

Current Comment.

A commission has been appointed to enquire into and report upon the price of school books in Ontario.

Barley-cutting began on the plains of Manitoba on July 19th. Some damage has been caused to the crops by hail. Around Pierson 700 acres of grain were destroyed recently.

Dr. Sproule, of Markdale, Ont., has been honored with the Presidency of the Imperial Grand Orange Council of the World.

In accordance with the act granting authority to the Secretary of War to regulate and control the waters of Niagara River for the preservation of Niagara Falls, Secretary Taft has announced that temporary permits will be granted power companies to take the following amounts of water: Niagara Falls Power Company, 8,600 cubic feet per second; Niagara Power Company, 4,000 cubic feet per second; Lockport Hydraulic Company, 500 cubic feet from the Erie Canal, and 333 cubic feet from the lower level of the same canal at Lockport.

The Niagara, Lockport and Ontario Power Company is granted permission to receive into the United States electrical current equivalent to 25,000 horse-power daily from the Ontario Power Company, of Niagara Falls, Canada, and the Niagara Falls Power Company is authorized to receive from the Canadian Niagara Power Company not to exceed 25,000 horse-power of electrical current daily. These two last permits are the only ones granted for the taking

of electricity generated in Canada into the United States, and the Secretary of War states that it will be necessary for him to make a thorough investigation before granting permanent permits for such transmission. He has designated Charles W. Kutz, of the Engineer Corps, who, under the direction of General MacKenzie, chief of engineers, will make a full report of Canadian Power and submit it to Secretary Taft, who will lay it before the American members of the International Waterways Commission.

The Wellman Arctic expedition, undertaken for the Chicago Record-Herald, is now at Spitzbergen, where the construction of the giant balloon house is now under way. A

Guatemala has assumed serious proportions. A recent battle, in which Salvador was victorious, lasted for ten hours, and several thousand men were killed and wounded. A temporary cessation of hostilities was procured by an armistice.

Several earthquake shocks have been felt in part of New Mexico, and the inhabitants of some of the valleys are fleeing into Albuquerque and the neighboring towns.

"Princess Ena," now Queen Victoria of Spain, has truly learned the truth of the assertion, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." On a recent automobile trip, undertaken by the King and Queen to San Se-

mous letters threatening the life of the sovereigns.

Alfred Beit, after Cecil Rhodes, long the most noted financier of South Africa, died in London recently. One-third of his immense fortune was bequeathed to national purposes, chiefly educational, in England and South Africa.

In Russia the same old story, a turbulent peasantry, murdering landowners, seizing lands, burning houses, and coming into constant collision with the rural guards; a disaffected military; a general lack of confidence in the ministry, and a Parliament divided against itself—like the house that cannot stand. The first session has closed, and, after two months' discussion, the members can point to only one definite result, the passing of a bill for the appropriation of \$7,500,000 to the famine relief fund. Even in this action there was no unity, and the Czar fixed his signature in opposition to the will of his Ministry. But the significance of Russia's first Parliament cannot be estimated by its palpable results. Influences have been at work which will yet find expression. During the last debates of the Duma, criticisms were made which were practically an appeal to the people against the Ministry. According to latest accounts, it appears that the Government has determined to fight, and is sending troops in all directions to resist the masses.



"The Spanish Orange-Sellers."

wireless station will be erected and connection established with Hammerfest.

The war between Salvador and

bastien, where they are to spend the rest of the summer, it was found necessary to line the entire route with gendarmes. The precaution was undertaken because of anony-

The commission appointed to investigate the reasons for the surrender of Port Arthur have recommended that Lieut.-Gen. Stoessel, who was in command of the town during the memorable siege, be dismissed from the Army and shot.

The Quiet Hour.

I want to thank our readers for their very generous response to my appeal for the Children's Fresh-Air Mission. A number of letters have been forwarded to me by the Treasurer, showing that our farmers are not only very generous, but also modest, for most of the writers have not even signed their names. One of the workers also wrote the following letter to me:

My Dear "Hope,"—I have wished many and many a time that you could have been here to help open and read the letters containing money and requests for children. We have homes and money now for nearly four hundred children, and I am sure I may say that two-thirds of the homes have come from readers of your paper. We feel you a very important member of our committee, since you do so much for us.

