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EDITORIAL.

Why Doesn't the Farmer's Son Marry?

In a recent issue of the "Farmer's Advocate," in the breezy letter from "Jonas," mention was made of the bachelor farmers who seem to say they are wiser than their Maker, and who are trying to run their farms without a wife. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, in his little work, "Right Living as a Fine Art," severely censures those who are postponing marriage just to increase their earthly gain. Marrying or never marrying, is a question always of real interest, however it may be belittled or made the subject of joke. Meeting, the other day, a young man whom we had known as a boy in the country, but who has for some time been working in town, he spoke incidentally of his wife. Had he remained in the country, one hundred chances to one he would have been single still. It does seem that in towns people marry and begin housekeeping at an earlier age than they do in farming communities. It seems to be the fashion—the thing expected—that when a young man is assured of steady employment in town or city, that he should without delay settle down. His weekly wage is all that he has, probably, but with it he can keep a wife and pay house rent, and generally he proceeds to do it. The proportion of young married people in cities and towns is, without question, far greater than in the country. When we look at the conditions we cease to wonder that such is the case. There is little or no difficulty to secure in town a house to suit an income of any size. A young man does not need to wait until he has saved up enough money to buy a place before he sets up for himself. With the liberal wages of the present day, he is independent as soon as he secures a job. Under such conditions the wrench of separating from his people and of starting a new home is comparatively slight.

What a different state of things surrounds a country boy who is a wage-earner. If he should think of getting married, as probably most boys do, where can he get a house. Must he wait till he can buy a farm, and start in the style of the well-to-do people of his community?

Marriage among private soldiers of the British army is severely discouraged, but scarcely more so than among Canadian farm servants. He is almost forced to become a day laborer—no enviable lot—or stay single until he is forty. Not so much brighter, matrimonially, is the prospect for the fairly well-to-do farmer's son. Here is a farmer's family in moderate circumstances. One or two of them have married and gone away, but the most of the children are at home. Children, no doubt, still to their father and mother, though their hair is getting gray. Many of our readers in all parts of the country will think that they know just the family meant, such instances are so common. Leaving out of count the girls, what encouragement was there for the boys to set up house for themselves? There was no other house on the place, and not many young wives would relish the prospect of living with a father-mother-brothers-and-sisters-in-law, even if they were willing and the house was large enough. The farm, of course, might have been divided and another house built, but many fathers seem more anxious to increase the size of their farm and to keep control in their own hands than to share up with their sons. This feeling on the part of many successful farmers has probably hindered many a young man in his desire for a separate home, but even where no

hindrance of this sort existed, the trouble and expense of putting up a new set of buildings and dividing the property has doubtless often kept in check the natural ambition of a young man for a home and a place of his own. Let things go as they are for a while, he will think, something may turn up. It is easier to let things drift quietly on than to make a fuss. And the time passes by, and with it his chances of domestic bliss. For that, and possibly other reasons, he strikes off to town some day; and so the drift continues, and the farm-labor question grows more acute.

There are, it is true, many farmers who have wealth and wisdom enough to buy farms for their sons as they grow up, and it is to be noted that such young men usually get married at a reasonable age. But it is the few, and not the ordinary run, who have obstacles so nicely removed.

Even when it is an only son or an only remaining son who gets married, the turmoil occasioned is sufficiently worrying for ordinary nerves. The break-up of the home for the old people, and the changes brought about, it takes years to become used to.

Whether because of these unfavorable conditions, or whether from the prevalence of selfish, boorish manners, so graphically described by "Nurse," or from some other cause or causes, the fact remains that there are a great many first-rate men among us unmarried, and a correspondingly large number of Canadian farmer's daughters—the finest women in the world—many of them choice women, who would grace and bless the home of any man, growing old in their fathers' houses. This is a condition of things far from satisfactory, and one from which many evils spring. The question which we leave with our readers and which we hope they will discuss is: "Is there a remedy? If so, what is it?"

A Carnival, Not a Fair!

