

The

Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED" ESTABLISHED 1866

VOL. XL

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., AUGUST 24, 1905

No. 674

EDITORIAL.

Clean up the Fairs.

A subscriber has called our attention to a late editorial in his local newspaper, urging the county agricultural society to enliven its exhibition this fall with some "attractions," objecting to the "all potato and hog show," and insinuating Puritanism on the part of those desiring a purely agricultural fair. Fakers are condoned as "sound educators of our youth, who at the expense of a few cents are taught not to try to make money at another man's game"; "innocence in these matters," we are sagely informed, being "a constant source of danger."

The fallacy of such specious reasoning, though plain enough to sound-principled men, needs to be pointed out occasionally for the benefit of the drifting class, that is only too ready to resort to such subterfuges to stifle uneasy conscience. It is an old habit some people have of consoling themselves for loss by reflecting upon their acquisition of experience; but we have noticed that the "experience" is seductive, and that those who get the most of it run most after it. Instead of satisfying the victim, indulgence in gaming begets a morbid craving for that kind of thing, cultivates, in other words, the gambling spirit. Would any sane man advise a boy to stake money on cards in order to find out that it doesn't pay, or to get drunk in order to learn that drunkenness is degrading? In all such things the initial experience debases and paves the way for habitual indulgence.

Instead of being a source of danger, innocence, preserved by staunch principles, is the only reliable safeguard. A case that came to us lately illustrates this point. A middle-aged man told of having once when a boy travelled in a car with some fellows who for sport were fleecing a green countryman by a dead-sure game. Our hero was magnanimously invited to join in the fun, but although certain of making some money, his ingrained belief that such practice was wrong induced him to withstand the blandishments of the jokers, much to their displeasure. It transpired next morning that the countryman had been "in the game," and that in one way or another the party had relieved certain passengers of a goodly sum during the night. Was it "experience" or principle that saved the boy?

But games of chance, pernicious as they are, and illegal besides, are not the worst kind of side-shows. Far more reprehensible are the lewd exhibitions that pervert the minds and pollute the morals. It is no argument to say that such things need not be patronized; they are patronized, the victims being drawn at first very often by curiosity. Let a show be noised about the grounds as disgraceful, and ninety-nine out of every hundred boys and men are seized with an impulse to "go and see what it's like." Those who do so besmirch their characters, befoul their thoughts, and compromise their self-respect, while many a one takes a long step to ruin, for lust gains mastery the more it is indulged.

There is only one way for the community, as for the individual, to guard against these evils, and that is to shun them entirely. And the sordid committee that will subvert the morals of youth for a few paltry shekels places itself on a par with the lowest rum-seller in the land. And, further, if agricultural exhibitions as such are ever to amount to anything, they must be protected from the distracting influence of the side-shows; the two interests are antagonistic, and

the "attractions" being more enticing tend always to get the better of the educational features, for which the societies are subsidized. In too many cases the attraction end has run away with the other, and it is time to call a halt. If we can't stop the tail wagging the dog we had better cut off the dog and do away with the tail.

The Fall Fairs.

The summer is swiftly passing; a bountiful harvest is being stored, and already in some sections the hum of the threshing machine has been heard. Farmers and their families have worked hard in caring for the crops, and have well earned an outing, such as the fall fairs afford, and will need the relaxation provided for in these events, in which pleasure and profitable observation may be combined.

The National, at Toronto, the greatest annual agricultural and industrial exhibition on the continent, and unsurpassed in the world for general excellence, opens on the 26th of August, and continues to the 12th of September; the live-stock judging in the dairy classes commencing on Friday, Sept. 1st, when the interest to farmers will be at its height. The entries and all indications point to even a more successful show than any of its predecessors, which is saying a great deal.

Commencing on Sept. 8th, and continuing till the 16th, the well-managed and always interesting events, the Western Fair in London and the Central Canada Exhibition at Ottawa, will cater to the enjoyment and education of the people of Western and Eastern Ontario, respectively, and will, as usual, attract visitors from far beyond the borders of the Province. Quebec has each year a capital show, in beautiful Sherbrooke, slated this year for the dates, Sept. 2nd to 9th. The Maritime provincial exhibitions follow in September, as announced in the fair dates list in another column of this paper.

