

There are modern Solomons in Australia. Owing to the fact that there has been much disagreement and rivalry among the various towns as to which should be the seat of the Federal capital, it has been decided to build a new city, with broad streets, parks, etc., all laid out according to plan, and at an initial cost of \$25,000,000. When the possibilities of such an undertaking have been made manifest, Toronto will no doubt groan anew as she looks at her broad waterfront, piled fathoms deep with cinder-dust, and the groan will be re-echoed on and on, for where is there a metropolis, large or small, in which palpable mistakes have not been made? In the past, cities have just "grown up anyhow," like Topsy. If the Australian experiment proves successful, we may be upon the dawn of an era in which they will be trained.

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There is, perhaps, no higher stimulant to the ordinary man's activities than the hope of one day owning his own little domain—a home, with perhaps enough land to yield sustenance for himself and his household. But this sense of possession may become a lust; and when it becomes generally so, sooner or later war—whether bloodless or otherwise—is in sight, as at present in Britain. Twelve men cannot own more than half of the land in Scotland, nor one-seventy-five of its population practically all of the land in England and Wales, without protest coming at some stage of the game. When land that might produce an honest living for thousands upon thousands is given up to pleasure or the gratification of vanity, while the thousands upon thousands go starving about the streets, that protest must come, if not from the starving themselves, from those who are still uncorrupted enough to be humanly altruistic. This is the thing that has happened in the present contest, where Lloyd-George and Churchill stand as champions of the classes which may not all, perhaps, possess understanding enough, in the initial steps, at least, to thank them.

Were the millions of acres of land possessed by Dukes divided to-morrow among the unemployed of her cities, Britain must still be confronted by a tremendous problem. Her system for the past eight hundred years has resulted in the breeding of a considerable proportion of paupers, and paupers, even to the third and fourth generation, are not the class from which the brightest intellect, the ready capability that adapts itself to circumstances, can be expected. England's paupers must be bred back to capability and self-reliance, and temperance, and the process will not be the work of mere months.

Nevertheless, the principle of the Budget is sound, and its remedial measures, perhaps, as practicable as any that can be suggested. One thing is clear, remedial measures must be adopted, else the alternative remains, either of a wholesale degradation that must lead to a rotten Britain, or a resort to radical measures such as may be at present but dimly foreseen. As the Toronto Globe, which has made a searching study of this question, remarks: "Those who realize that the base is the strength of the social pyramid, will welcome the educational effect of this campaign. But if the privileged classes were wise in their own generation, they would permit the entering of the wedge of land taxation without forcing

a crusade that may lead to more effective advances."

At time of going to press, it is still uncertain what the Lords will do. They threaten to reject the Budget—a prerogative which they have not been allowed to exercise for two centuries, as regards England, although they rejected the section in the Irish land bill which provided for the breaking up of vast landed estates and their sale to the tenants. The Commons, on the other hand, declare that they will have the whole Budget or none, and there is still talk of a general election early in the year.

In the meantime, the object-lesson stares Canada in the face. Now is the time to see that conditions such as those that obtain in Britain shall not take root and grow in our fair land. Canada is a glorious heritage—a statement hackneyed, but true. It is ours to see that she be kept "the land of the free." Upon us the responsibility rests, upon our judgment in selecting legislators who are actuated by the spirit of altruism, rather than that of mere graft and self-seeking.

A man is sometimes returned to Parliament chiefly, it would seem, because of his gift with the tongue. But this is not sufficient. The life itself of the candidate who permits himself to be held up as representa-

tion, conveyed by cable and wires, giving the signal in Montreal for the opening of the hospital.

Dr. Cook has been presented with the freedom of the City of New York.

At a sale of butterflies and moths, held in Convent Garden, recently, as much as £4 4s. was paid for a single specimen.

The Japanese authorities have decided to send to the Anglo-Japanese Exhibition, to be held next year in London, the finest national masterpieces of ancient sculpture and paintings now preserved in the old temples.

The monoplane with which M. Bleriot flew across the English Channel has been placed in the National Conservatory of Arts and Trades, Paris, where it will be kept as a precious historical relic.

Dr. Rupert Michell, surgeon on the Nimrod, the vessel in which Shackleton made his voyage to the Antarctic regions, is a Canadian by birth, son of Mr. F. L. Michell, Inspector of Schools, Lanark Co., Ont. Dr. Michell is a graduate of Toronto University.

Halley's comet, now on its return to the sun, as predicted, after a

long absence, is expected to appear in the sky. The Wright brothers, Wilbur and Orville, who have achieved so much renown by the invention of their airships, formerly made their living by keeping a bicycle-repair shop.

Re Special Training for Teachers of Rural Schools.

[For some time it has appeared evident to "The Farmer's Advocate" that a special Normal School for the training of rural school teachers should be established at Guelph, in affiliation with the Ontario Agricultural College and the Macdonald Institute. The ten-weeks' special course set afoot last spring was welcomed as a step in this direction, and, in order to secure the opinions of the teachers themselves, who came under this special training, letters were addressed from our office to various teachers whose names appeared on the list.

