

## EDITORIAL

We shall all need to furbish up our Latin, anent the prosecution of the Grain Growers, the case is said to be, 'sub judice.'

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Now, where is the miscreant who objects to Latin being an obligatory subject for matriculation?

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Guelph has retrogressed! Matriculation is not now demanded for the four years, course in agriculture.

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The petulance of the manufacturers over the tariff is that of spoiled children. The attempt to rule them by love is a failure, Grandpa Fielding.

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Listen to the voice of the fanning-mill man, the melody of his instrument is no criterion of its worth.

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How else can the aimless course of Manitoba University be prosecuted, for that, by the fact that it is an institution without a head.

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Government inspection of banks sounds good to shareholders and depositors, but to be of any use, it would need to be more thorough, than government inspection of life insurance has been proved to be.

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It would seem that it would be more sensible and of greater benefit to humanity, to have church union in our smaller towns and villages, and have one church and a hospital, in place of three or four weak churches and no hospital.

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The Ontario Agricultural College reports adversely on the milking machine. The Kansas Agricultural College states, their results show the new method to be superior to the old method which necessitated milkmaids.

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The *Live Stock World* says, "You can't get rid of the 'king's horses.' They're at the Iowa college now."

Well, we always knew Prof. Kennedy was stuck on his British ancestry; and as he failed to meet His Majesty to tell him about the Spoor trophy when across the pond, he can go down and watch King Edward's horses fed, or even brush and curry them, doncherknow!

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The National Sheep Breeders' Association of Great Britain had a discussion recently on the coloring of show sheep. Some wished compulsory showing without coloring, others that a standard of coloring be fixed; it was finally left for the breed societies to thresh out.

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While many universities have not yet fully grasped the need in the community, for high class training in the sciences and industries, yet care must be exercised that the materialistic is not allowed to overshadow the inculcation of high ideals, and real culture.

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It would seem reasonable that when a charter is granted to an insurance company that the government granting such a charter should stipulate that the maximum dividend to be paid shareholders should not be over ten per cent.

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Owing to the scarcity of coal a hotelkeeper in Saskatchewan is said to be burning bacon for fuel. Thus does history repeat itself, hog products used to be employed for firing up on the Mississippi boats. Guess it was some of the Chicago Jungle bacon that had strayed across the line—and shouldn't it burn with a blue flame?

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The rapid increase of weeds has rendered it possible to draw more heavily on the fertility of the new land than was even possible by continuous wheat growing; or to use figures as an illustration, whereas it took approximately fifteen years of continuous wheat growing to exhaust a given piece of new land, owing to the weeds the same unfortunate state may now be reached in ten years.

### The Danger of Freezing Due to Shortage of Fuel!

That this is no imaginary danger has been abundantly proven by the press reports of the last two weeks, wherein hotels are reported with only one fire, and farmers as burning expensive lumber and straw in order to keep warm and cook their food. The coal famine is primarily due to the fact that western dealers were unable during the past summer, on account of strikes and a shortage of cars, to put in their usual stocks; as soon as the cold weather came on, the demand was heavy, and owing to the fact that cars were needed to take out the cattle and wheat it was impossible to bring in coal. The suggestion that the C. P. R. refused to deliver dealers coal, unless these men would purchase a portion of their supplies from them, is not considered of much moment. As a result of this shortage at the early part of the winter, the stores at the lakes have been depleted and we are informed by a coal merchant of repute that the shortage of fuel bids fair to be felt severely in Winnipeg as in the country.

Next to the suffering entailed upon men, women and children by the coal famine, there is the unfortunate far-reaching effect that the publication of the facts will have in the hands of countries that are our rivals in attempting to secure population from more crowded lands. The fault lies primarily with governments which have not heretofore shown either the disposition or the courage to grapple with a difficult and trying situation. Unfortunately the horde of politicians are too busily engaged in jockeying each other for the advantage of place to give time and thought to reasonable means of heading off such unfortunate contingencies as coal famines, grain combines, etc. A correspondent suggests

### To Our Correspondents

WE are glad to hear from you at all times; our business is, when necessary, to edit the production of your hands, whether gleaned from rich stores of experience, or the product of sympathetic hearts or active brains. But kind friends, one and all, do write on one side of the paper only, and in all cases let us have your superscription not necessarily for publication, and address, so that it is no trouble to establish either your identity or location.

that the government should own the coal mines; it certainly should, and should lease those mines for a reasonable sum, retaining also the right to fix the maximum charges for coal, similarly to the powers now held re freight rates; further, in case of such strikes as that recently at Lethbridge and in the Crow's Nest, it should pass legislation so as to have the power to take temporary control of the mines, and to order the miners back to work pending the settlement of the trouble by arbitration. Governments should certainly be able to contrive some way to prevent the few, either corporation or strikers, causing bitter suffering for the many!

