

The Waterdown Review

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W. F. MORGAN-DEAN

G. R. HARRIS

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Waterdown

A Bird Refuge

The most important, and by far the largest in extent, of national "refuges" for the preservation of wild birds on this continent is a vast area in the delta of the Yukon river, proclaimed as such by an edict from the White House just ten years ago. It is even more beneficial to the birds of Canada than to those of the United States.

It is an area approximately equal to Massachusetts, and the most valuable feathered species concerned are wild geese and wild ducks, which breed there in countless numbers.

There is found the proper home of the "emperor" goose, the "white-fronted" goose, and many species of ducks which are sought as game in other latitudes.

The region is known as "tundra country"—devoid of trees, swampy, with many lakes, and of no possible usefulness for agriculture or any other purpose. If, however, the wild-fowl are there safeguarded on their breeding grounds, it will be a permanent source of game and food supply for Alaska and the entire Pacific coast.

In order that this may come to pass, it is necessary that the birds shall be protected during the mating season against the wholesale slaughter which formerly was conducted by pot-hunters and alleged sportsmen from year to year—a method commonly adopted being to drive the helpless creatures into pens built for the purpose, where they were ruthlessly murdered.

Coal in Alberta.

The Alberta Government has decided to appoint a commission with wide powers to investigate the coal mining industry in all its bearings. The provincial inspector of mines has been selected as chairman and the following organizations have been asked to choose one member each to serve on the commission: the United Mine Workers, the Western Coal Operators Association, the Alberta Federation of Labor (not a miner), the Industrial Research Association (not a mine operator).

Grateful to Canada.

A Connecticut soldier, Gunner Harry Smith, who enlisted in the Canadian army, writes the New York Times expressing his gratitude for his treatment by this Dominion. He is worth quoting: "I was discharged one hour after arriving in Canada from overseas, and, equipped with my first month's gratuity allowances, transportation, and service badge, was on my way home to the United States in 'jazz time.' We were also allowed \$30 for civilian clothing. I am now receiving \$70 and my wife \$30 per month for the time stated. My wife received \$30 per month during my absence plus foreign exchange money. I cannot speak too highly of this wonderful country which treated us American volunteers like 'gentlemen.'" Gunner Smith, who feels he was treated like a gentleman, has acknowledged it like one.

Canada Leads.

A paragraph appearing in Reparation, a monthly bulletin published in the interests of returned men in Australia, quotes the speech delivered in Sydney by Premier Holman, of New South Wales, in which he stated that the state had settled 1,100 men on the land. The Premier claimed that this was a much larger number than had been settled in any of the other states. New South Wales sent to the battlefields of Europe thirty-nine per cent. of the total of the Australian Expeditionary Force. If the proportion of ex-service men settled in the land in the other states was equal to that of New South Wales the figures would be for the whole of Australia 2,820 men benefited by the Land Settlement Act up to the date of the Premier's speech. Up to the 17th of May, the Soldier Settlement Board of Canada had approved 7,900 applications for the benefits of the Soldier Settlement Act and a great many more applications were before the Qualification Committees in the various provinces. These figures which will be largely augmented by the returns for the last two weeks of May and for the present month show that Canada is well in advance of the sister commonwealth in providing suitable farms for her war heroes.

Two of a Trade.

"Do you think these alienists are any good at a trial?" "Some, I take it. An alienist is the only person I ever saw who could bluff a lawyer."

Mills in Poland.

Textile mills at Lodz, Poland, are reported by the British Economic Commission to be comparatively undamaged, and capable of production almost immediately if supplies of cotton were obtainable.

Should Farmers Enter Politics

(By Chas. M. Flatt)

Never before in the history of Canada has there been so much uncertainty as to the classes who are to be most largely represented in the governing bodies of the country.

While it is unwise as well as almost impossible to make any attempt at prophecy concerning such a matter, still a study of the present conditions will give reasonably sure indications of the part certain classes can be expected to play in politics of Canada.

Of all classes by far the more important are those of labor and agriculture. Of these the former has in the past played the greater part largely because, owing to the nature of their work, laborers can co-operate easier than farmers, and also because legislation affecting them was in more urgent need of reform than that affecting farmers.

Since the beginning of the war great strides have been made in securing representation in the government for the farming classes. While progress along this line is reasonably satisfactory, it is being retarded, not so much by outside influences as by farmers themselves. When a proposal is made to elect a farmer representative a common remark is "What do we want to mix up in politics? Leave that to the politicians."

