

of it, is one of the best means of ridding it of germs. But the upturning of land that has lain undisturbed for a long time is generally followed by a sudden and enormous development of germs. In this way may be explained the epidemics of dysentery, diphtheria, typhoid fever and other diseases that occur apparently without cause when the soil is upturned for agricultural and industrial purposes.

THE annual meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers Association will be held in Windsor on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of this month. A large number of prominent Canadian and American specialists will attend and take part in the discussions. Some of the leading questions to be discussed will be grape, peach, plum, pear and apple culture; the utilization of second grade fruit, and the running of fruit trains to meet the increased demands of the fruit trade of the province.

No better evidence of the material progress of a country could be asked for than the condition of her exports and imports. It is extremely gratifying to find that Canada in this respect can put forward a very strong case. For the first four months of the current fiscal year her exports were \$46,816,464; corresponding period last year, \$38,620,696; increase, \$8,195,768. Imports, \$41,643,174; same period last year, \$39,055,785; increase, \$2,587,389. The very large increase in the exports is, to say the least of it, remarkable.

ONE of the most remarkable and startling events of the present century occurred last month. In a few hours Brazil was changed from an empire to a republic without bloodshed. Brazil has an immense territory extending from the Atlantic to the confines of Peru and Bolivia, and from Uruguay to Venezuela, nearly equal to the whole area of Europe. It was always regarded as the model state of South America, enjoying free constitutional government, administered by a most enlightened and benevolent monarch, Emperor Pedro II. The revolution broke out so suddenly and effectively that the whole world wondered. What led to the revolution is yet a mere matter of conjecture. The emperor and his family were treated with the deference due to their exalted rank, and left the country for Europe quietly and unostentatiously. The new government is constituted as the Republic of the United States of Brazil. The emperor received \$2,500,000 in cash and a provision for the rest of his life in the form of an annual pension of \$450,000, which is to be provided for in the civil list of the new republic.

THE other day a deputation from the Canada Mutual Fire Underwriters Association waited upon Hon. Mr. Drury, Minister of Agriculture, and discussed with him the dangers arising from steam threshing and the most desirable remedy. The deputation urged that the only true remedy for fire resulting from steam threshers would be to remove the engine as far from the barns as possible and in order to accomplish this it was stated that the practicability of running a thresher by wire cables had been demonstrated, which would allow the engine to be placed not only opposite the barn doors but at any angle therefrom, thereby always taking advantage of the wind. Another important matter to which the attention of the Minister was drawn was the necessity for Government inspection of all losses throughout the country where the origin of the loss was involved in mystery. They represented strongly the fact that incendiary fires were on the increase in our rural districts, the effect of which was to increase the cost of insurance to the honest farmer. They were firmly convinced that if officials clothed with special powers by the Government were appointed, it would have the effect of checking this class of crime to a considerable extent. Mr. Drury took a deep interest in the discussions and promised to give the subjects his earnest consideration.

THERE are people to be met with everywhere who think too much about themselves, who have an exaggerated conception of their own importance, and who imagine that they are separated from the rest of the world by greater fineness of fibre and a superiority of organization which unfits them for the struggle in which ordinary mortals are engaged. These people are pessimists. What is now known as pessimism is a mental and sentimental disease which is more likely to affect those who have been surfeited with the good things of life and who have been trained too fine, so far as their sensibilities go, rather than those who are actually in the battle for existence with muscles hardened by the conflict and spirits made the more courageous by its dangers and difficulties. The man who has to work to live, who must be always in the thickest of the competitive fight, may exhaust his physical energy, but he cannot afford to lose his determination. He is in the traces, and he must go ahead or be crushed. It is cowardice for him to repine, and it is folly to let the wish for freedom divert him from his work, for only through work can he have any hope of ultimate emancipation from his slavery. As he persists in the labor, too, he conquers the natural indisposition of man to steady and methodical effort, and almost before he knows it the joy of life comes rather from work than from pleasure. Life is undoubtedly not worth the living, so far as society is concerned, if it is selfish, and employed for self-indulgence only; it must be made useful. It is also squandered if it is spent in self-pity. Of course there is a pessimism which is as much a mental and moral disease as melancholia, to which it bears a close resemblance; and like melancholia, it affects its victims without regard to their reasonable grounds for happiness and hopefulness. Then, again, there are vain and silly young men who pretend to pessimism simply to attract attention. But the genuine pessimist is usually a man of a sentimental temperament, with a more or less morbid physical organization, who has plenty of leisure and has tried in vain to get satisfaction from the material abundance of which he is possessed. The sovereign cure for it, is to set the invalid to work so that he shall forget himself and to induce him to spend his sympathies on others rather than himself. This pessimism in all except its insane manifestations is a mere fancy, a manufactured state of mind. It is a whim, or it may be nothing more than a symptom of transitory bodily ailment depressing to the spirits.

