

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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IN THE DOMINION.

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### The New Politics.

This being election day in Canada, it would seem appropriate to turn over the pages of a fresh book, entitled "The New Politics." \* By way of reassurance, we hasten to say that it was not written in relation to the current campaign, the fever of which may have not yet altogether abated. At one of the daily luncheons of the late National Exhibition, at Toronto, some of the officials felt a cold chill traverse their spinal columns when the Mayor of Hamilton, in replying to a toast to his city, daringly announced that he proposed to touch on the excluded subject of reciprocity, but they heaved a sigh of relief when he went on to explain that he had in mind the beneficence of reciprocal relations between the two cities. And so with the writing of Mr. Vrooman, which is neither a treatise nor a collection of essays, but the hasty product of the leisure hours of many busy days. A university graduate, a business man, and a traveller, who has apparently studied everything on political economy and social philosophy from Aristotle to Teddy Roosevelt, he takes a dismal view of Anglo-Saxon politics, and of American politics in particular. Graphic and epigrammatic, it is a book that will entertain and compel people to think. He apologizes for its lack of literary finish, but there is little excuse for the careless haste that repeats, probably scores of times, such phrases as "laissez faire," which surely might be presented with a variation of expressive English. Classical phrases are no particular advantage to a book for general reading. When a writer undertakes as serious a task as summoning the young manhood of Great Britain and the United States to make an end of political and social systems which he

[\* "The New Politics," by F. B. Vrooman, B. Sc. (Oxon), F. R. G. S., author of "Theodore Roosevelt: Dynamic Geographer." Oxford University Press, Toronto. Price, \$1.65, postage paid.]

describes as chaotic, pagan and selfish, he should pay his readers the compliment of taking sufficient time and care to give his ideas a setting that might endure the test of time.

He is pessimistic of American conditions. "We live in a sordid and spiritless age," he declares. "It is a disappointment. We are not justifying our inheritance, our opportunities, or ourselves. We are producing no great literature, nor art, nor philosophy. Our religion has lost its hold upon us. We are not producing great and noble men like those of old. We later Americans have surpassed the world in nothing but speculators. We have found our aspirations in sky-scrapers. The register of our ideal is the cash register. This is our distinction."

To have rational politics, he holds that we must have a proper theory of life, with the common good as the motive, instead of a besotted selfishness; there must be the assertion and assumption of duties, as well as "rights."

The philosophy of individualism, which he arraigns grew out of a revolt against age-long oppression in the old world, but the pendulum swung to the other extreme of a personal liberty that became license, embodied in a philosophy of life that justifies man's selfishness to himself. And the blight of the 18th century teaching still hangs over the earth like a pall. Christian civilization cannot be said to have permeated a system which requires a vast majority of the human race to toil all the conscious hours of their existence for insatiable food and clothes and a place to sleep. Millions of the housewives of the men who are doing the nation's work, unable to make ends meet, haggle in the market over the price of liver or a shank-bone, while one man owns ten or twelve thousand million dollars, and eleven others like him could own the whole American nation and everything and everybody in it. He condemns the Manchester School of trade, in that it opened the way to an unrestricted competition, in which the strong crush the weak, but he passes lightly over the selfish instrument of protection, reaching finally the conclusion that there will never be stability in business till the tariff is taken out of party politics and placed in the hands of scientific experts, which, we surmise, is a long way off while the United States Senate exists. The present programme of legislative reform in Britain he dismisses as ignorant, or merely opportunist. While he seems to berate Christianity for its slowness, he does register a personal conviction which is doubtless correct, that the world outlook, aim and activity will never be modified, except by a world religious movement, and he shows us nothing better than the regeneration of the individual; and his teaching resolves itself down to the ethics of Christianity, the Golden Rule, which we believe is making more rapid and steady progress in the world than Mr. Vrooman's gloomy outlook might lead his readers to suppose. All can agree with him that more good may be wrought by working together for the same thing than working against each other for the same thing; and if there is to be peace on earth, there must first be goodwill toward men.

He traces with evident care and discrimination the long conflict in the United States between the disintegrating, individualist state-rights party of the Jefferson school and that of strong national government promulgated by Washington and Hamilton. Individualism he concludes to have been a terrible failure, socialism is an impracticable dream, but, instead of turning over the continent to the multi-billionaire to exploit, he pins his faith to national control and conservation, believing that there is just cause for hope in the fact that 99 per cent. of a great nation are stronger than one per cent. in force and morale; and 99 per cent. and God must win.