Since the above was written the Dominion Government has brought down a measure in line with above, the bill providing for compulsory arbitration in strikes affecting public utilities as well as conferring power on the government to take the management and operation of such utilities until an agreement between employers and employees is reached. The wisdom of such a move as this to prevent suffering by innocent people, cannot be questioned.

### The Education Problem.

Up to date very few people, beyond those directly interested and a few enthusiasts, have given the educational system of the country the attention it deserves, unless perhaps to criticize adversely the results obtained, as seen in the office, the counting-house, the professions and other walks of life.

The beginning of a new year is a good time to make resolutions, on all and sundry matters; therefore every parent and ratepayer should resolve to give this very important question more study in the future than in the past; and we will undertake to assist as far as possible such laudable endeavors. There are three great

units in our educational system, the child, the parent and the teacher, and one of the essentials to improvement is the establishment of more intimate relations, looking to a better acquaintance with the aims of each other and with the methods to be followed. In the system itself are three other units, the public school, the high school and the university, the first named being the greatest in importance of the three mentioned. We have an opinion regarding the system at present followed in Western Canada, which is practically the same in each of the western provinces, except for minor differences; and although three units are mentioned, the first two do not fit into the third so well as we consider such might be made to do. In fact it is common knowledge that work of the university (at present practically a corporation of four denominational colleges) and of the collegiates and high schools, do not dovetail, due possibly to the fear on the part of the collegians that their sphere of usefulness might be encroached upon or curtailed by reciprocity; that idea, and the medievalism of the degree conferring institution, may account for the present lack of interest shown by the public in this important institution, which is unfortunate, as it needs public funds to further its work. Unfortunately, the university is not yet in a position to warrant any government granting aid; it lacks a head, and has not shown any real tendency to grapple with the educational needs of the country, if we except the teaching of divinity. This unit of our educational system is worthy of separate discussion, which we hope to give at some other time.

As regards the progress being made by the children of the country, it would appear to be satisfactory, judging by the letters received by Cousin Dorothy for the Children's Corner. We were allowed to look over some of the letters and were much pleased with the handwriting and composition, and were informed that comparatively few mistakes in spelling are found in these letters. We were also struck by the fact that some children on the prairie are being taught by their mothers—these are in Old Country families—and invariably the letters from these homes are above the average. It is a big question, this of education, and one that cannot be dismissed cursorily from the mind of any public spirited person.

### The Hospital is an Essential Part of Our Civilization.

The privilege is rarely accorded to people of reading such a sensible article, and one breathing human feeling so richly and fully as that of Dr. M. E. Allen Davidson in our Christmas number. Dr. Davidson is the wife of a leading citizen of the town in which they reside, and is an extremely busy woman, having given up the practice of a noble profession for the higher duties of a wife and a mother, besides ministering to the needs of the community in such activities as hospital aid. The article from her pen contains unanswerable arguments in favor of the establishment of small hospitals in the smaller western towns. Any person living on the prairie for many years must have noticed the heavy toll exacted of valuable lives, especially of stalwart promising young men, by typhoid, and of splendid young married women in childbirth. Lives such as these we can ill afford to lose in a country where population of good quality is so much needed. We spend money to get these people on the prairie, and every effort should be made to prevent as far as possible any waste of human life and the infliction of sore wounds to human hearts.

Few families escape sickness whether in town or country, at some time or another, and such illnesses are often prolonged and become more serious for lack of trained help in the home. The local hospital will furnish the nurses, or opportunity for the daughters of the farm to learn this profession, and will instill the principles of home sanitation in circles where such knowledge is badly needed. Many hospitals in the older countries are supported and maintained by the benefactions of wealthy men, or from bequests; in this country conditions are such that support must be supplied from other sources, and the taxes should be made to contribute a sufficient quota to prevent this great work being hindered. The taxes are drawn upon heavily for education, to prevent disease; and for police, to stamp out disease—crime being considered as such nowadays—and the hospital is as much entitled to a share as the schoolhouse and the gaol.