CURRENT COMMENT

Best Life is in Country.

"The Cult of Agriculture" is an excellent subject for the President of an Agricultural College and the President of the O. A. C., Professor Reynolds, recently dwelt with effort on a topic that should be more constantly kept before the minds of town and city dwellers. One phase in particular he enlarged upon which must commend itself to every thinking person: There is an impression very widely spread that education is wasted on those who follow rural occupations, and that when a young man or woman acquires a certain amount of learning it is incumbent upon him to resort to the city in order to make use of it. Nine times out of ten there is nothing in it. The lure of the city is not the opportunity of utilizing one's learning, but the ancient one of the bright lights, the alleged easy money and "gentsel" clothes.

Mr. Reynolds classified the excuses that people make to leave the country for city life, and said: "We have become obsessed with several delusions. First, that the city is a better place than the country to live in; second, that the factory is more necessary than the village shop; third, that education is to be used to escape work; fourth, that farming is monotonous, that country life is dreary and desolate." Of the last it may be said that no labor in the world is so desolate, so depressing, so monotonous, as the unceasing fag of the big factory or warehouse. There may be variety in office and detail business, but as a rule prolonged hours, small salaries and few chances of promotion do not prepare the way for a comfortable age. Of course, there are exceptions and every man may hope to be an exception, but every man cannot be an exception. With the same amount of labor and trained faculty he would go farther in the country, but in the country he is not always compelled to train his faculties, nor does he always choose to do so.

Intelligence when exerted in the country will go as far as in the city, and there is no reason why country life should not have as many attractions and become quite as enjoyable as civilian life. The tradition of English social life should have some weight in this respect. Those who can afford to do so do not spend their time in cities. "The reason" in London is only a small period of the year. Country life is the backbone of English society. For Canadians, who must all, directly or indirectly, draw their sustenance from the soil, it should be thoroughly understood that the surest way to wealth is agriculture. It may not be the quickest, but it will afford more pleasure, more certain profit, and for the same amount of intelligence and enterprise, more profitable returns for the average man than any city business. Our social and national necessities will urge this view with increasing insistence in the immediate future.

Lower Prices for Christmas.

There are some reassuring evidences that prices are moving downward in spite of the situation in Great Britain. On this side of the Atlantic we have an abundance of the necessaries of life, and our speculators in trying to store away the abundance have rendered themselves liable to the fate of those who yet hoist with their own petard. Sugar was the first to show it. No doubt a corner in sugar looked very tempting. In Canada it was stated that $60,000,000 worth had been stored away. Reports of great accumulations in different parts of the country were made But according to the sugar dealers there was an absolute dearth of sugar. No sugar was to be had except in little doles. Sugar was sold in two-pound lots to customers who bought other goods, and this prize package trade lasted all summer. Then when the price began to weaken it was asserted that the poor sugar men would be ruined if they were compelled to sell all the sugar they had at current market rates. They had miscalculated and put the price of sugar so high that the good wives of the land decided to do without and the urgent demand expected in the fruit preserving season failed to materialize. The speculators had forgotten that the war taught us to do without things. Sugar is plentiful enough for all ordinary purposes, and the price is bound to recede. It looks as though paper might come under a similar experience as sugar. The difference is that there has been a steady and continuous demand for paper, and the prices exacted have had to be paid. All the more, those who paid them are determined not to pay them longer than can be avoided. It appears that huge stocks of paper in New York have begun to make their appearance under the threat of imports from Finland, Norway and other European points which must find a market and are not too set on profiteering. Europeans with commotities to sell will accept any kind of American money, and under such pressure American paper makers will have to meet the competition. Business in general is becoming affected by the same principle combined with the stubborn resolve of the buying public not to buy until a favorable season presented itself. It is hardly likely that the sellers will allow the Christmas season to pass without making some concessions to the purchasing public with a view to generating a little good cheer all round for the end of the year.

Election Reform.

Two objections were raised to proportional representation at the meeting of the committee appointed to report on the matter. Both objections were incident to the present methods of election as well as to P. R., and indeed P. R. is intended to be a remedy for both. The first was in respect of the unequal distribution of voters in the constituencies, and the disproportion in some cases between town and country constituencies. There should be an equitable ratio determined to govern the size of a city riding as compared with the rural one. It has always been granted that more voters should be included in a city than in a country member's constituency, but when the disproportion in this respect becomes too great a redistribution is naturally sought. The necessity for this is quite as great under one system of voting as under another. The unit of size should be settled and as closely observed as possible. That one constituency should number 25,000 and another 75,000 is scarcely fair, and not even P. R. can cure this completely. There must be redistribution in such cases. One member of the committee said that if this point were settled to his satisfaction he had not objection to P. R. The other objection raised was to the effect that P. R. led to the group system of representation in the parliaments and assemblies. It certainly was not P. R. that led to group government in Ontario, but the old system. P. R. has the effect of eliminaing small groups as the transferable vote enables these to vote for men among the larger parties who represent their views. P. R. concentrates attention on measures rather than on men, and the party that gives the best service gets the general vote, no matter how many candidates may face the polls. This feature of P. R. in automatically the men of whatever parties who most truly represent the wishes of the whole people tends to solidify rather than to split up the representative body. And it prevents any possibility of a real minnority obtaining control as has occurred in the past on several occasions. A committee has been appointed to draw up definite proposals for election reform.

