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the attention of the public to a portion of the Province which was formerly of unknown possibilities. In the valley of the Nechaco river, a tributary of the Fraser, a great stretch of fertile land has been "discovered",—a stretch of perhaps seventy-five miles in length by fifty in breadth, luxuriously vegetated, covered with wild grass in which the pea vine predominates, or grown over with short poplar such as one sees in Northern Alberta. The soil is a deep clay loam, with no indications of alkali. Clover, oats, timothy, all the grains and grasses and hard wheat of the first quality may be grown. Precipitation is ample; the district is well watered by lakes and streams. The climate has not the extreme range of temperature of the greater continental areas to the East, being tempered by the winds from the Pacific. Nor is the Nechaco Valley the only district of agricultural possibilities. It is simply the first to be explored. Undoubtedly, Northern British Columbia has areas of agricultural land in extent undreamed of two years or ten years ago. It is only a matter of time till the Coast Province is manufacturing its own flour from wheat grown in that portion of its domain now marked on the map as unexplored.

THE PACKERS' PROFIT.

The recent bulletin on the meat industry issued by the United States census bureau, contains some very interesting information in reference to the packers' end of the business that will bear repeating here. The American packing houses bought from the farmers in 1905, 49,000,813 head of live stock together with other materials aggregating in value \$806,000,000. From this raw material the packers sold finished products to the value of \$913,914,426, leaving a margin between the cost price of the stock and the selling price of the product of \$108,051,655. From this, of course, must be deducted the cost of labor employed, replacements, depreciation of plant, taxes, interest account and still other charges, before it is reduced to profit pure and simple. On an average since 1903 the increased value of the finished product over the raw material has been \$100,000,000 per year. Even more interesting than these figures would be data covering the actual cost of transforming the raw live stock into the various finished forms in which meats are marketed.

* * *

The North Dakota Agricultural College has recently established a correspondence course in agriculture, open to any person in the State. Its purpose is to create an intelligent interest in country life, to widen the ideas of country people in the things about them and stop the constant migration of young men and women from the rural districts to the cities. The college has planned a thorough course in agricultural subjects. Plant types will be studied, the botanical relationship of one plant to another, the market classifications and grades of the leading grain. Each student will be kept in touch with the work through correspondence; a text-book and other reading is assigned, some simple laboratory experiments will be performed by students and samples of grain and grasses freely used to illustrate the work of the course. Teachers especially are expected to avail themselves of the opportunity which this extension of the agricultural college's teaching affords.

* * *

D. M. Ferry, the millionaire seed merchant and head of the largest seed establishment in the world, died at Detroit Mich., on November 11th. He started life as a farm hand, was later an errand boy and rose finally to be one of the most conspicuous figures in American business circles.

* * *

Canada's Indian population, per the last annual blue book report of Indian affairs, numbers 110,345, an increase of 169 over the previous year. There were 2,105 deaths and 2,274 births in the past nine months. This hardly looks like race suicide.

MORE MONUMENTS

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL:—In a recent issue I wrote a quotation from an English writer on the question of monuments and your remarks in support of the stand taken. Possibly it would be better were "The Gates Ajar" the shining shaft and the letters of gold on many a monument forgotten and in their place a cot endowed, a park opened, or a tree planted, but surely this does not apply to the truly great, those whose names and figures we cast in deathless bronze and place in some commanding position to commemorate a life worth living or a death worth dying.

'Tis true to living worth is given but scant regard, but this should not prevent a later recognition of true value. Canada, and in fact the whole world, owes much to the gifted few who have been the pillars of light in our onward progress. As John Stuart Mill so aptly says: "The initiative of all wise or noble things comes and must come from individuals, generally, at first, from some one individual. The honor and glory of the average man is that he is capable of following that initiative." Such is the beauty of an ideal!

I have every confidence in the mighty uplifting power of high personal ideals. It is to be regretted that we pay such grudging tribute to Canadians of true worth whether living or dead. The character of a person naturally tends to become like the person revered, or admired. It is the same thing that has been such a powerful force in moulding all the dominant religions of to-day, and as the character of the founder has become an ideal in the life of the people, and as that character has true value or not, so will be its influence upon the people. These facts should be dwelt on in the training of Canadian youth. It is just as these high ideals are imbedded in transmitted culture, in the literature, the art, the religion, in the religion of the country that they can become a dominant factor in moulding the lives of the people. Then why not leave the busts and statues of our noble dead in park and hall and city square. In one of his essays Carlyle says: "Who is to have a statue? meaning, whom shall we consecrate and set apart as one of our sacred men? Sacred: that all men may see him, be reminded of him, and by new example added to the old perpetual precept be taught what is real worth in man. Whom do you wish us to resemble? Him you set on a high column that all men, looking on it, may be continually apprised of the duty you expect from them? Surely the monuments to some of earth's truly great must fill some minds with a sense of obligation, of responsibility and of this same duty of which Carlyle so truly spoke.

Raise then more shafts of marble and of bronze. Let busts of all our noble dead be set in all the colleges and schools of the land. These men who worked and strove in the cold grey dawn of the nation's birthday are now a part of the country's wealth. They have been woven in the very warp and woof of the nation's life. This land is richer for their having lived. L. E. CARP.

* * *

Part of the present weakness in cattle markets may be attributed to the sharp decline in hides. Cow hides are quoted away below what they were a few months ago. Packers have all got their cellars full of hides; tanners, handicapped by the financial stringency, are grinding out the stock of leather they have on hand and are buying few raw hides. The result is that cow hides that were selling a year ago at ten cents are now quoted at seven, and the fourteen cent hides are marked down to ten. The inability of the packers to move this product has caused some worry and has in part resulted in lower prices for stock. The same is true of sheep pelts. Tanners say the leather market is stagnant and there are no indications that the hide market will improve before spring.

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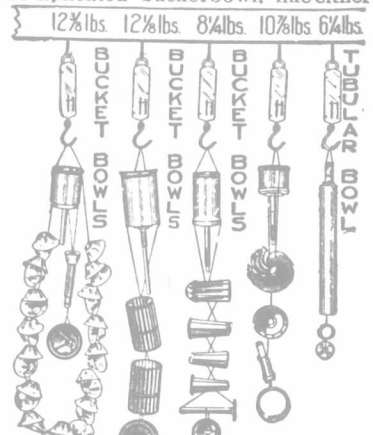
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