

The Country Town

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country interests. The city party will include the business men and the owners of real estate. The country party is often made up of retired farmers. The city party is progressive, it wants the place to grow, and is eager for new railways and industries. The retired farmers want principally to keep down taxes. The city party is keen for making the village more attractive. The retired farmer is afraid of the cost of street lighting and paving. Thus the city interests incorporate the energy, the enterprise and the optimism of the village. All this tends to hand the fort over to the city, and sundry it more completely from the country.

As a matter of fact there is no need of strife between these two parties. It is true that the retired farmer is distrustful of schemes to increase the population. He has good reason to be. Villages in Ontario, he knows, are heavily burdened with debt incurred by housing industries which became bankrupt as soon as they had exhausted the bonus. You can see the empty buildings in many a sadder and wiser Ontario village. He suspects that the real motive for this "progressive" policy is the desire to induce a real estate boom, and that the leaders of "progress" want nothing so much as to make a fortune at the expense of the village and get out. Admitting that the retired farmer is sometimes a "reactionary old cuss" too often, we can still claim for him that he has the better of the argument with his "progressive" rivals. They are at heart speculators, while he wants only what he earns. They are at war with rural ideals, while he is in sympathy with them.

Bringing the Village Up-to-Date

At the same time, he needs to take a few leaves out of their book. If the village is to be a suitable dwelling place for enlightened human beings it must be sanitary, comfortable and sightly. If he fights every proposal to build pavements, instal street lamps and keep the cows off the streets he is a bad citizen, and a disgrace to either country or village. These things represent the irreducible minimum for modern living. And, moreover, it is an entirely justifiable ambition in the village that it wants to grow. It has a right to seek to be bigger than its neighboring villages. Such emulation is wholesome. It has a right to seek to attract and support industries. Life inegrigibly craves variety. It is particularly desirable, in a region where the returns from labor and investment come in but once a year, that some affiliated industries should be encouraged in order to provide a more regular and frequent distribution of money. One of the most vital problems in regard to agriculture is its alliance with manufacturing. And Canada stands to benefit by such a policy more than most countries, because of the length of our winters. The point is to secure those industries which readily adjust themselves to such locations. This is the very thing which has been overlooked. An expert commission which should gather information from countries which have successfully combined agriculture and manufacturing, and make a detailed survey of industrial opportunities in farming districts in Canada, would justify its appointments. It would benefit the whole nation if the drift to the city, the chief reason for which is that the industrial opportunities cluster there, should be reversed.

The Centre of the Country District

If the village is to be a real part of the country, and the commercial and social centre of a country district, certain things are to be sought. Good roads, leading directly to the village from every part of its constituency are desirable. This is one of the insistent problems of rural planning. All the social and commercial institutions of the constituency should be grouped in the village. Instead of scattered one-room school-houses dotting the adjacent country-side there should be one consolidated school in the village. As far as possible a similar arrangement of

churches should be followed. In the village also should convene the lodges, clubs and voluntary associations of the neighborhood. Some community institution, of a social character, which will be big enough to hold all the people without distinction of sex or sect should be added.

The more co-operative business is done in the village the quicker will it swing into a truly rural character. As I have already said, the modern village is primarily an economic phenomenon. The nature of the business done in it will determine, more than anything else, its type. Just in proportion as farmer-owned co-operative agencies and industries are added to or replace the businesses which now exist there will it grow in loyalty to the country.

One could fill volumes with rhapsodies on the joys of village life. All the songs in the world have come from the open country, as it is found in wild nature or on the farm or in the village. City poetry is horrible stuff, like Thomson's City of Dreadful Night. Nevertheless the cold fact is that the throngs are passing out of the country and into the city. They often go unwillingly, and their later years are haunted with memories of what they have lost. Now and again one sees an heroic effort, in the form of garden suburbs or factory locations in the open country, to shake off the killing grasp of the big city. But, on the whole, the city continues unhindered its cruel work of ravishing and destroying the people born in the country. Can the destruction be stopped? Many wise and good men and women are hopefully trying to answer that question at the present time. They will not find the answer till they have learned how the village may be transformed.

MRS. PABLY ILL

Members of the U.F.W.A. will be sorry to learn that their president, Mrs. Walter Pariby, was taken seriously ill while attending the Girl's Conference in Calgary last week. She underwent a serious operation at the General Hospital, on Tuesday morning, and although the operation itself was successful, the doctors will not be able to pronounce her out of danger for a few days.

