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Foreign Languages in Britain.

In view of the bi-lingual discussion in Saskatchewan, and the great interest taken in the matter of the teaching of languages in Canada, says the Moose Jaw Times editorially on Jan. 11, an article in *The Edinburgh Scotsman* urging the teaching of Spanish in the schools or colleges of Great Britain will be of interest to our readers. And the startling thing about it is that a knowledge of Spanish is urged on grounds of patriotism and as a means to the end of furthering British interests in opposition to the business aggression of the Germans. The writer says:

"How many people realize that, after English, Spanish is the most widely-used language in the world? It is the official language of about twenty self-governed countries. These countries are inhabited by almost eighty million people, with a steadily increasing population. The Spanish-speaking countries, especially of South America, are wonderfully rich in natural chemical and other resources, which in the future will be drawn upon by the whole world. This the Germans realized some time ago, and laid their plans 'accordingly.' The hold which the Germans were obtaining in South America in *ante bellum* days was almost entirely due to their linguistic attainments. They knew that a good knowledge of Spanish was a *sine qua non* of success. The Americans, too, realized long ago that the Spanish merchant prefers to transact business in his own familiar tongue, and they make it a rule to send travellers who can speak Spanish fluently. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the question of Britain retaining her prestige in the great Spanish colonies of the New World is largely one of language. Climatically and territorially, South America is a land full of promise for our disabled and discharged men. Its possibilities are well-nigh limitless, and its future development is one of such vital importance that the question of the study of Spanish in our schools and colleges ought to be seriously taken up at once by the government. Native teachers might be brought over to our cities from Spain, and free courses of instruction ought to be given to all who like to take advantage of them. Long ago the wily German government adopted this plan of providing gratuitous instruction in foreign languages. The inestimable advantages that would ultimately accrue to the Fatherland through such a scheme was clearly foreseen, for the Teuton has made a careful study of the commercial geography and trading methods of South America.

"It is quite lamentable what vague ideas the majority of Britishers have about this part of the world. It will give a slight idea of the elbow-room that is to be found if we remember that Bolivia alone is sixty times the size of Belgium, and possesses only one-third of the normal pre-war population of this latter little country. In magnitude Peru equals France, Italy, Spain, and Germany all put together. In one Spanish South American country alone (Argentina) the stupendous amount of 15,000,000 tons of wheat and grain are annually produced, as well as 250,000 tons of sheep's wool, besides enormous quantities of frozen meat. Chile, in normal times, produces approximately about 2,500,000 tons of nitrate, and Peru furnishes over 165,000 tons of sugar."

—After perusing this issue of the paper, hand it to a friend: let this friend keep it going. If he is pleased with it, ask him to hand you his subscription.

For Farm and Garden

A Famous Grain Grower.

If any man ever deserved well of his country it is Seager Wheeler, one of the best known grain growers of the American continent. Of his work it can be truly said: "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war." His recent capture of the silver tankard, at the Dry Farming Congress, which was held in Kansas City is another distinction which he has brought to his adopted province and places him in the front line trenches of Saskatchewan's most distinguished citizens.

If it is correct that "The truest patriot is the one who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before," the record of achievement to the credit of Seager Wheeler places him in the rank of Canada's most patriotic citizens. In addition to having introduced to the world several new varieties of grain, his experiments in producing grain and vegetables of the standard varieties have won for him an international reputation.

Although it is only fifteen years since Seager Wheeler commenced his seed selection record, without assistance of any kind, he has to his credit the capture of 20 sweepstakes, 77 first prizes, 3 second prizes, 2 thirds, and 2 fourths. He has also captured 8 silver cups, 2 gold medals, an I.H.C. binder and many hundred dollars cash prizes.

This interesting and amazing record has been achieved by a man whose first earnings were obtained as a clerk in a bookstore. Seager Wheeler was born half a century ago in Black Gang, Isle of Wight, England, and came to Saskatchewan in 1885. But it was not until 1903 that he commenced his seed selection, which has won for him the name of the "seed wizard." He is a life member of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and was one of the organizers of the Rosthern G. G. local.

Evergreens for the Prairie Home.

M. Soholt, Nurseryman, Madison, Minn. In the beginning of the settling of the prairie there were no trees growing except along the streams, but as soon as the settlers had broken land and got it in shape they started to plant trees. At that time there were no evergreens to obtain for planting, so they had to plant the trees that were growing around them or easy to obtain.

The first trees planted on the prairies were usually the willow, cottonwood and box elder. A few elms, soft maple and ash were planted, but they had a hard time to make these trees grow. Later on when the trees first set out began to die, they had to do some more planting in order to protect themselves from the winds and drifting snow.

For replanting these groves the evergreens have been used to a great extent. The planting could be done either by cutting out a few rows of the old trees and planting them in there, or planting them outside of the grove. The best way I think is to plant them on the outside. But if the grove is covering all the space that was laid out for that purpose, and there cannot be any extension of it, I should recommend the planting of evergreens in the old grove.

In order to have any success with evergreens in a grove you will have to cut down many of the old trees, that you may give the evergreens a chance to grow, as they must have light and sun.

If you plant them too close or under other trees, they will not thrive. You may plant evergreens in an old grove the way mentioned without plowing or cultivating it if desired.

As it is hard to properly plow

or cultivate the ground in an old grove, the evergreen can easily be planted in the ground the way it is, for as a rule there is not much sod there. The ground should be hoed around each tree the first part of the summer when set out, and then mulched and kept mulched every year till they grow to five or six feet tall. Afterwards they will take care of themselves. I have set out thousands of evergreens this way and had good success.

