Notes for Farmers.

ABOUT WHEAT.—It may appear incredible to the local farmer, says an American writer, to be informed that as many as 160 bushels of wheat per acre are grown in Belgium; yet such is the case. In fact, the country is so crowded that the Belgian farmer could not exist unless he was able to secure such yields. The farms consist of but few acres, often less than three or four acres, and some of the farmers have only two acres, yet they grow winter wheat as a staple crop. The land is heavily manured in the fall, every pound of liquid and solid manure being carefully saved for that purpose. The soil is then harrowed over and over again until the land is made as fine as possible, the manure being spread on the surface of the plowed land before harrowing. It may be mentioned also that the manure is fine, as the bedding and everything entering into the manure heap is first made fine. Cement floors in the stables permit of saving all the liquids, and the soapsuds and other waste materials are added to the manure. The grain is very carefully assorted, only the best and plumpest seeds used, and the seed is sown in a prepared seedbed in the fall, in some location where the plants will not be injured by freezing or thawing, and where the plants can, if necessary, be covered and protected. In the spring the land is again worked fine and marked off for the plants, which are transplanted by hand, in the rows, with a dibble, which makes a hole the proper depth, one plant to each hole, the work being done by boys and girls, the plants being one foot apart and the rows eighteen inches apart, though on the very small farms the plants are checked one foot apart each way.

"The crop of wheat is cultivated from the start. Not a weed or blade of grass is allowed to grow, and it is seldom that the crop fails. But does it pay, and would not the labor be too costly in this country? It may seem so, but in this country 25 bushels make a satisfactory crop. If the same land can be made to yield 100 bushels there is a balance of 75 bushels, worth $50, to pay for the labor. Or, suppose that $25 is allowed for fertilizer and $25 for labor, the 25 bushels of the original yield will be clear profit, while the land will be much richer by the operation. But if the farmer will plant his wheat eighteen inches apart in rows and plant two seeds in each place one foot apart he can then work between the rows with a wheel hoe, and if he will check the rows one foot each way he can straddle the wheat rows with a double wheel hoe. By this arrangement he can thin out the plants after he is certain of germination, leaving one plant in a place, and a boy can work the rows one way in a day, provided the land has been first made fine and put in the best possible condition. Of course, such method differs from that used in Belgium, in leaving the plants in the field in winter, whereas the Belgian farmer transplants them in spring and harrows the land in the fall and spring. Even the transplanting is but little more tedious than sweet potatoes, but if the local farmer will test the cultivation of wheat on a small plot of planting the seed by check-row system he will find a great difference in the yield, and the crop will more than pay for the labor. He will be compelled to put his manure on less land, will make his soil richer, can use fertilizers to advantage, will get rid of weeds and will find the experiment educational."

QUESTION OF GRAIN.—The total income of all the workers of the United States in the year 1900 was $18,659,000,000. Of this immense value, $3,688,700,000 was produced on the farms. During the same year there were 5,737,372 families that obtained their living from these farms. This is an average income of $643 a year to each family. The other families of the nation, numbering 10,226,593, or nearly twice as many as the farming class, enjoyed a total income of $14,960,300,000, more than four times the value of the products of the farm. This was an average of $1,463 to each family not on a farm.

That the agriculturists should get less than half the income of the mechanic, the clerk and other non-rural workers would seem at first thought a pretty poor showing for the farm. But there are some weighty compensations, says George B. Waldron, the statistician, in the May issue of Mahin's Magazine.

The farmer's income was exclusive of house rent. The city man must pay from 15 to 25 per cent. of his income to the landlord. The food bill or the average city family is above 40 per cent. of the total income; they pay all the profits from farmer through various middlemen to the corner grocer.

With these various considerations it may easily be that an annual income of $400 on the farm represents as much of comforts and even luxuries as does twice that income spent in the crowded areas of the great city.

KINDNESS TO HORSES.— There is more truth than poetry in the following, clipped from an exchange, concerning the intelligence of that noble animal, the horse: "For too many of the human family believe that the horse is only a 'brute,' to be yanked, kicked and pounded into submission at the pleasure or passion of the 'acephalous hossman,' who is trying to force his would-be faithful animal servant to perform duties which neither understand the foundation principles of, but both operating against each other, and getting farther from the desired goal at every turn. It is a case of a man wanting to be a horse trainer not understanding the true principles of horsemanship; ignoring the natural laws of animal life, and the horse, not knowing what is wanted; a horse-and-man fight generally results with no advantage to the 'breaker' and certainly a damage to the horse."

Household Notes.

CHILD TRAINING.— Under the caption "Held in Trust," Mrs. E. E. Kellogg, very entertainingly and practically discusses the duties of parents in regard the training of their children. Beyond enumeration, we regret to say, are the fathers and mothers, who fail to realize their responsibilities in this connection. Mrs. Kellogg says:—

No occupation, profession, or mission in life is of greater magnitude or moment, no privilege so high and holy, no calling so fraught with wondrous possibilities, as that of true parenthood. To parents is entrusted in a great measure the working of God's ideal for each child in their family, and upon the manner in which this trust is fulfilled will it largely depend whether their individual characters shall be rounded in the fullness of a noble manhood and womanhood, or dwarfed by neglect and deformed by sin.

In no other relations of life are the finite and the infinite more closely connected than in the work of the faithful father and mother. They stand before God as surety for those beings made in his likeness whom he has given into their care, as "co-workers with him" in their education and development. Their self-assumed responsibility is one of overwhelming magnitude. Do parents feel to shrink from it? Do they ignore it? Do they shirk it or try to delegate it to others? The responsibility, however, is still theirs—they cannot escape it.