SCARE IN ALBERTA

Taking cognizance of rumors that formaldehyde used for the treatment of seed grain has been tampered with by alien enemies, Deputy Minister H. A. Craig, of the Alberta department of agriculture, last week advised all farmers to refrain from the use of formaldehyde until definite tests were made.

Mr. Craig made the following statement on Thursday last:

"Rumors have reached the department of agriculture that formaldehyde, used for the treatment of seed grain, has been tampered with by alien enemies for the purpose of destroying the seed which is being treated for smut; the department has collected 30 samples of the formaldehyde from different parts of the province.

"Wheat and oats are being treated with these samples and germinated at the schools of agriculture and at the provincial university. Reliable information as to the results cannot be known for four or five days.

"The only advice the department can give to the farmers in the meantime is that they should treat their seed grain with bluestone at the rate of one pound to ten gallons of water."

Mr. Craig concluded by stating that the results of the test will be made public just as soon as they are known.

The rumor that the formaldehyde was being tampered with by alien enemies originated in the Carmangay district. Superintendent Fairfield, of the experimental farm at Lethbridge, is now conducting tests.

It is estimated that the annual losses in the United States due to rats equal \$200,000,000 and that in order to feed and otherwise provide for the enormous destructive army of rats the labor of 200,000 men are required annually.

MARKETING MANITOBA WOOL

Representatives of the various Provincial Sheep Breeders' Associations met in conference in Toronto, in February, and at that time the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers' Limited was organized. This association is intended to act as an overhead selling and purchasing agency for sheep owners of the Dominion who wish to make use of it. It has been decided by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture to market through this organization the wool consigned to it by wool growers of the province. Previously the Department did the selling itself, this year the Association will do it. The new company is not yet in a position to assemble this wool itself so the Department is doing this on lines similar to those of former years.

The Department of Agriculture, acting as agent for the farmers, will, up to July 10, 1918, receive the wool delivered in Winnipeg, where it will be weighed, sorted and graded under the supervision of expert wool graders supplied by the Federal Department of Agriculture. The wool will then be sold on grade for the highest obtainable price.

On receipt of wool, an advance of seventy-five per cent. of the market price will be made, and the balance will be paid when the wool is sold. In every case payment will be made according to grade.

Past experience has shown that station agents generally base freight charges on approximate weights. As a consequence, the Department has been obliged to make a large number of readjustments with the railway companies in Winnipeg. For this reason all shippers are asked to send consignments "freight charges collect." Another reason why this is advisable is that many shipments are sent from sidings and small stations where there are no station agents, and where the shippers are therefore unable to prepay freight.

Will Supply Sacks

Prior to the time of delivery, wool sacks, 40 inches wide and 7 1/2 feet long, capable of holding from 200 to 240 pounds of wool, will, upon request, be supplied without charge on the following basis: One bag for every twenty fleeces. Where a farmer has a small number of fleeces, say from five to twelve, clean jute bags can be used. Care should be exercised in this connection to see that all bags are turned inside out and properly shaken, so as to avoid the chance of loose fibres along the seams mixing in the wool. The payment for sacks will be deducted from the price of the wool when payment therefor is made. Send all orders for bags direct to the Co-operative Wool Agent, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

Paper twines, especially made for tying wool, will upon request, be sent to shippers at one cent apiece. One string is needed for each fleece. The price of the twine will be deducted from the payment for wool. Prepayment for twine should not be sent but the Department only written as to how many twines are needed.

Addressed shipping tags will be forwarded each consignor, to be filled in giving actual weights in each lot. Two tags should be used for each sack. One is tied to the fleeces inside and the other securely fastened to the outside of each sack. This is important as some shipments last year were entirely devoid of any trace of the consignor's name and the ownership of the wool was very difficult to establish. Shipments should be made by freight and the bill of lading forwarded by mail to the Co-operative Wool Agent, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg. The wool must be received at Winnipeg by July 10, addressed to The Manitoba Department of Agriculture and Immigration, Winnipeg.

FEEDING GRAIN IN STOCK YARDS

No grain may now be fed to livestock awaiting slaughter in stock yards eight hours before killing. Barley above grade No. 3 and oats above No. 1 Feed, may not be fed to stock in stock yards. Millable wheat may not be bought or sold as poultry feed. Grain for feeding or decoying migratory wild fowl is prohibited except under license by the Canada Food Board.