In reply to the questions asked, several answers were received, the first of which is given below. We shall be pleased to hear from any other teachers, with or without special training, who have ideas on the subject, or who have been experimenting along the lines suggested. The letter, which follows, will indicate the nature of the questions asked.]

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In reply to your very enthusiastic letter of September 28th, I shall endeavor, as best I can, to make reply to your questions, if my feeble attempts should be of any value in following up the new movement re the improvement of rural education.

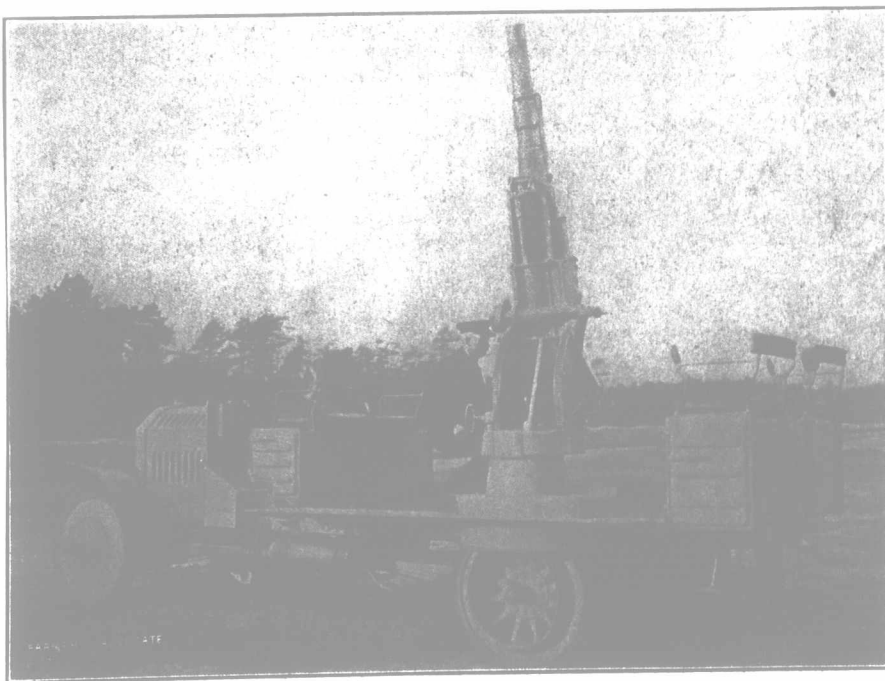
1. The course at the O. A. C. has quite considerably changed my pedagogical viewpoint as a rural teacher by enabling me to understand better, each day, that the only true way to educate rural schoolchildren is by bringing the children into touch with the common and interesting things about them, so that they may understand WHY THEY DO THINGS. It has enabled me to feel that we, as teachers, have many great difficulties to overcome, in the way of enabling the parents in our various communities to understand what it is to truly educate their children, so that they may not scorn the busy farmer, but be ready to do, and find out.

2. I believe the chief thing of value in the course has been its enabling me to understand, myself, the true principles upon which the real teaching of agriculture and the study of nature rests, so that I can better find out and open up new ideas in the methods of imparting such knowledge to the country boy or girl, by enabling them to do with their own hands, to see, and find out.

3. I do think the teaching of agriculture, or, as you state, the introduction of school-gardening, to be feasible and desirable.

4. In the teaching of agriculture, I find so many ideas crowding up into my mind re subjects interesting and helpful to be taught that I scarcely know which topic to make use of. The teaching of it is much easier than any such teaching formerly was.

5. Since the opening of the term, I have generally taken a few minutes in the morning for reports on obser-



Airship Gun.

These guns are now being made at the Krupp works, Germany, for the destruction of airships.

tive of the people, should be the criterion. He should represent not the lower or the mediocre, but the best type of the people. So only shall the fairness of Government towards all the classes be maintained.

The Windrow.

Captain Bernier reports that the vegetation of the Arctic Islands is much richer than it is generally believed to be. He brought back 36 specimens of flowers from Melville Island.

The number of students in German universities has this term, for the first time, reached the 50,000 mark; 51,700 have been enrolled.

The King opened the Tuberculosis Institute at Montreal, on Thursday last by pressing a button at West

lapse of 76 years, and a journey of over 6,000,000 miles, was first noticed this year, on the 12th of September, by Dr. Max Wolf, of Heidelberg. The name of the comet has been derived from the fact that the period of its return was established by Halley, who based his conclusions on observations taken at the Greenwich Observatory in 1682. This is the comet which, from time to time, has spread consternation through Europe. It is now visible to astronomers, and will be visible to the naked eye in April of next year.

Dr. Frederick Cook was the son of a German physician who came to America and settled in a small village in New York State. When the boy was but six years of age, his father died, and Frederick was compelled to fight his way every inch through the High School and Colum-