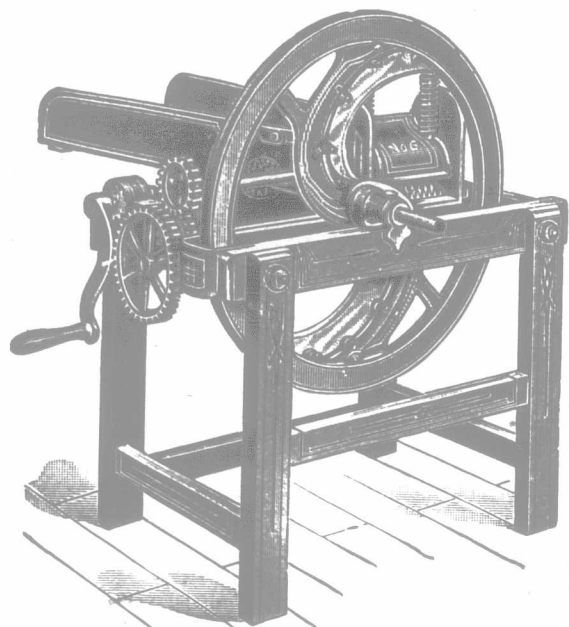


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and difficulty to teach us priceless lessons. There is a story of a Frenchman who, long ago, asked an English captain: "When will you get Calais again?" The answer was: "When your sins shall weigh down ours." Sin is the only real defeat, and God is quite able to give us success when He sees we have learned humility enough to be able to bear it without spiritual loss and injury. We are not very humble yet—are we?

DORA FARNCOMB.

The Dollar Chain

A fund maintained by readers of The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine for (1) Red Cross Supplies. (2) Soldiers' Comforts. (3) Belgian Relief. (4) Serbian Relief. (5) Prisoners of War.

Contributions from Dec. 8th to Dec. 15th.: Junior League, Cedar Springs, Ont., \$2.50; Mrs. A. Wiley, Keeler, Sask., \$1.00; Harold Coates, Campbellton, Ont., \$2.00; M. B. Wilson, R. 1, Kincardine, Ont., \$5.00; Wilson Carey, Kincardine, \$1.00; Elvira Carey, Kincardine, \$1.00; Marie Carey, Kincardine, \$1.00; J. G. Brigden, Ont., \$2.00; "Toronto," \$2.00; "Sympathizer," \$1.25. Previously acknowledged.....\$3205.00.

Total to Dec. 15th.....\$3,223.75
Kindly address contributions to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine", London, Ont.

Current Events.

Greeks in Toronto are raising funds to help the Venizelos party.

The people of Spain have been forbidden by their Government to supply German submarines.

At time of going to press the most interesting war news is of the great victory won by the French at Verdun on Dec. 15th. General Nivelle's first move as acting Commander-in-Chief on the West Front was to launch an offensive at this point, and the result was that the German positions were captured along a front of 6 miles, nearly 8,000 men were taken prisoners, and 80 guns. Advance has also been made in the farther east by British troops under General Maude, who was once an aide-de-camp at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, but who is now smashing his way, with artillery, through the Turks to Kut-el-Amara, the city in which, it will be remembered, General Townshend and his men were so long besieged. In the Balkans, events have again halted. King Constantine having agreed to the demands presented in the Allies' ultimatum. By this agreement he will have to remove his troops and war material from the north, and reduce in other ways the menace to the army at Salonika. As, however, little short of almost complete demobilization and disarmament of his army can be depended upon, the Allies' blockade of the ports will be continued until complete guarantees are given. In Roumania, Mackensen's forces are rapidly closing on Buzeu, and it is doubtful if the position can be maintained even with the aid of the Russian forces which are hurrying to assist. Buzeu is important because it is a railway junction and affords approach to the grain ports of Galatz and Braila on the Danube River.

During the past week the German Chancellor, von Bethmann-Hollweg announced in the Reichstag that peace proposals would be sent at once to the neutral nations to be conveyed to the belligerents. The announcement raised scarcely a ripple of interest among the Allies, among whom it was surmised that any peace terms at present offered by Germany would be no security to the future peace of Europe. In Great Britain nothing has been definitely said, pending the arrival of these terms, but announcement may be made before this reaches its readers. The immediate event was an announcement in the British House of Commons that 1,000,000 more men are to be added to the army, and a motion brought in by the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, Andrew Bonar Law, providing for a new vote of credit for £400,000,000. The motion was passed unanimously. In England

the new Food Controller, Baron Devonport is perfecting a plan by which food supplies will be so regulated as to give everyone a fair share of all commodities. The overturn in the British Government was accompanied by some changes of a similar nature in France, where Joffre, although still retaining his title of Commander-in-Chief, has been appointed Technical Counsel of the French Government, the active power as Commander being passed on to General Nivelle.

A Christmas Prayer.

BY LOUISE MOREY BOWMAN,
THE WESTMINSTER.

Dear God, who spoke through Bethlehem,
I come to Thee, to say
A little, anxious, mother's prayer on this
glad Christmas Day:
For in this wild, gay turmoil of our feast-
ing and our mirth
How far away the silence of the simple
manger birth;
Amid this wealth of gifts—the spoil of
merry shopping days—
We keep the Christ Child's birthday in
such puzzling modern ways.
(Have I not lavished wise men's gifts,
Yet have I prayed for Thine?
Oh, Holy Child, I beg Thy gifts
For these wee sons of mine.)

Their Christmas Tree! Ah, how it gleams
Before their eyes; and yet it seems
To me, that where I careless hung
A tinsel angel, I see now
A little Cross! The forest tree
Is Thine, and vision brings to me
Of dark still trees upon the heights,
Of quiet, snow-clad hills, that stand
God's sentinels o'er all His land
Through centuries of Holy Nights,
And His far friendly stars, that shine
On this poor little feast of mine.
God of the Silence, speak to me!
(Have I not lavished wise men's gifts,
Yet have I prayed for Thine?
Oh, Holy Child, I beg Thy gifts
For these wee sons of mine.)

Our serial story, "The Brown Mouse," will be resumed next week. Lack of space has compelled us to hold it over.

Gossip.

Sale Dates.

Dec. 28.—Southern Counties Ayrshire Breeders' Club, Tillsonburg.

Jan. 2, 1917, Cecil Nevill, Straffordville, Holsteins.

Jan. 31, Brant District Holstein Convention's Sale.

Seed Oats to Supply the Shortage.

The past unfavorable season has caused a great shortage in the supply of good seed oats in Ontario and Western Quebec. Even the best samples we have seen should be graded to about 30 per cent. to make them suitable for seed. Rather than sow light grain from a stunted crop, farmers are well advised to purchase their seed.

The special grade for seed oats established at the Government interior terminal elevators last year, will serve as a much needed source of supply. This No. 1 Canada Western Seed oats must be 95 per cent. white oats, sound, clean, free from other grain and from noxious weed seeds within the meaning of the Seed Control Act, and shall weigh not less than 34 lbs. to the bushel. It is available through the usual channels of commerce for grain.—Seed Branch Ottawa.

Coming Events.

Jan. 4 and 5.—Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association Annual Convention, Napanee.

Jan. 10 and 11.—Western Ontario Dairymen's Association Annual Convention, Woodstock.

Jan. 16 to 19.—Ottawa Winter Fair. Short Courses at Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. In stock and seed judging, Jan. 9 to 20; poultry raising, Jan. 9 to Feb. 3; bee-keeping, Jan. 9 to 27; dairying, Jan. 2 to March 23; horticulture, Jan. 9 to Feb. 16; business and marketing, Jan. 9 to 20.