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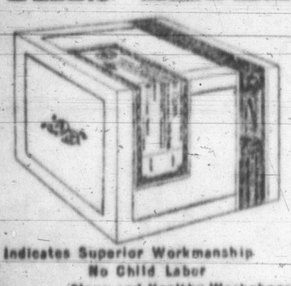

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FIFTY THOUSAND FARM LABORERS

Says Mr. Preston, are Needed in the Older Provinces.

Replying to Secretary Kennedy's letter to the English press on the undesirable frauds in the bringing of immigrants to this country, Mr. Preston delivers himself in this way to a representative of the London Daily News:

"If the Canadian Government representatives on this side of the Atlantic circulate false reports as to the Canadian need for immigrants, the evidence must be found in the publications issued from this office. No propaganda is carried on in an underhand manner. Everything is done openly, with no desire for secrecy. The Government publications bear the authority of the Department of the Interior. They are circulated widely, and in addition are easily procurable at this office. I challenge the matter in question. We are not in the habit of issuing on a single topic, issued in any Government publication.

"Mr. Kennedy's explanation as to farm laborers going up their work after harvest and gathering in industrial centres is too ridiculous to discuss. The great majority of farm laborers in Canada take advantage of the opportunities which are afforded for a twelve months' service with their employers; and abundant evidence is forthcoming to show that just as soon as farm laborers see advantages under which agricultural farm life is carried on in Canada, instead of being satisfied with employment where they are subject to the whims of labor union bosses, they start on their own account in agricultural life in the west. I have only to say in conclusion that instead of their being a surplus of farm labor in Canada, there is room in the older provinces to-day for 50,000 such, either experienced or inexperienced, for whom good homes are waiting and good wages are available."

Mr. Preston says: "Mr. Kennedy's explanation as to farm laborers giving up their work after harvest and gathering in industrial centres is too ridiculous to discuss."

Fools in their folly make some peculiar statements, and supposedly wise men make of themselves fools by their unwise statements. If Mr. Preston does not know it, and we think he does, it is time for us to tell Mr. Preston that the statement is absolutely and unqualifiedly correct, and no man knows it better than this same gentleman. Another thing we desire to say that if there is one man in the old country that the Government should recall, that man is Mr. Preston.

Instead of protecting the interests of this country by exposing the frauds who are working the immigration business in the old country, he has, by practically closing his eyes to it, encouraged these robbers. Mr. Preston has made more than one foolish statement in the interests of those who are seeking to flood this country, and his latest one, that the older provinces are in need of 50,000 farm labors, is nothing short of a deliberate falsehood or a display of ignorance of the needs of this country which unfits him to adequately represent Canada in the old land. There is no need for 50,000 farm laborers in the whole of Canada, let alone the older provinces.

It is just such statements as these which encourage men from good positions in the old land and bring them very often to the verge of starvation in this land.

Apart from this, and inasmuch as this Mr. Preston, whose uncle swore in a court of law that he would not believe him under oath, has not been long enough in Canada at any time since his appointment—an appointment which he did not receive because of his fitness for the duties incidental to the office—to become seized of what demand, if any, there was or is for farm or any other labor in the Dominion. No, his time, when visiting Canada, is busily occupied in defending his own official self from the attacks of those who knew him longest and best and in quite another sphere.

Canada and its workingmen have no greater enemy in the old country to-day than this gentleman of rash statements, and the Government, in its own interests and those of the country, should recall him.

Notes and Notelettes

Off for the holidays! What a relief from the worry of the city with all its toils and its conventionalities! Away from the smoke and grime to the place where God's free air is pure, and where the abundant ozone makes the blood rich and red. Here I can lay aside the starch and ramble with garments of ease and comfort. Civilization is an immense benefit, but it often compels us to pay dear for this in its fashions and formalities.

Why does not every industrious man have a chance to take his family off for a summer trip? But that enquiry belongs to a larger question: Why does not the man who bears his fair share of the burden of civilization enjoy a fair share of its rewards? When the time comes for the reign of justice, then every man will be able to take his holidays, how and where he wishes, and not receive them as he does at present, thrown at him in "chunks" at seasons the most unpropitious.

The minister in his sermon yesterday took twenty good valuable minutes to demonstrate from history, literature and other sources that sin is a fact in the world. But he did not come within a thousand miles of telling us that there was such a thing as a great overwhelming sin, a great national sin, which compels millions to bear slavish toil and to submit to continuous spoliation. He gave us not how to get rid of that sin, the greatest and most calamitous of all sins.