GARBAGE AS HOG FEED

Saskatoon, Sask., feeds 500 to 800 hogs on garbage, mixed with a small amount of grain. The City of Worcester, Mass., feeds 3,000 hogs on garbage. Springfield, Mass., sells \$50,000 worth of municipal fed hogs; Grand Rapids, Mich., feeds 300 cattle, 400 sheep and 700 pigs on garbage and a certain amount of hay. Arlington, Mass., Lowell, Mass., Fall River, Mass., and Providence, R.I., all distribute their garbage to private companies who feed it to livestock.

PATRIOTIC FUNDS

RED CROSS FUND	
Previously Acknowledged	\$4,078.01
Proceeds of Sale of "Ram" donated by T. Robinson, and a "Horse" donated by W. T. Fisher	400.00
Levi Bucker, Harnsworth, Man.	75.00
C. W. Lye, MacGregor, Man.	10.00
Mrs. John McLaren, Neopawa, Man.	75.00
Part Proceeds of a "Box Social" given by the Spruce Bluff G.G.A., Dauphin, Man.	32.81
H. M. Smith, Beaver, Man.	75.00
S. Thompson, Beaver, Man.	10.00
H. J. Chapman, Pemmennis, Man.	87.21
Proceeds of "Box Social" held by Man. Grain Growers' Association, Oakhurst, Man.	79.70
Totals	\$4,722.81

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND	
Previously Acknowledged	\$12,492.87
J. R. Coultis, Youngstown, Alta.	8.00
Proceeds of (Fashion) Baffle, donated by Mrs. Y. S. Doby, Parkburg, Sask.	37.00
George F. Ebbert, Binscarth, Man.	10.00
Ladies of Ridgford District, Venn, Sask.	75.00
Totals	\$12,492.87

PRISONERS OF WAR FUND	
Previously Acknowledged	\$ 185.00
"Woodland Soldiers Aid," Estevan, Sask.	25.00
Total	\$210.00

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND	
Previously Acknowledged	\$ 452.00
George F. Ebbert, Binscarth, Man.	10.00
Total	\$472.00

BLUE CROSS FUND	
Previously Acknowledged	\$ 111.52
Alfred C. Eckstahl, Vanguard, Sask.	50
Philip Varly, Davidson, Sask.	45
Lillian Airly, Venn, Sask.	25
Mary Airly, Venn, Sask.	25
Mable Airly, Venn, Sask.	25
Richard Stephens, Southminster, Sask.	25
Charlie Stephens, Southminster, Sask.	25
Aunt May Stephens, Southminster, Sask.	25
Clara T. Gottschlich, Lacombe, Alta.	10
Minnie McDonald, Fertile, Sask.	25
Alice Blondin, Harris, Sask.	25
Hilda Ward, Kristens, Sask.	50
Janet Shepherd, Senate, Sask.	25
Tommie Shepherd, Senate, Sask.	50
Myrtle Jacobs, Ranching, Alta.	25
Leroy Johnson, Stavelv, Alta.	25
Peter Patton, Brooks Stn., Alta.	20
Total	\$116.22

HALIFAX BLIND ENDOWMENT FUND	
Previously Acknowledged	\$ 210.50
J. R. Coultis, Youngstown, Alta.	7.00
One half proceeds "Box Social" held by "The Prairie Woman's Auxiliary," Lancer, Sask.	50.00
Part proceeds of "Box Social" held by Spruce Bluff G.G.A., Dauphin, Man.	86.00
Total	\$353.50

HALIFAX RELIEF FUND	
Previously Acknowledged	\$ 202.40
Mrs. J. Byers, Star City, Sask.	10.00
Total	\$212.40

Y.M.C.A. MILITARY FUND	
Previously Acknowledged	\$ 822.05
Proceeds of Collection at Meeting of G.G.A. at Blaris, Isabella, Man.	8.35
Ladies of Ridgford District, Venn, Sask.	50.00
Total	\$881.00

POLISH RELIEF FUND	
Previously Acknowledged	\$ 190.00
Proceeds of Drawing on Prize donated by W. M. Thrasher, Dinsmore, Sask.	17.00
Total	\$207.00

PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED	
Armenian Relief Fund	\$ 15.00
Agriculture Relief of the Allies	35.00
French Wounded Emergency Fund	48.50
British Red Cross Fund	104.50
British Sailors' Relief Fund	40.00
Canadian Patriotic Fund	895.00
French Red Cross Fund	563.50
Returned Soldiers' Fund	25.00
Soldiers' Families Xmas Fund	15.00
Total	\$23,399.00