through the bark of the tree. In this manner a small hole was made in such a way that no air could clog the vessels, and the solution began immediately to enter the tree. It was found that all kinds of chemicals in solution could thus be introduced into trees, provided there was sufficient transpiration (evaporation of moisture) from the leaves of the trees to keep the sap moving. The transpiration was greatest when the trees were in full leaf and the day was sunny, dry, and a breeze was blowing. On cold rainy days the trees took up very little of the solution. The season of the year caused a great variation in the amount of solution absorbed by the tree, and also as to the part of the tree to which the injected chemical went. For instance if a lithium solution was injected in the autumn, when the nuts were ripening, a large amount of lithium collected in the nuts and in the ends of the fruiting branches. It was found that June was the best month for injecting, then July, May, August, September, October and April. The average amount of solution absorbed through a single injection hole by a tree fifteen feet in height and with a large rounded top, ranged from one-quarter pint per day in April to three-fifths pint per day in June. In some cases as much as three quarts of solution was absorbed in twenty hours. The rate of ascent of solutions was found to be quite rapid, as lithium injected into the trunk could be detected in the leaves of branches at the top of the tree in ten hours.

In the treatment of the chestnut bark disease fifty-six chemical solutions were tried, and of these lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide were found to check the growth of the fungus. In many cases the effect of the solution was to cause the tree to form a callus around the diseased portions of the bark, which then dried and could be picked off. So far, then, the experiments were a success, but it seems as if continued treatment is necessary to prevent re-infection, as the lithium is sooner or later eliminated from the tree.

It was found that the holes through which the solution was introduced caused no damage to the tree. These holes were afterwards filled with clean grafting wax, and a callus growth quickly closed the wound, forcing out the wax plug.

Politics is an exacting game, and while the great mass cannot all "sit in" they do direct, to a large extent, the conduct of the game. The Drury Government has done well, but they must feel, as a Farmer-Labor coalition, a certain gap between them and the masses for whom they legislate. A government must be representative of the masses, and the Premier of Ontario has led out on the only road that will lead to permanent and stable government.



Bringing Home the Christmas Tree.