The Democratic convention in the States has now passed into history. When Cleveland was nominated in 1892, there was considerable enthusiasm for the overthrow of monopoly by the reduction of the tariff, and again, when Bryan was nominated in 1896, the enthusiasm was at high tide for financial reform; but the choice of Parker does not evince any great enthusiasm for any radical principle. Parker is the choice of the plutocrats, and it looks as though the radicals have been overwhelmed. A tremendous amount of shouting will be heard, but it is very unlikely that any great principle will be pushed forward by the Democrats at the present time. Parker's telegram declaring for a gold basis was spontaneous, and is highly praised by many of the papers. But which a subject has become dead, what importance can one attach to his declaration? The only thing that is admirable in the platform of both parties is the absence of anything that will relieve the laboring classes from their burdens of unjust taxation. It looks as though the toilers will still have to bear down beneath their burdens and their wrongs. The public conscience still needs a great awakening. Some day it will come. If not in peace and calm reason, the night of labouring multitudes will arise in wrath, with a parallel in the history of the world that comes people to think.

The New York Journal of Commerce says: "The country is to be congratulated upon the fact that the contest for the election of President this year involves no peril to the industrial and business interests of the people." By which we may understand that no matter which party succeeds, there will be no radical reform. But when the Journal declares that there is "no peril to the industrial and business interests of the people," does it mean that there will be no repetition of the Black Fridays, of the financial cyclones that have wrecked fortunes and left an appalling mass of bankruptcy in their wake? Pain predictions! All the forces which have produced panics and depressions in the past are still at work with their full powers for evil undiminished. Enterprises built upon foundations of water, fortunes unprecedented in their bulk won by placing industry beneath a larger and larger obligation, speculations that mean the wreckage of genuine business, all these must have their day of judgment. Neither party proposes any adequate remedy to prevent the coming calamity. Oh, Journal! No peril in rising prices when there is no peace! The poison is in the blood, and some day its work will be made manifest. No peril to monopoly and fraud is the teaching of that paper.

The Rev. Thos. C. Hall, of Union Theological Seminary of New York, has written an article in the North American Review on the subject, "Christianity's Most Formidable Rival." The rival, he declares, is socialism, and he proceeds to show how the latter-day socialism is drawing together the masses of the "possessionless" as the early Christian Church "was the only organization with sufficient strength among the proletariat to reorganize the bankrupt world."

The professor draws many parallels between the condition of the early church and the condition of socialist organizations of to-day. Socialism will not become the rival of Christianity. It may become the rival of Churchianity, but it will ultimately become the fulfilling of Christianity. The only thing in which the Church to-day is weak, inexpressibly weak, is the neglect of social justice. It preaches the Golden Rule and the Law of Love as abstractions, glittering generalities; but let a preacher in one of our wealthy churches endeavor faithfully to show how the Golden Rule may be made the basis of our laws and the method of our commerce, then he will suddenly find his usefulness gone. It will be the work of the social reform agencies to do that which the Church refuses to do, namely, to make the Golden Rule a crowning success. History repeats itself. The Church drifts under the control of power. At one time it is the right hand of despotism, at another it preaches the doctrine of "Divine Right," at another it defends slavery and the slave trade, again it gives its sanction to war, and to-day its silence as to industrial oppression and spoliation is most significant. Plutocracy furnishes the supplies and consequently dictates its doctrines.

Socialism is to-day in its formative condition. It will be split by dissensions and controversies; but the very drift of conditions will compel attention to its study. Step by step it will work its reforms. The doctrine of public ownership of public utilities is accepted to-day to a degree that is a wide contrast from the state of public opinion twenty years ago. The right of the community to the values caused by the community is also rapidly finding its lodgment in the public mind. The right of industry to organize has won its recognition. Some day, when mental enlightenment has advanced, men will see that religion, true religion, is the triumph of the Law of Love, and that there can be no genuine love which does not rest on a basis of justice.

Christ.

Christ was not ashamed of being called "a carpenter's son," and no toiler need be ashamed of honest toil, but he may blush when he tries to live out of the toil of his brother man.

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EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.