### Keep the Boys at School.

In these days, when labor is scarce and dear, and often inefficient, many a farmer is tempted to solve the labor problem by keeping his boys out of school. To yield to this temptation is for the farmer to make about the greatest mistake possible. There are, it is true, plenty of men who have made money who had little or no schooling. Yet the men of this class who now take rank among our best citizens are the first to acknowledge the handicap under which they have run, and, further, they are the very men who see to it that their children get the best the schools can yield them. Further, the wide world over, the best citizens are insisting that every child shall have, as his, by right, a good schooling. These citizens realize that, while the fellow without any schooling may win out in life's battle, they see, also, that the advantages are on the side of the fellow with a good education. Even should the illiterate man overtake and pass his more fortunate, educated fellow citizen, and come to mix with educated men and women, his feelings will be hurt a thousand times, because of his lack of intellectual culture. Well-bred men and women will try to overlook his shortcomings and honor him for his attainments, and respect him for his

downright manhood, but when he realizes his deficiency he will bitterly regret that he is lacking in the things that were his birthright. No boy has a right to expect his father to make him rich. He has the right to look for the best our public schools can give him.

In this get-rich-quick age, parents should see to it that their boys and girls are at school every day. The dollar or two the child saves the father or mother in wages, at the expense of school, is about the dearest money the parents ever get. Farm life now requires about the best-trained intelligence of any job on earth. Machinery and experience by actual work must ever have their place, but they cannot supplant the keen, disciplined mind, without which no agriculturist can succeed in farm operations, in social life, or as a citizen.

Keep the boys in school, even though it may seem a sacrifice to do so. The reward is more than worth the sacrifice and the conflict. The best prizes, after all, are for the men and women of education. It may not appear at first, and the boy at school may not admit it, but in the long run a good education is about the best investment a farmer can make for his child.

York Co., Ont.

O. C.

## HORSES.

### Expert Advice and Common Sense.

The enduring and steadily-increasing popularity of our veterinary questions and answers department abundantly attests the discretion, experience and general competence of the editor in charge of this valuable service. That the advice and prescriptions given usually fit the cases for which suggested is proven by "repeat orders" from those who have in times past availed themselves of its help, and by many gratifying reports of successful treatment. Indeed, various members of our own staff have tried certain of the commonly repeated prescriptions and nearly always with satisfactory outcome. Of course there is ever the possibility of mistake in diagnosing disease from a layman's description of symptoms; but, as a rule, where positive diagnosis is made it is based upon grounds of strong probability if not absolute certainty, and it is really wonderful how seldom our diagnosis is mistaken.

Instances arise, however, where the inquirer, having stated his case and received his reply, sets this aside because, lacking an understanding of anatomy, physiology and pathology, he jumps to conclusions, substituting common sense for expert knowledge. In the majority of such instances the layman is liable to be mistaken. An illustration in mind came to our attention lately, when an intelligent subscriber complained that he had received a very foolish answer to a veterinary inquiry. It seems his horse shook his head while driving, and he was directed to examine the teeth. This appeared to him so absolutely devoid of sense that he assumed the adviser was astray, and did not even glance at the teeth. His driver still shakes its head. He mentioned the case to a local veterinarian, who thought it might have been due to an accumulation of wax in the ear. We assured him that our veterinarian knew his business, being, in fact, one of the most competent in the Dominion. Just for the satisfaction of it, we referred the case again to the veterinary editor, whose reply is appended:

"A very large percentage of the cases of the kind that have come under my observation, in twenty-nine years' practice, have been due to irregularity of the teeth, and a few days after having the teeth dressed the habit ceased. The fact that when at rest the patient does not show any symptoms, but when being driven with more or less tension upon the bit he shows the symptoms, goes a great way in indicating that the trouble is in the mouth. We think that Mr. — might at least have taken the trouble to have had his horse's mouth examined and the teeth dressed. When he is so sure of where the trouble does not exist he should be able to state where it does exist. While I have never met with a case of the kind that was caused by 'an accumulation of wax in the ear,' it is possible that such a case might occur. Then, again, any foreign matter, as a fly, burr, etc., in the ear would cause head shaking, but it is somewhat hard to understand why, in such a case, the animal would be comfortable while standing or in the field, but commence to shake when being driven. And are we not justified in assuming that the owner would examine for such causes before writing to you about the matter? I may say that I have had only one case of 'head shaking' this season. It was in a nice pony, owned and driven by a girl in town. When in the stable or yard, or when standing hitched to cart, it was perfectly comfortable, but as soon as she commenced to drive it it would shake its head most violently; in fact, there was no comfort in driving it. If the pony was sharpened up with the whip and made go