[From the "Farmer's Advocate," Winnipeg, Man.]

One of the reasons advanced for the existence of the Winnipeg Industrial is that it is a splendid testimony of the resources of Western Canada; another that it is a source of enjoyment and education to the Westerner—neither of which purposes or ideals it fulfilled in the effort of 1905. As a collection of lewdness and discord, filth and crookedness, it deserves the palm; and it may have been only a coincidence that for some time the sewers at the grounds went on strike.

If the directorate are satisfied with their efforts we feel sorry for them, and we do not claim to be ultra-puritanical. The Industrial seems to exhaust its energies in posters, fake racing and a Midway; that some extra good specimens of live stock happen to be there is an incident, and due to the bait of pretty fair money prizes. This year the Midway had its usual quota of lewd performers, whose coarse jokes and suggestive actions caused, probably, in some a laugh, to be followed later, on sober second thought, with a feeling of disgust. This year, however, there was a slight improvement to be noted in the fact that a spasm of decency, short-lived though it was, affected some of those responsible for the admission to the grounds of those poor creatures whose transfer from the jungles of Africa or elsewhere has not civilized them. The presence of such a tough gang is hard to account for, unless it is that they have a partner on the board who takes toll of the bestial efforts of the wretched tribe, guaranteeing them protection from the police in return.

It may be retorted that the attendance belies the statement that the fair was decidedly off color; the out-of-town crowd happened there; they had come to see Eaton's, and other sights of our growing city.

The complaints re the condition of the grounds may and will likely be transferred to the shoulders of the city council, and if the maudlin group of aldermen seen at the stockmen's banquet last winter were responsible, the quagmires and muskegs are easily accounted for. Dame Nature did her best the second week of the show to clean and dry things up.

Many people object to racing at the fairs; others get a great deal of enjoyment out of clean straight racing, but only crooks or grafters can really get enjoyment out of a class of sport dished up in front of the grandstand.

As Westerners, we are all too ready to use the term "effete East," but if the advertisement of Toronto's fair is any criterion of the show there, the sooner we have a directorate and manager with similar tastes and ideals, the better. Barring the live-stock exhibit—nature pure and undefiled—the machinery and the small exhibit of grains and dairy products and fruit by the B. C. people, and that splendid piece of art, Holman Hunt's Light of the World, the remainder was cheap, gaudy and nasty, decidedly un-Western and unsatisfactory, and something for all honest people to be ashamed of, and far removed from being a source of pride to show to the visitors from the East and South, or the stranger within our gates.

The "Farmer's Advocate" would only be too pleased if it could honestly praise the efforts of the directors; as it is they have succeeded in besmirching a fair city and befouled the minds of many whose memories will bear the taint for a long time. A show that debases women and whose barkers yell "This is no Sunday-school performance," and other equally (witty!) epigrams, can well be left out of our fair grounds.

It may be asked why say so much about the dirt at the fair? As it was the most prominent feature, the first to be seen on entering the grounds and the last on leaving, the picture of it can well be expected to bulk large in anybody's mind. In years gone by the Winnipeg Industrial has been considered an exemplar for other fairs; we regret it has fallen from that high place. The odor of the mephitic mephitica (the skunk) will be as a perfume in the nostrils of all decent people, compared to the miasma of the 1905 Industrial.

The Demand for Drafters.

The keen demand for good heavy-draft work horses continues, and, as shown by the horse-markets reports, becomes more urgent as the months go by. The unprecedented activity in expanding business enterprises in every direction, the marvellous growth of our cities, the opening up of new country for farming purposes, the building of new railways, the active prosecution of the timber business to meet the demand for building and pulp-making purposes, all contribute to increasing the demand for good strong teams of horses. Tempted by the high prices offered, farmers have sold horses which they needed for their own use, and are trying to get on with unsuitable teams, and in many cases getting behindhand with their work for lack of sufficient horse-power. The horses they have are growing old and will be played out before a new generation are able to take their places, and the only hope for a renewal of the supply lies in breeding and raising young