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50 Cents a Year

## Dominion and Provincial Affairs.

### The Meeting of Parliament.

By the time that this number of Farm and Home appears, the Dominion parliament will have assembled at Ottawa. The government's policy in regard to the South African war will be debated at the approaching session of parliament and will no doubt give rise to a most interesting discussion. Canada, by sending forward soldiers to help in fighting the empire's battles, has taken a most important step which may have vital consequences. Suppose that at any time war was to break out between Great Britain and France, an event which in the present position of European politics is by no means improbable, what would be the attitude of the French Canadians, who number over 2,000,000 of Canada's population? Certainly they would not fight against France, which they still fondly regard as their mere patrie. The French Canadians are loyal to England, mainly because for over a century the English flag has protected them in their peculiar privileges and under it they have enjoyed more liberty than they would have had under the tricolor. But blood is thicker than water and the French Canadians would never consent to fight against France. It is this fear that is at the bottom of the opposition to the sending of the Canadian troops to South Africa.

### Ten Thousand Dollars in Prizes

to the boys and girls of the Dominion under 18 yrs of age is what is going to be distributed by Commissioner J. W. Robertson. The plan is to improve the grain crops of the country by the selection of the very best seed grain. Ten prizes of an aggregate cash value of \$295 each will be distributed among the boys and girls of each province, the northwest territories and British Columbia, and prizes of \$110 on oats and wheat for each province will be awarded after a three seasons' or years' selection of seed. Write to Prof Robertson of Ottawa on a postal "Entry for seed grain competition," and sign your name. He will send you full particulars. This is intended as a grand educational scheme for our young folks. I hope you will all enter the competition.

### Off for the War.

The first detachment of Canada's second contingent for South Africa sailed from Halifax on board the Laurentian on Jan 21. The detachment consists of 300 picked artillery men from all parts of the Dominion and they bring with them their own horses and guns. The men were given a most enthusiastic send-off, thousands of people turning out to witness their departure. Another artillery battery and the mounted men from western Ontario and Manitoba leave at the end of the month. The mounted police from

western Canada arrived at Ottawa the other day on their way to Halifax and were reviewed by the governor-general, Lord Minto, who saw service with them during the northwest rebellion in 1855-56. The mounted police are a magnificent body of men and will be of invaluable service at the seat of war. Canada will soon have nearly 3000 men in South Africa, and it cannot be said that the Dominion has not nobly done its duty toward the empire. Lord Strathcona, who is better known to fame as Sir Donald Smith, Canada's millionaire high commissioner at London, has personally undertaken to equip and send out 400 mounted men and the arrangements are now under way. Advice received from the seat of war show that the Canadians are doing splendid service and are making a name for themselves among the tried soldiers of the empire.

### Business and Politics.

Canada's trade is growing with rapid strides and the expansion during the past year has been marvelous. Total receipts for the six months ending Dec 31 amounted to \$93,697,860 as compared with \$78,961,335 for the corresponding period of the previous year, which was regarded as the banner year of Canadian trade. The exports for the six months increased from \$98,902,983 in 1897-'98 to \$109,793,755, an increase of \$10,890,772. The aggregate trade of the Dominion increased from \$177,864,318 to \$203,491,615, an increase of \$25,627,297. Canadian produce exported during the six months amounted to the grand total of \$98,061,578, as compared with \$83,113,266 during the same period last year. This is a most gratifying showing and proves that the Canadian people are having their full share of the prevailing good times.

The legislature of the province of Quebec is now in session. The most important item of legislation to be brought before it is a proposal to place a prohibitory duty on the export of pulp wood. The duty at present is 40c per cord and it is proposed to increase this to \$1.90 a cord, allowing a rebate of \$1.50 a cord on all pulp wood which may be manufactured into paper in the province. The object is to stop the export of pulp wood to the states and to prevent the depletion of the Quebec forests. It is likely that the proposal will become law.

The latest to be gathered to the great majority is William Watson Ogilvie, who was known to the farmers all over the country as the largest individual miller in the world. Mr Ogilvie's death is a national loss. No one man has done so much for the development of the great northwest. He was among the very first to foresee the magnificent possibilities of Manitoba and the northwest as a great grain producing country, and by untiring energy he built up an immense business.