Your Educational Committee, in presenting this report, desire to call your attention to the fact that it is not the fault of your committee that you have had no report from us for some time, but entirely the fault of the Council. The committee's report has been ready each time, it has been called for, except once, and has been changed three times, now owing to a subject matter being too late for a report to be of service to the community whom we seek to serve, assist and protect; therefore we feel justified in not accepting the responsibility of the Council without some justification therefor. When business of the Council is referred to us we endeavor, to the best of our ability, to probe into and ascertain the facts and present a report as early a date as you are able and prepared to receive it. We submit that either the standing committee of this Council be abolished, or that the constitution be amended so as give a stated period of time for the hearing and consideration of their reports. Your committee beg to draw your attention to the following Order-in-Council, dated March, 1904:

1. Subject to the exceptions hereinafter mentioned, the Macdonald Institute, Guelph, shall be the only institution organized by the Ontario Department for the training of teachers in manual training.

2. The Macdonald Institute shall provide, to the satisfaction of the Education Department, suitable courses of study as well as adequate accommodation, equipment and instruction for students desiring to become teachers of manual training.

3. Any person holding at least a second class certificate from one of the Normal Schools, who completes satisfactorily a one year's course at the Macdonald Institute, shall be awarded a teacher's certificate in manual training.

4. Any graduate of the Normal College, who completes satisfactorily a one year's course at the Macdonald Institute, shall be awarded a teacher's certificate as a specialist in manual training.

5. Any person holding a certificate from the Macdonald Institute as a teacher of manual training shall be qualified to have charge of a department of manual training under any high, public or separate school board.

6. No grant shall be paid by the Government towards a department of manual training unless the teacher who has charge of such department is duly qualified as herein provided.

7. A certificate as a teacher of manual training or as a specialist in the same department shall give no qualification to teach any of the other subjects of the public or high school curriculum.

8. These provisions shall not affect any person who is now in charge of a department of manual training in any high, public or separate school, or who may be appointed by the board concerned before the 1st of September, 1904, it being understood that such persons shall have qualifications satisfactory to the Minister of Education.

Also a letter, which explains itself:

Guelph, June 6th, 1904.

Mr. John Walker, 6 Grant street, Toronto.

Dear Sir,—Yours of the 3rd inst. has been received, and in reply I would say that the regulations for teachers of manual training in the public schools require the instructor to possess a professional teacher's certificate. This being the case, you would not be in a position to undertake the work unless so qualified, at least not in schools under the direct control of the Education Department.

You will understand that manual training has now become a recognized school subject, and its teachers are expected to have a proper acquaintance with the teaching in other departments as well as technical skill in the manual work. These regulations of course do not affect work in schools like Broadview Institute, and you may be able to continue in this work with such classes.

With my present information I cannot help you further, but shall be glad to answer any further questions when have learned your standing and experience as a teacher. Yours very truly,

W. H. Mulder.

To the untutored minds of your committee, these regulations are a direct blow at technical education, and are in line with the will and ideas of our so-called "masters," the "captains of industry." Clauses 1 and 3 give us the gist of the regulations, limiting the teachers of manual training to graduates of the Macdonald Institute, Guelph, and the ridiculousness of the regulations lies in the fact that because a teacher may have the book learning to qualify for a teacher's certificate in other branches of study, he or she must perforce have the adaptability to acquire a perfect knowledge of the routine and use of tools used in any mechanical trade within the space of one academic year; yes, as per the morning papers, in three months, and for this shall receive a scholarship from the funds of the province. The idea that one session in study can qualify training is absurd, and well worthy of a teacher for an instructor in manual the fertile and imaginative brain of our Minister of Education. Will this standard of efficiency or adaptability suffice for the teachers in our technical schools? This Council should have taken action in this matter before, and we recommend that this Council protest against the enforcement of the regulations, and if we are to have manual training in our schools, let us have as instructors competent mechanics, rather than experimentalists.

Abolition of Supply Rooms at Technical School.

Your committee notice that it has been decided by the Board of Education to abolish the supply room at the Technical School. This is a step in the wrong direction, and will not meet with the approval of those most interested, viz., the pupils. The supply room has been a convenience to the pupils and a source of profit to the board since its inception. We do not know the motives which actuated the members of the board who were mainly instrumental in bringing about the abolition of the supply room, but we are suspicious that it is a matter of business, and pressure was brought to bear on the board by the wholesale supply houses. The pupils used to be able to buy supplies in the building at a reduced rate, yet leaving a profit to the board, owing to the fact that the board used to buy through the wholesale supply house of the few extra hundreds collected. The sales last year amounted to over $1,000. Therefore this Council should protest against the abolition of the supply room. We will give further information in our next report.

Your committee are not yet prepared to report re Trustee W. H. Shaw, but hope to be in the course of a few days. Then we have to hear the full facts properly authenticated.