5 CASH PRIZE COMPETITIONS

Of Interest to every Farm Household.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED has been steadily winning fast friends during the past twelve months, and no wonder, for neither time nor money have been spared by its publishers to fill its pages with interesting and instructive matter and with the handsomest illustrations obtainable.

None of our past zeal shall be wanting in the future to make the ILLUSTRATED a journal of still greater merit.

As this journal is published in the interest of rural homes, and with a view to greatly increasing its usefulness, we have decided to offer the following prizes for five competitions:—

FIVE CASH PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

No. 1.—For the Best Story, based on some Canadian theme.—Open to every reader of the ILLUSTRATED.

First Prize, \$5.00 in cash.

Second Prize, goods to the value of \$3.00 selected from our Premium List.

No. 2.—For the Best Essay on "Can our present Methods of Farming be improved upon, and if so, How?"—Open to Farmers only.

First Prize, \$5.00 in cash.

Second Prize, goods to the value of \$3.00 selected from our Premium List.

No. 3.—For the Best Essay on "Good House-keeping."—Open to Farmers' wives and daughters.

First Prize, \$5.00 in cash.

Second Prize, goods to the value of \$3.00 selected from our Premium List.

No. 4.—For the Best Plan for a General Purpose Farm Barn.—Open to any reader of the ILLUSTRATED.

First Prize, \$5.00 in cash.

Second Prize, goods to the value of \$3.00 selected from our Premium List.

No. 5.—For the Best Plan for a General Purpose Poultry House.—Open to any reader of the ILLUSTRATED.

First Prize, \$5.00 in cash.

Second Prize, goods to the value of \$3.00 selected from our Premium List.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

The work on each competition must be wholly original and executed by the author's or designer's own hand, and evidence furnished to this effect if asked for.

The manuscript or plans entered for competition shall all become the property of MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, but will be returned if they do not care to publish them.

First and Second Prize Stories, Essays, and Plans, and others, if of sufficient merit, will be published in the ILLUSTRATED, and if found desirable will be fully illustrated. Author's and Designer's names will be published unless we are specially requested not to do so.

Work on each competition must be in promptly at time specified below, and must be accompanied by author's or designer's full name and P.O. address.

All communications must be addressed to—Massey Press, Massey Street, Toronto. Any enquiries requiring an answer must be accompanied by a 3c. stamp.

Special Conditions.—Competitions No. 1, 2, & 3.

There will be three judges, one of whom will be Mr. Chas. Morrison, one of the editors of the ILLUSTRATED (ex-Editor *Toronto Daily Mail*), and two others, who have no connection with MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, and who will be duly appointed and announced. Their decision will be final.

Stories and Essays will be judged on the following basis:—

General Appearance, handwriting, etc., maximum,	10 points.
Grammatical Construction and Spelling,	" 20 "
Knowledge of Subject,	" 20 "
Originality of Theme and Argument,	" 20 "
Treatment,	" 30 "

No manuscript must contain less than 800, or more than 2000 words.

Special Conditions.—Competitions No. 4 & 5.

There will be three judges, one of whom will be Mr. W. E. H. Massey, who has from youth had much to do with building and the drawing of plans. Another will be a professional architect or draughtsman, and the third a competent and practical judge of the requirements and utility of farm barns and poultry houses.

Plans will be judged on the following basis:—

Neatness and Accuracy of Drawings,	maximum, 20 points.
Exterior Design	" 20 "
Interior Arrangements,	" 20 "
Adaptability to General Purposes	" 20 "
Cost of Construction, compared with merits of Design	" 20 "

All Plans should be carefully done up before being posted, to prevent their being lost in transmission.

When Manuscripts and Plans must be sent in.

The sooner work on each competition is handed in the better, but the following are the latest dates upon which manuscripts and plans will be received—

Competition No. 1—	up to 6 p.m. on Jan. 14th, next.
" No. 2—	" Feb. 11th, next.
" No. 3—	" March 11th, next.
" No. 4—	" Jan. 14th, next.
" No. 5—	" Feb. 11th, next.