A good many kinds of evergreens have been planted. I will mention a few of the best: ponderosa or bull pine, Austrian, Scotch and Jack pine. The ponderosa pine is a very good tree to plant out for the protection of the prairie home. It has a dense form, dark green color and keeps the lower limbs better than any other pine. It does not change color or blight in the spring as some of the other pines do. More of these beautiful trees should have been planted.

The Australian pine is also a good hardy tree, something like the ponderosa in growth and habit. The Scotch pine has been planted more extensively than any other kind of evergreen for windbreaks and for the protection of the prairie home. The Scotch pine is a fast grower, makes a quick windbreak, is perfectly hardy and easily transplanted if proper care is taken.

The Jack pine is also planted to a great extent. I do not like this tree as well as the others. It grows smaller and does not branch out very much, and always has a brownish color.

The white spruce is also planted considerably. It is a fine tree, well shaped and hardy everywhere.

Evergreens should be transplanted at least twice (three times would be much better), before they are set out in their permanent place. Get your evergreens from your nearest nursery, as it will be much better for the trees. Do not ship them very far. These trees are more particular about the shipping than any other trees.

Urge and push more the planting of evergreens. There is not a tree to compare with it for a windbreak. A few rows of evergreens is better than dozens of rows of other forest trees, and also to beautify the home surroundings there is nothing like evergreens, green in summer and green in winter.

Where is Wheat Rust in Winter?

If the farmer wishes to satisfy himself as to where wheat rust is in winter, he has only to look on the second growth of wild barley (sometimes known as Skunk Grass or Squirrel Tail), which is still quite green, late in the season and he will find the stems rusted as badly as he has ever seen wheat rusted, and it is the same rust that grows on wheat. This can be proven by potting a wheat plant in the house and then rubbing on the red rust spores from the second growth of wild barley, even if these be taken from under the snow. If the leaves are moist when the spores are rubbed on, and the plant covered with a jam jar or a big box for two days and then allowed to develop for a week, he will find that the wheat plant has taken the rust from the wild barley.

Professor V. W. Jackson, of the Manitoba Agricultural College, has been germinating these rust spores from wild barley every day since the frost began. On Oct. 25, when there was 17 degrees of frost, 90% of the spores germinated when placed in a drop of water. Of course, it was necessary to examine them under a microscope to see that they had sprouted. Ordinarily, it only takes 3 or 4 hours for the red rust to sprout, but after they have been frosted it may take 12-24 hours. But they do sprout after frost, and it is quite probable that they can winter through on the wild barley. Steps should be taken to destroy this grass wherever possible.

SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL
(Special for St. Peter's Bote.)

—Sound often stands for sense, especially when the person emitting it is below the horizon of the observer. Just let a wild-eyed European anarchist describe himself as a republican or an apostle of democracy, and every addle-pated journalist over here is strong for him.

—We have not forgotten the American defenders of Francisco Ferrer, and the tons of abuse heaped upon the Catholic Church.

—Remember the chorus of praise which greeted those noble leaders of humanity and liberty—the Bolsheviks. But we do not hear it now.

—Tommy Church is mayor of Toronto for the fifth term. He received nearly 10,000 more votes than John O'Neill, a business man of tried ability who had faithfully and ably served the city for ten years as Alderman and Controller. But then, O'Neill is a practical Catholic, whilst Tommy Church is a member of the Orange lodge!

—The community spirit shown during the trying war days in the Queen City fell, according to the *Catli. Register*, upon stony ground where there was not much earth and it sprung up immediately because it had no deepness of earth and the political, saffron-hued and religious simoon blow strong and hot, and because the seed had no root, withered away.

—There are two reasons why a Catholic may not join the Masons; one is that the Masons do not want him to join, and the second is that the Catholic Church forbids him to join. These two reasons should be sufficient for any sensible, loyal Catholic. A Catholic cannot be at the same time a true, intelligent Catholic and a true, intelligent Mason. Masonry in many countries has been, and is to day, an enemy of the Catholic Church; the experience of the Church has been, that when a Catholic became a Mason, he ceased to practice his religion. The Church protects her children by forbidding them to become associated with Masonry.

—If Paderewski is made President of the new Republic of Poland, he ought to be able to put a lot of harmony in the future concert of Europe.

Wit and Humor

PREACHING FROM NOTES.

The Scotch seldom complain of a long sermon, no matter how high or dry, provided the minister makes his point before concluding. But preaching from notes never found favor in Scotland, and is still resented by old-fashioned people. A convert to the Church in the "Land of Cakes" tells of one minister who though well aware that the use of notes was generally condemned, persisted in the custom of writing the heads of his discourse on slips of paper, which he placed on the open Bible before him, to be used in succession. One day, when he was explaining the second head, he got impassioned, and came down with such a thump upon the Bible with his hand that the ensuing slip fell over the edge of the pulpit, though unperceived by himself. On reaching the end of his second head, he looked down for the third slip, but it was not to be found. "Thirdly," he exclaimed, looking round him with much anxiety. After a pause, "Thirdly," again he exclaimed; but still no "Thirdly" appeared. "Thirdly, I say, my brethren," pursued the bewildered clergyman, "but not another word could be uttered.

At this point, while the congregation were partly sympathizing in his distress, and partly rejoicing in so decisive an instance of the impropriety of using notes in preaching, an old woman rose up and thus addressed the discomfited preacher: "If I'm not mistaken, sir, I saw Thirdly flee out at the east window a quarter of an hour syne."

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