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The Community

Prairie Breezes

By J. S. Woodsworth Secretary of the Canadian Welfare League

The first of this series must be devoted to our mail bag—the messages which have been wafted back to us from our broad

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back to us from our broad prairies. Some of these are warm as the breath of spring; others are a bit chilly hut full of oxone: all are welcome.

"Did you ever look forward to a church service where you would hear a favorite minister speak, whose ideas were in accord with yours—then cord with yours—then find, alas! when you are at the church that your at the church that your minister has not arrived. If

so, then you will under-stand our feelings on getting The Grain Growers' Guide Saturday night when we look it thru and find that the Ser-mons for the Unsatisfied are missing."

— Wyhward.

After such an expression of appr

After such an expression of appreciation one cannot resist the invitation to contribute another series.

"I often read your articles in The Grain Growers' Guide, or rather try to read them, for you too often say very little in a great number of words, yet between the lines' one can sometimes see that you are not wholly blind. This little preface is partly intended to ruffle your temper and waken you up."—Lloydminster.

After standing up against a few Nor' Westers, we can smile if this spring gust "musses" our carefully-parted hair!

But what do the soft winds whisper or the wild breezes say? What are the people of the prairies thinking about community affairs?

The Farm School Idea

Re a Farm School,—"I have two oys whom I wish to bring up so that tey will be efficient and self-reliant. they will be efficient and self-reliant. If the day ever overtakes them (as it has done myself) when they will need practical education to qualify for making a living they will be capable and consequently independent. Farming by many is not supposed to require skilled labor, and farmers have always allowed that idea to propagate itself at times when labor was cheap and easy to secure, being good-naturedly willing to assist the ignorant and show him how. But that time is past now.

The Farm School suggested does not seem to me to meet the case, as the teachers could not be efficient except in theory, which every farmer finds about worthless when not coupled with practical skill.

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"It seems to me that a more practical scheme would be to change the school year a little, climinating some of the numerous holidays as far as the scholars are concerned, and fetting the pupils who are old enough participate in the farm work during the rush season, such as seeding time, haying and harvest.

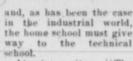
Where could a boy learn to be a practical farmer or a girl a practical housekeeper better than working the familiar farm teams on the home farm; the girls in their mother's kitchen. "Thinscarth.

Surely this ideal condition is already with us, especially in the more backward districts. The boys are working the familiar farm teams and the girls are in their mother's kitchen, and they are kept home at the rush seasons. But is the result satisfactory? Are these boys the most efficient farmers and do they stay on the farm?

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No, we must save the children from the possibility of being exploited by thoughtless or indifferent parents, and we must give them the wider vision and the scientific training which rarely can be gained thru "working the familiar farm team" or "in the mother's hitchen." In our judgment, if Binscarth will follow up the line of thought so clearly stated in the first part of his letter he will be led to see that the changed conditions demand changes in the method of education. changes in the method of education,



Atwater writes: "The greatest drawback in this country at the present time is lack of proper time is lack of proper educational facilities. A school farm, where the hoys could earn part of their keep anyway, and learn how to farm properly as well as read, write and figure, would, in my humble opinion, be a great boon to the country people, as well as the village folks. as well as the village folks

living in this province."

Re the Wider Brotherhood, Wynward writes:—The religion of the present day is empty—does not come up to the needs of the people. We have four ministers in our town, and a Catholic viriest comes over once a month, make priest comes over once a month, mak-ing in all five different churches. We live only two miles from town, and still there has not been a minister in our home for over two years. One of them very kindly offered to come and see us in our home if we would send a rig after him and take him back home

again."

Neptune writes: "The winters are long and could be made the best time of the year, if each community would use their empty school houses for what they were built for—education, entertainment and sociability. Is nationality with its many covered evils a thing to retain at so great a cost of a thing to retain at so great a cost of noble life which might have been used in better ways? It is easy to die for our land but harder to live for it. Does our land but harder to live for it. Does not our Lord say that the greatest Commandment is to love thy God with all thy might and strength and thy neighbor as thyself? Are not the ones gathered in Europe doing just the reverse? These are the truths that need the light—Faith, Love, Liberty, not Fear, Self and Death!"

Hired Men Please Write

Edmonton writes: -- "Wouldn't it be interesting if there could be a column or so given to the hired men to write

or so given to the aired men to write little articles on their experience. We certainly see farm life in all stages.' Ifege is a splendid suggestion! If a hundred hired men could send in an account of their experience we would undoubtedly have some interesting columns. It would undoubtedly be of great advantage to the farmer to see himself as others see him. It would help the hired man to spend pleasantly some of those idle hours when no more "chores" can be found and he must sit with folded hands. It would be decidedly exhibite and the results to the reality and the said of the said sit with folded hands. It would be decidedly enlightening to the public at large and might go a long way towards explaining why so many men prefer the uncomfortable city lodging house, with the chance of an odd job to "steady work and a comfortable home on the farm." By all means let us hear from the hired men.

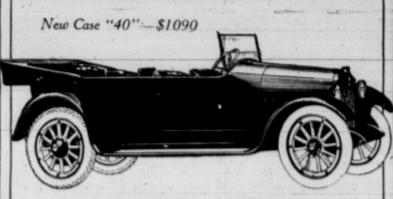
The more one thinks of it, the more one is driven to the conclusion that the solution of the problem of the hired men would mean a solution of the whole rural problem.

The Foundation Stones

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Certainly the rural problems will never be fully solved until the hired man problem is solved. But our statement means much more than that. In the problems of the hired man we find concentrated, condensed, reduced to their lowest terms, the whole problem of the farm. Society is constructed something like a stone wall. Each layer of stones rests upon the layer below it. Its burdens are more or less transferred to the layers below. If you wish to study the direction and degree of the pressure don't go to the top layer or to the middle layers but to the bottom row. These atones rest on the ground. They cannot transfer their load. They bear their own burdens and part of the burdens of all the higher



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Many years ago there was a famous race horse, known from ocean to ocean. Its name was "Jay-Eye-See" - which were the initials of J. I. Case, the founder of the J. I. Case T. M. Company.

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