To arrive at the utter absurdity of such a remark from the lips of a farmer it is necessary to consider the origin of politics. Our present parties are but the result of differences of opinion regarding the best policy of governing the country. When Canada was a young colony it was necessary to consider conscientiously the best course to pursue, for a false step at that time meant a danger of entire destruction to the colony.

As the country grew its continued existence became more assured, and the system of government became more lax. Then there arose a class of professional politicians who found the task of directing the destinies of the country more congenial than working to support it. The percentage of representatives who conscientiously tried to do their best for their constituents grew less. Finally the present condition of affairs was reached when a member of parliament takes his reputation in his hands and holds it loosely when he seeks continued re-election.

Were it not for a few of the old type of representatives the Ship of State would lurch along through the ocean of time more wildly and would come nearer to foundering than it does at present.

But at its best our present government is unwieldy, unbalanced, and does not give adequate representation to many classes, and chief among them that of agriculture. This brings us back to the question of the advisability of the farmers entering politics.

What man is there who would hire another man to run his business if he knew that this man's only desire was to hold down the job and draw his pay? Surely there can be no one so foolish. But if he knew further that this man would sell his influence and dispose of his business to the highest bidder, one would think he would have less to do with him than ever. But that is exactly what we, as farmers have been doing. We have been content to elect to represent our interests, men who to say the least did not have the interests of agriculture at heart.

The time has arrived to change this state of affairs. A class that comprises more real business owners than any other, must be vitally interested in nearly every act of legislation. Surely the farmer who owns a herd of beef or dairy cattle is interested in legislation affecting the sale and transportation of his produce.

Already several constituencies have elected a farmer to represent their interests at the next election. No doubt there will be farmer candidates in the majority of the constituencies of Ontario. It is a duty to elect them, not because they are of any special party, but because they being farmers must be interested as we are in securing favorable legislation.

It is not to be concerned that adequate representation will effect a perfection of conditions. Such an ideal state is visionary. But this much can be safely said that if when we do secure fairly good representation things do not just suit us, then we will not complain because it will be our own fault.

The Value of Cheerfulness

Cheerfulness is a social trait that stands over and above every other. How sweet in infancy, how lovely in youth, how saintly in old age. If we are cheerful and contented all nature smiles with us, the air seems more balmy, the sky more clear, the trees have a richer foliage, the flowers a more fragrant smell. Birds seem to sing more sweetly and all seems to appear more beautiful around us. There are a few noble natures whose very presence carries sunshine with them where ever they go, they have a sunshine which means pity for the poor, sympathy and help for the suffering and unfortunate. How such a face enlivens every other face it meets and carries joy and gladness into every company. Let us all look on the bright side and keep the sunshine in our hearts, however we may be, and the harder the task the more need of singing, for a hopeful spirit will discern the silver lining of the darkest cloud. Be cheerful for it is the only happy life. Let us cultivate that which is warm and genial, not cold and repulsive, and our life may help to brighten the lives of those around us.

MARIE

Excitement at Carlisle

One of the worst fires that has ever occurred broke out last Tuesday in the Beachgrove Settlement. There were more lives lost than in the great Chicago fire and its origin more pathetic. Fire Marshals George Cummins and Hamilton Kerr noticed smoke coming from the direction of a settler's home and jumping into their motor fire extinguisher were promptly on the job trying to save the burg. Upon arriving the marshals found a smouldering heap burning on the lawn. They found three men one of them John Barleycorn, lying on the ground unable to crawl into the hut. The Marshals enquired as to how the fire started and with tears in his eyes the old settler intimated that the bed bugs were so bad that they could stand it no longer and had brought the old straw tick down the winding stairway and were burning the blankets, blanket beggars alive. It is estimated that 2000 lives were lost in the great fire.

Wm. O. Alderson of Flamboro Centre was in town this week. He was congratulating himself on his narrow escape from being put off the market in Hamilton. He said that as he was lifting a crate of fruit he unfortunately tore his trousers which were getting thin. The police told him that if he did not stick a bunch of hay in the rear he would have to get off the market. He promptly accepted the officers' suggestions and secured enough hay from Malcolm Hackney. Everything went well until he was standing in the Dominion yards when Stuart Wyatt drove his team up to what he thought was a hay stack and so tramped the hay down that Mr. Alderson got disgusted and got into his wagon and pulled for home.

It will cost the Canadian National Exhibition over \$25,000 to bring the Grenadier Guards Band out for the two weeks at the Big Fair.