

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

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AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

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imprisonment, with hard labor, and regular treatment, for a time, at least, with the cat-o'-nine-tails, is not one whit too good for the beast who will assault a woman. It requires just such measures to intimidate the brutal, passionate cowards. By our mawkish leniency, we say, in effect, that the virginity of a woman, and the peace and pleasure of thousands of others, not to mention the safety of property, are of less consequence than the freedom of a degenerate ruffian to pursue his life of crime!

Three changes are called for to deal with the growing menace. First, we must close the doors to degenerate and criminal immigrants. We can breed all we need of that class. Discourage the employment of Dagos, and penalize severely every person found carrying concealed weapons.

Secondly, improve the means of apprehending criminals. The Toronto Globe suggests a special Provincial force of 200 rural mounted police. The idea is a good one, and the suggestion timely. This number would allow about two for each riding, and not only could they, to a large extent, keep down crimes of violence, but such a force working in concert would be of service in enforcing the automobile and other laws. The magnificent record of the few hundred Royal Northwest Mounted Police, in preserving perfect order throughout the empire of territory under their jurisdiction, is ground for the belief that similar forces, under Provincial auspices, would prove effective in the East, providing they were kept free of politics, as the other force has been.

Thirdly, we require a sane revision of the criminal laws, and a virile administration thereof, to the end that crime may be made unpopular and confirmed criminals detained for life at hard labor in the service of the state. Severe punishment and unrelenting prosecution is the price of public safety. The people are ready to pay the price. It is up to the Attorney General's Department to take steps to give it effect.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AT THE N. E. A.

Doubtless the greatest educational event of the year is the convention of the National Education Association of the United States. This year the convention was held in Cleveland, Ohio, where over 15,000 members registered. The National Education Association carries on its deliberations in nineteen departments, one of which is known as the Department of Rural and Agricultural Education. The last-named department, at the recent meeting, devoted all its time to agricultural education and school gardens, and was addressed by the United States Commissioner of Education and several eminent teachers, on such topics as "Successful Work in Agriculture in Rural Schools"; "The Work of Normal Schools in Preparing Teachers to Teach Agriculture"; "How the Nation Should Aid in Agricultural Education"; "Work Done in School Gardens." In addition to this department's work, the National Council, through the president-elect, presented the report of a committee on industrial education in rural schools, which committee was appointed in 1903.

The report just referred to, strongly emphasized the need to educate public opinion to regard the ability to do things as more valuable than the possession of theoretical knowledge. It declared that one most serious difficulty in the way of introducing what might be called agricultural education is the unwillingness of teachers and school authorities to modify the traditional courses of study, except by adding a new one. They are loath to cut out any of the old courses to make way for the new, so they try, instead, to add it on to an already-overcrowded course. The second difficulty is the utterly inadequate supply of teachers properly trained to give effective education in this subject.

The specialist on agricultural education in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, D. J. Crosby, stated that nearly every State in the Union is now requiring agriculture to be taught in the schools, and that he knows that it is being done successfully in a few primary schools, a larger number of secondary schools, and in about sixty colleges. He discussed the danger of demanding too much, as some people are doing, and argued that you cannot teach farming operations, such as plowing, reaping and milking, in the rural public schools, and no claims for such teaching should be made. We should confine the agricultural instruction in the primary schools to the simpler facts concerning the principles of the production and utilization of plants and animals useful to man, together with some children's garden work at school and at home. In the secondary schools, we should insist that pupils studying agriculture have some preliminary work in botany, chemistry and physics; and in the colleges we should bear heavily upon training in the physical and biological sciences, as well as in the science of agriculture and the relations of agriculture to the manufacturing and carrying business of the world.

Prof. Davis, of Maine University, claimed that practical instruction in milking and churning could be given the girl undergraduate in such a way as to do her intellect and heart as much good as the Latin grammar she is learning. He also condemned much of the so-called scientific education given in the High Schools. He would change it for a study of living vegetables and crops, soils, and living animals. A summary of opinions obtained by Prof. Davis from about 500 persons, scattered all over the continent, set forth (1) that the great difficulties in the way are the almost universal lack of teachers who are able to give agricultural instruction, and the indifference and frequent opposition on the part of patrons; (2) agriculture, when handled in an efficient manner, aids in keeping up school attendance, increases interest of patrons, and reacts favorably on other school work. Training a sufficient number of teachers is the most serious problem in the way of general introduction of agriculture as a school subject. The graduates of small High Schools are supplying teachers for rural schools. Agriculture, as a part of the High-school courses, is therefore, desirable. The most direct means of reaching the largest number of rural schools is in better preparation of High-school teachers who teach in rural communities.