Begin a bank account. It will encourage you as a nest egg does the hen.

## Faith in Fellow Man.

### Co-operation Among Farmers.

Co-operation among Canadian farmers has had a varied history. When the grange was a powerful organization, co-operation was adopted as one of the great principles of the order. Most of the supplies were purchased on the co-operative plan, and farmers even extended it to the establishment of manufactories. It may be safely stated as a fact that stores, established by farmers, were failures, and from various causes. Among these causes were ignorance of the business, dishonesty of the managers, and a failure of patronage from the farmers themselves. The Patrons of Industry, which spread over the land with the velocity of a whirlwind, had about the same experience as the grange in the mercantile business. The great lesson taught and which has been taught from time immemorial is, no man or aggregation of men are likely to be successful in a business they do not understand.

### Where Co-operation Has Paid.

Co-operation among farmers in the manufacture of butter and cheese has been highly successful and has brought comfort and wealth to many a Canadian home. It was a business that most farmers understood. They had manufactured butter and cheese in their homes and therefore were in a position to keep tab on the men employed in the factory. At the yearly meeting of the shareholders, every account was scrutinized keenly, and was not allowed to pass until given the fullest explanation. The thousands of cheese factories established in Canada would never have existed but for the co-operation of farmers.

### The Bull Ring.

Another success has been scored in many localities by farmers co-operating in the purchase of thoroughbred sires. The superior character of cattle, particularly of the Shorthorn breed, is due to the "bull syndicates" which were formed for the purchase of superior thoroughbred sires. The same may be said of the "horse syndicates," which practically drove the mongrel, scrub stallions off the road.

### Mutual Fire Insurance.

Thousands of dollars have been saved to the farmers of Ontario through co-operation in fire insurance. Each township, in some sections, has its company and it is conducted on the mutual principle. The farmers of the township become members because they have learned from experience that the cost is far less for insurance than in stock companies that claim to do business on the mutual plan.

Another thing the farmers have

learned is that these farmers' companies are the safest in which to insure. The running expenses are mere nothing. An educated farmer, noted for his business ability and integrity, is chosen secretary-treasurer, at a salary ranging from \$100 to \$300 a year. Auditing, inspecting, postage, stationery, etc. cost about as much as the secretary's salary. A government inspector examines the books at regular periods and if he finds anything wrong in connection with the business it has to be put right or the company must shut up shop.

Farmers' co-operative insurance has been a financial success. In some isolated cases, where dishonest men burned down their buildings for the insurance, and where this became epidemic in a township, the farmers in the companies had to make large payments, larger than the rates demanded by stock companies. But these cases are exceptional and do not alter the general statement that these co-operative companies have been successful and saved farmers thousands of dollars. A feature which is made more prominent than formerly by these companies when considering an application for insurance is the character of the applicant and of his family. In fact, it is being made as prominent as any other question or condition in connection with the business.

### A Real Dialogue.

SCENE, OFFICE OF FARM AND HOME, TIME, LATE JANUARY, 1900.

Editor: Any news from your department to tell our readers in the Feb 1 number. Mr Business Manager?

Business Manager: Yes, you might tell 'em about the dictionary we're giving each subscriber: a pocket dictionary containing 50,000 words.

Editor: Each new subscriber, you mean?

B M: No; each subscriber who renews, as well as each new subscriber.

Editor: That's liberal. Fifty-thousand words are as many as anybody can use for the ordinary purposes of life with safety to his friends. Anything else?

B M: The premium lists aren't all gone yet. Anybody can have the big premium list number by asking for it with a postal. Lots of new readers will want it.

Editor: Surely! How about our advertisers? Or is that announcement getting stale?

B M: I should say not! Readers will be glad to know that we don't advertise "any old thing," our advertisers are all reliable people with whom they can feel free to deal. Our subscription price is low but we offer only the best, in any part of the paper.

Editor: The right policy. Go on.

B M: We take space on an inside page to tell about the 10 superb presentation books. It's a very unusual offer. They'll read the announcement quickly enough, and act upon it, when their attention is called.