The Dominion Exhibition, in the charming city of New Westminster, by the beautiful and bountiful Fraser river, in the coast province of British Columbia, on September 27th to October 7th, affords a rare opportunity for Eastern people to see the prairie provinces, with their illimitable stretches of rich farming lands, the grand and beautiful scenery of the Rocky Mountains, the splendid timber, mineral, ranching, farming and fruit-growing resources of the Pacific Province; in addition to, or in combination with, the best exhibition of live stock and farm products ever held west of Winnipeg. The special railway rates announced for the trip to New Westminster and the Lewis and Clark Exposition, now going on at Portland, Oregon, and to continue till the end of October, are so low that many of the people of Eastern Canada can well afford to take in these two events, in a circuit crammed full of interest. For instance, a rate of \$66.75 is advertised by the C. P. R. for the round-trip, from Toronto, and London or intermediate points, and proportionate rates from other points, to Portland, Oregon, going via New Westminster, and returning through the States, or going via Chicago, Denver, Salt Lake City and Yellowstone Park, and returning via British Columbia, Calgary and Winnipeg, and good for three months, with stop-over privileges. It is rarely indeed that such a favorable opportunity to see the great West is offered. To those who cannot afford the time or expense of seeing the greater shows and sights, the local and district shows in a long list are available, and will doubtless be well patronized, as usual.

A Proclamation of Peace.

The mails still bring manuscript to our desk referring to the issue raised by "Nurse's" letter, in our issue of June 29th. The voluminous correspondence already published, however, has covered the ground pretty well, and as late letters are largely recapitulation, we have decided to close the discussion. Without attempting a review of the subject, we may remark that if "Nurse's" object was to raise a dust, she must have succeeded beyond expectation, and the spontaneous response indicated that, one-sided though it was, her letter bristled with double-edged shafts of truth. The editors of this paper plead personally guilty to not a few of the thoughtless acts of selfishness she assails, and it was in a spirit of contrition rather than exultation that they put on the cap and passed the pattern along. In some shape or other it seemed to fit a great many heads, and if there be any thoughtless husband in Canada who has not heard about "the Nurse's letter," his wife had better subscribe to the "Farmer's Advocate," and ask for the back copies.

There is no doubt the controversy has done much good. As one correspondent says, "She may have taken an extreme view, but it has taken effect as a milder one would not have done." And if her letter serves, as we believe it will, to arouse sons and husbands from the self-centered complacency in which many of them have been clothed, and brings home to the mothers of to-day their duty to the wives of to-morrow, the author will deserve to be remembered in countless homes, and will have the satisfaction of knowing that she has contributed in no small degree to the amelioration of rural domestic life.

British Columbia's Progress.

In 1834 the little steamer, the "Beaver," was built on the Thames, and in the same year was launched, in the presence of the Sailor King, William IV. The destination of this steamer was to be the British posts on the Pacific Coast of North America. In it Sir James Douglas, with a party of stalwart Scots, embarked, on their long voyage around Cape Horn, finally reaching the Western coast of Canada. Here for fifty-four years the little vessel plied the coast, and nosed her way into every bay and inlet on the western shores of both Americas. Since that first early Government formed by Sir James Douglas, wonderful strides have been made in British Columbia. Indicative of Western progress it is that so early in the history of the Province should be held in one of her coast cities a great national fair, such as that which opens at New Westminster on September 27th, and continues for ten days; yet this new sister of confederation is abundantly prepared to welcome and entertain visitors from all over the world.

British Columbia is, in many respects, a phenomenal Province. Its extent, resources and variety of climate baffle description. It is practically an undiscovered continent. The largest of the provinces of Canada, its wealth is virtually incalculable and untouched, and its possibilities beyond the horizon of the most vivid imagination. Under her hills are buried an untold wealth of coal and precious minerals, while their surfaces are clothed with the largest forests on the continent, if not in the world. These forests are 182,750,000 acres in extent, and comprise trees of the most valuable kinds. With minerals, fuel, water power and timber in such abundant quantities as are to be found in British Columbia, and