A sample of white oats grown on a farm in the Yukon Valley, 63 degrees North Latitude, weighing 16 pounds to the bushel, and of superior milling qualities, is the latest testimony to the as yet untold possibilities of the Canadian West.

According to the Meat and Canned-foods Act, as amended at the recent session of Parliament, no meat-packing plant is allowed to ship products out of the Province in which it is located, unless bearing the Federal stamp, "Canada Approved."

THE EXAMPLE OF THE PIONEERS.

Throughout the country (Ontario, at least) are being held many family reunions—descendants of those hardy pioneers who did so much to make this country what it is.

These reunions are highly commendable, making a pleasant family gathering, and allowing the family to keep in touch with one another; but, above all, they pay a tribute where tribute is due. The pioneer left kindred and friends to brave a long ocean voyage in sailing ships of poor accommodation, far different from the palatial steamers of to-day. He landed in a strange country, often without friends, and had to go into the wilderness, face savage beasts and savage men, and hew down the huge trees to make a home.

The beaver is the original tree-feller. If the pioneer had the spirit, or lack of spirit, of many of the present day, and wanted an "easy way," why not call in the beavers to fell the trees? But the pioneer was made of more virile and sterner stuff. He takes his axe, pulls off his coat, and, with a stout heart and strong muscles, he attacks the forest. The chips fly. The trees fall. But how do they fall? Not any way. The woodman uses his brains as well as his brawn, and with great skill and judgment, he plans to fell as many trees as possible in one pile, that a good part of them may burn. After the burning, came the logging-bee. Neighbors were invited to the logging. In those days, neighbors were not those a few rods away, but for many miles. The greatest slight and insult a pioneer could give a neighbor would be not to ask him to that bee.

At the logging-bees was hard work to be done, but the pioneer was not afraid of work; and to assist his neighbor at this bee, he would lend his own work, and travel miles to lend a friendly hand. The pioneer did not go to bees in starched shirts, to tell stories. The place of honor was at the big end of the log, and to the big end of the log those stalwarts rushed. Proud indeed was the man—and well might he be—to be considered worthy to take the position that called for the use of great muscle, skill, or a cool head.

It is no wonder the pioneer conquered in the great battle. Men who have the spirit to rush for "the big end" of the log, actually or metaphorically, will conquer anywhere in any age, in an climate, in any situation.

A short time ago I was watching a gang in one of our towns laying a brick pavement. Two men were working together pounding the brick to make them solid and even. These men often got thirsty, and made a trip of several rods to the water-pail—nothing strange in that. But it did seem strange that never, by any chance, did both men want a drink at the same time. When one was after a drink, the other could not work the tool alone, so they were able to have many a rest by their little plan to see how little they could do. Then, when the boss was away, they would skip over a piece and not pound it at all.

While the men and the boys were performing deeds of valor and usefulness at the logging, the women and girls were not idle, but preparing a meal that anyone could enjoy—thrice welcome, though, to those whose appetite was whetted by strenuous effort, and a conscience easy from work well performed—the women folk, indeed, taking great pride in their cooking and preparing a generous, wholesome repast, fit for a king—those whole-souled and manly kings of the countryside.

The woman pioneer was not much on bridge whist or pink teas; nor had much use for poodle dogs or Teddy bears. Her pride was in her husband and family. Though he wore not a starched collar, and might be something of a bear, and hug like a bear, yet in that hug was a world of earnestness and love, and hardships and privations were forgotten in mutual love and ambition.

Great ingenuity is often shown by some to see how little they can do, but he or she that would succeed must display the spirit of the pioneer, rather than that of the "hobo." In every walk of life competition is keen, and anyone who expects to attain anything of importance must work, and work to sweat. In sports, great exertion must be made if one will be considered worthy to play the game. Those engaged in any sport, expect to make the sweat come; and why should we not be in earnest at work, as well as play?

On the farm there is not now the call for so much muscular display as formerly. Much of the work is done by machinery; but, none the less, we must be prepared to exert ourselves in one direction, if not in another. Machinery costs money, and it is of no use when idle. We must work, and work to the best possible advantage. In one way and another we spend dollars to-day where the pioneer spent dimes. It necessarily follows that we must make dollars where they made dimes.

A man may have the best education the country can give him, yet not amount to much if he is too lazy to apply his education to some useful purpose, and be industrious. A man may be industrious and work hard, and yet not accomplish as much as he otherwise would if he does not