The letters containing money have particularly appealed to us. We could not understand at first why so many stamps appeared—sometimes a few, sometimes more. But when we read what you said to them in your columns, we understood. Such numbers have sent money, giving us no possible way of sending an acknowledgment or receipt. Some, too, have spoken so nicely of you, that we decided to post you some of the letters so that you can see for yourself, and perhaps find some way of letting those who sent us the money know that it got here safely.

When you are done with the letters will you kindly return them to me, and I will see that Mr. Love, our Treasurer, get them to keep on file.

We are in the middle of our work now, and are very busy; the children go next week. Thanking you and all the generous readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" for all the help given to the Fresh-air Work,

Yours very sincerely,
ESTHER HOW.

The letters forwarded to me show that our readers have given about \$70, as well as all the homes offered for a fortnight to children. One reader of our paper sent \$10, another \$7, two sent \$5 each, one sent \$3, five sent \$2 each, and sixteen sent \$1 each. Besides these larger sums, there were smaller gifts. I cannot publish all the kind letters which accompanied the gifts of money and offers of homes, but here are a few:

"Dear Sir,—Please find enclosed postal note for five dollars, for the Children's Fresh-air Fund. It is a great thing for these tired mothers and children to get away for a while from the confinement of the city."

"To the Treasurer of the Toronto Children's Fresh-air Mission,—Having read in 'The Farmer's Advocate' of the good work you are doing for the poor little children of Toronto, I am sending you by mail the sum of two dollars, to help you a little, hoping it may be acceptable and that God may bless you all for your work toward His poor. As I do not believe in making my gifts public, I will sign, 'A reader of The Farmer's Advocate.'"

"Dear Sir,—Enclosed please find one dollar (\$1.00), to assist in defraying expenses in the work of the Children's Fresh-air Mission. We have asked for two children to be sent."

The writer of the following letter sent two dollars.

"My Dear Friend,—After reading your report in 'The Farmer's Advocate,' I thought I should like to help you a little. I am not able to take any of these children, as I am only a hired man, so I trust you will receive this little money, with thanks from me as a friend in Jesus."

(It is, indeed, pleasant to be thanked for receiving a gift, certainly our friends in the country seem to have discovered that it is more blessed to give than to receive.)

"Dear Sir,—As a small expression of my appreciation of the good work done by the Fresh-air Mission, as stated in last issue of 'The Farmer's Advocate,' I herewith enclose one dollar. So much do I wish that I could help further by opening a home to some of these little ones, but I am not so privileged. Also, I feel that I cannot miss this opportunity of telling 'Hope' that I feel very much indebted to her for the living words she has so cheerfully written in the columns of 'The Farmer's Advocate.' They have helped me."

(Thank you very much for your kind words of appreciation of the Quiet Hour.—Hope.)

"Dear Sir,—I have read about the Children's Fresh-air Mission in 'The Farmer's Advocate.' Enclosed please find \$1.00, which I would send in the Name which is above every name."

The following is from a girl of thirteen:

"I saw in 'The Farmer's Advocate' that 'Hope' was asking for help to pay the expenses of the Fresh-air children. I would like to have the Fresh-air children come to my place, but my father is building a barn, and we are so busy. Let me

will send one dollar to help pay the expenses."

"Having just read in 'The Farmer's Advocate' about Toronto Children's Fresh-air Mission, I wish to send a mite, \$1.00, trusting that God will bless it, and also the kind work undertaken by the workers of the Mission. Please accept the little gift in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I shall only publish one more of the many kind letters received. The following is from Macleod, Alberta:

"Enclosed please find a money order for two dollars, which please use for the Children's Fresh-air Fund. We are too far away, or we would be glad to take some of the children for a couple of weeks. May God's blessing be upon them, and on your mission and helpers. I am sorry I can do no more."

Though I am not personally working with the "Toronto" Fresh-air Mission, I am having real experience of Children's Fresh-air work. Last week I had charge of 13 children, who had a glorious time in the country. I brought them home in safety last night (Saturday), and am writing this on Sunday so that you may get it without delay, for to-morrow at nine o'clock I start off with another party, and shall have no time for writing to anybody. As soon as possible I hope to tell you more fully about our visit. I felt exactly as though we had all got by mistake into a story-book—the experience was so new and so interesting. But I must not break the Sabbath rest by writing more to-day. Thank you all for your kindness—you will never regret it. "Children are God's apostles, day by day at forth to preach of love, and hope, and peace."

HOPE.