Anent this responsibility is the great and blessed privilege to start aright the one just entering upon life's perilous journey, and with reverent care to foster and develop, as time goes by, the God-image implanted by the Creator.

Men of science tell us that the mind receives more impressions in the first seven years than in all the after years of life. This susceptible formation period belongs especially to the home and the parents. We say parents, for while the mother's is rightly esteemed the supremest work for the child, a true home training involves the father's influence and co-operation.

In these impressionable years the seeds of both good and evil take deeper root in the character because the child is lacking in the power of resistance which comes in later years. Herein lies a wondrous opportunity for parents so to preoccupy the soil with good that there will be no room for evil, so to accustom the child to the atmosphere of that which is pure and wholesome that he cannot breathe freely in any other. Even inherited tendencies may be entirely or greatly modified by proper training begun in their early years.

* * *

It is the misfortune of many parents that they fail to awaken to their responsibilities early enough in the life of their children. They think as they hold the dear little one in arms or guide its first faltering footsteps, when the child grows older then responsibilities will increase; if for the present his physical needs are well supplied and the enjoyment of his waking hours assured, that is considered all-sufficient. All his thoughts and inclinations are left to a chance development during this susceptible period, when every word he hears and every act he sees may serve to influence the bent of his whole life.

It cannot be too firmly fixed in mind that the golden opportunity for parents lies in utilizing in the best possible manner the very first years of the child's existence.

* * *

Many mothers are alarmingly careless in regard to the use of these first years, not infrequently looking upon their little ones as a plaything or a burden, delegating the chief care of them to an untaught hireling to whom they would not willingly intrust the care of their furniture or bric-a-brac. The personal ease, the social pleasures, the time thus gained for other pursuits and enjoyments, can in no wise compensate for the loss both to herself and her child which accrues to the mother from such a sacrifice of her God-given privilege.

* * *

The highest duties of motherhood lie beyond the mending of pinafores and the washing of little hands and faces. These are simply means to an end, not the end itself. These the mother can, if need be, delegate to other trusty hands, but the "working together" with God in the building of her child's character she should claim as her own special prerogative, and no engrossment in business or other outside interests should prevent the father from sharing in this high calling. In the attempt to direct the growth of their child in right channels comes an inevitable reaction in constant development to the parents.

IRISH IMMIGRATION.

It is not often that a great American daily of the Protestant stamp especially pays any compliment to the Irish people. As a rule, they are looked upon as foreigners and intruders by these lords of the land. The "Buffalo Commercial," however, has deemed well to look upon them in a different light, for it says:—

"Irish immigration, instead of diminishing with the prospect of the passage of the Land Bill by the British Parliament, has materially increased, as the immigration figures for the year ending June 30 at the port of New York show. The arrivals from Ireland were 24,356, as against 19,391 during 1902. For the last six months of the fiscal year they were 15,086, as against 11,536 for the corresponding period last year. The American people make no kick against that class of immigration. The Irish have borne a magnificent part in developing the country and may consider the warm welcome the land of their adoption."

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SUPERIOR COURT.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
District of Montreal.
No. 2976.

Dame Josephine Leonard, wife common as to property of Damase Tardif, grocer, of St. Leonard de Port Maurice, District of Montreal, has instituted an action in separation as to property against her said husband, this tenth day of July, 1903.

Montreal, July 10th, 1903.

LEONARD & LORANGER,
Attorneys of the Plaintiff.

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ST. PATRICK'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY.—Meets on the second Sunday of every month in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander St., immediately after Vespers. Committee of Management meets in same hall the first Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. Rev. M. J. McKenna, Rev. President; W. P. Doyle, 1st Vice-President; Jno. P. Gunning, Secretary, 716 St. Antoine street, St. Henri.

ST. ANN'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY, established 1863.—Rev. Director, Rev. Father McPhail; President, D. Aallery, M.P.; Sec., J. F. Quinn, 625 St. Dominique street; M. J. Ryan, treasurer, 18 St. Augustin street. Meets on the second Sunday of every month, in St. Ann's Hall, corner Young and Ottawa streets, at 3.30 p.m.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY organized 1885.—Meets in its hall, 157 Ottawa street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2.30 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Father Flynn, C.SS.R.; President, R. J. Byrne; Treasurer, Thomas O'Connel; Rec.-Sec., Robt. J. Hart.

A.O.H. LADIES' AUXLIARY, Division No. 5. Organized Oct. 10th, 1901. Meetings are held in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander, on the first Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m., on the third Thursday at 8 p.m. President, Miss Annie Donovan; vice-president, Mrs. Sarah Allen; recording-secretary, Miss Rose Ward, 51 Young street; financial-secretary, Miss Emma Doyle, 776 Palace street; treasurer, Mrs. Charlotte Bermingham; chaplain, Rev. Father McGrath.

A.O.H. DIVISION NO. 6 meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at 816 St. Lawrence Main street. Officers: W. H. Turner, President; P. McCarl, Vice-President; J. Emmett Quinn, Rec.-Sec.; Jamestary, 931 St. Denis street; James Scullion, Treasurer; Joseph Turner, Financial Secretary, 1000 St. Denis street.

C.M.B.A. OF CANADA, BRANCH 26.—(Organized, 13th November, 1873.—Branch 26 meets at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander St., on every Monday of each month. The regular meetings for the transaction of business are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at 8 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. M. Callaghan; Chancellor, F.J. Sears; President, P.J. Darcey; Rec.-Sec., P. J. McDonagh; Fin.-Secretary, Jas. J. Costigan; Treasurer, J. H. Feeley, jr.; Medical Advisers, Drs. H. J. Harrison, E. J. O'Connor and G. H. Merrill.

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