Your committee have discussed the remarks of the Mayor while the estimates of the Board of Education were before the Board of Control and the Finance Committee of the Board of Education, and we would recommend as an economic measure that some of the "frills" of the system be dispensed with, let them begin with the offices of drill instructor, writing master and singing master. We believe that every teacher in the public schools should be able to both write and teach a legible system of handwriting, and should be responsible therefor. We know that the drill instructor can be dispensed with without impairing the efficiency of the service whatever, and that with the present military system the pupils are all capable of imparting all the military knowledge and drill necessary for the physical well being of the pupils.

We also believe that in all of the schools there are teachers who are well qualified to take charge and impart to the pupils quite as good a knowledge of physiology. We will give further information in our next report.

Your committee would also suggest a system of vocal music as we get under the present system.

There are some of the most glaring examples of extravagance where economy of expenditure would also conduce to efficiency.

Chas. Wheat, Secretary.

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Humor and Philosophy

By DUNCAN M. SMITH

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THE ANNUAL VISION.

She comes, the sweet girl graduate,
Arrayed in robes of white,
To grapple with affairs of state
And keep things running right.
To show what's what and like or not
On several points shed light.

Her mind with useful learning
Stored to the very brim,
Her sweet soul grandly yearning
In seas of light to swim,
A perfect dream, her final theme,
Tied with a ribbon trim.

No problem for her solving
Is ever found too deep;
But they, like mists dissolving,
Evanish with a sweep
Conclusive, grand, of her soft hand,
She puts them all to sleep.

Oh, sweet and soulful creature,
Adored girl graduate,
You are indeed a feature
With which to part word hate!
To you we bow. Please show us how
To keep things running straight.

His Ambition.

The soft, tender rays of the morning sun stretched their long, graceful arms over field and wood, kissing the hilltops and shedding luster on the humble onion patch where Felix McQuarter was engaged in useful toil.

Well aware are we, dear romantic reader, that Felix is no name for a hired man, so you will at once guess that he was a nobleman in disguise. Guess again. You are wrong.

Felix was only one of nature's noblemen, and as there is no salary attached to that job he had to work at what came to hand.

"Ah, me," he sighed, "would I were rich."

Just then a fairy stepped up. "Here is a million dollars," she said. "Take it and blow yourself."

"How can I ever repay you?" said Felix.

"Don't mention it," said the fairy.

Felix tucked the money in his pocket and started for town.

"What are you going to buy?" called the fairy.

"The best nickel cigar in the bul village," he replied as he strode gracefully away.

The Afterlap.

This truth I follow faces,
When brought up with a jerks
It's play to play the races,
The walking home is work.

Not Like Him.

"I saw you last night in a questionable joint."

"It must have been my double."

"I thought there was some mistake from the way the man was spending money."

Question of Innocence.

"Guilty or not?" asked the judge.

"That all depends," replied the prisoner. "If I can raise $100 for my lawyer I am innocent; if not, I suppose I am guilty."

His Pride.

A little bunch of whiskers,
Like twisted prairie hay,
Untrained and thin, adorned his chin
And straggled every way;
But still he thought they made him look
Quite debonair and gay.

The Amateur Farmer.

"Have you got the lay of the land yet at your new home?"

"Yes, and we are now waiting for the lay of the hen."

PERT PARAGRAPHS.

Marriage is apt to be a failure when two try to live in exactly the way that one did before marriage.

A pessimist is a man who, when he finds out that he can have a thing, finds he does not want it.

One touch of summer makes us forget all of the nice things we said about it in winter.

One does not need a search warrant to find a kicker.

If a man is as wise at forty as he thought he was at twenty he has certainly made good.

One's neighbors are ever so much more apt to see the wagon of the second hand store man at your back door than the carriage of one's rich relative at the front.

The reason that some people don't think is because they don't know how.

Motto of the divorcee: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

It is a shrewd doctor who knows when to cease calling and present his bill.

No matter how proud of his achievements a self made man may be he always wants to give his son the most minute directions.

❖

Lots of marriages call for relief on petitions from the bride's father later on.

❖

A later deputation headed by J. G. O'Donoghue, waited on Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior, and asked that Louis Leopold, who is conducting an immigration agency in London, to whose methods they take exception, be put out of the Canadian building. Hon. Mr. Sifton replied that the responsibility for the Leopold business was not on the Government. And the deputation swallowed it. The question arises, Why is Louis Leopold allowed to use official papers bearing the emblem "Canadian Land for Farmers," with the Canadian coat-of-arms?

❖

When the flying machine is perfected we can visit our castles in the air.

❖

A polite person is one who doesn't let others know what he thinks of them.