European Situation in a Nutshell.

A New York review recently in discussing the European situation advanced the idea that Europe might eventually become a federation of monarchies presided over by an Emperor, and be the Emperor of France. Capt. Joy, the new associate professor of English literature at Queen's University in addressing the Empire Club of Toronto, stated that France was now the greatest military power in Europe, and that her contradictory friendships for Pilsudski, for Wrangel, for Czechs, Slovakia, for Jugo-Slavia, for Roumania, for Poland and for Russia create irreconcilable conditions and constitute a situation constantly changing and beyond the wit of man to understand. The tendency, he considered, was to swing round from extreme Bolshevism to monarchy and France is now working with Hungary and the reactionary element with the possible result of reestablishing the monarchy, as a means of keeping Grmany weak. France also wants to restore the Russian imperial rule with Poland under Russian domination and to that end she supports Wrangel. The "Little Entente" of Jugo-Slavia, Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania is aimed at Hungary and France. Italy is out of tune with Britain, being disappointed of support on the seaboard and Fiume. Should a monarchy be established at Buda-Pesh it would solve the problem of Germany where no strong man has arisen, a sad comment on the former diplomatic system, indicating that the former diplomats were only puppets. Capt. Cox thought that Europe, especially Labor, would take its tone from Great Britain and much depended on whether the British workman stood by constitutional methods or yielded to the subtle Bolshevist attack, which was intended now, as the German one was in 1914, to subvert the British power.

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We're proud of our town and county.

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It is the normal nerve center for a wide and rich farming country—and it is fast adding to its importance as an industrial community.

Our stores, shops and business organizations are equipped with all that is necessary to the best service—but telling you about the advantages that are here isn't quite getting it across.

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The Brain Box

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"I KNOW."

Did you ever hear anyone say this with a ringing emphasis upon both words, which either makes you feel that this person is very egotistical, self-confident, even somewhat ascertive—or very sure of their point?

A statement is made, a story is told, an explanation given, and the speaker finishes up in reply to some question about it, with these two words, "I KNOW."

There is no more worth-while triumph to be gained over matter than when a man can truly say "I KNOW," but it must be deep-down, true statement from the heart.

There is very much that it is not within the power of man to know fully. Certain things about which we may only humbly conjecture or think, and when we come to these the man who sets himself up as an authority and who boastfully asserts the right to guide all others by this egotistical "I KNOW" is a blind leader of the blind.

The truly great man realizes that we know, but little of many things, but that the greatest power comes to him who seeks to know himself, and takes as his motto "know thyself first.'

How many of us can truly say of our minds, our motives, our bodies, our work, "I KNOW—MYSELF?"

Men give up a life time to the study of machinery, to inventions, to art, to photography, to every and any kind of study under the sun, even to the study of the human body for the purpose of science or surgery, but how many take time and spend thought upon that most wonderful mechanism of all, the power house which lies within themselves?

The man who knows himself is the one who has true confidence in his ideals, confidence in the result of his work, confidence for the future.

Confidence in one's self is the seed of success, but it must spring from true knowledge, anything less is a mushroom growth, a delusion that will not stand the test of time.

Do not be afraid to know yourself! Self-knowledge is the finest educational foundation you can have. Without this all other is lost. How will you gain it?

Watch yourself as carefully as you would the machine under your hand, or the tool you have to guide.

For every action seek out the motive, find the why and wherefore. Dig deep. Search back. Spare nothing that the truth may be found. Why did you act so yesterday? What prompted the motives to-day? How was this thing hurried? or left undone?

Are yau making every minute count for something and if not, why? These mental studies will presently put you upon the road to true self-knowledge.

Only so can you be truly successful.

Give up looking at others, until you first know the real YOU — until of yourself you can truly say, "I KNOW."

Helps for the Housewife

KEEP DRINKING WATER PURE.

Unless one is absolutely sure of the purity of the drinking water it is a good idea to boil the water.

In order to kill any germs lurking in the water it should be boiled for 15 minutes in an uncovered kettle. The impurities are driven off by the heat and escape through the steam.

Air coming in contact with the water reoxidizes it and prevents it from having a flat taste.

Beware of well and spring water that has not been analyzed.

MIXING MIXTURES.

Always when mixing a milk mixture with another the mixture should be poured over the milk. This prevents curdling. For instance, in mixing tomato and milk, add the tomato to the milk. In mixing meat stock with cream sauce, pour the meat stock into the other. Add also a small pinch of soda.

BUTTER IN HOT WEATHER.

If no ice is to be had a little butter can be kept cool through a hot day by putting it in a bowl, then setting the bowl into a large dish containing as much salt and water as will come to within half an inch of the top of the butter bowl. Cover lightly, and put in a cool place.

HOME-MADE CLEANER.

Here is an easily made, cheap wall paper cleaner that will not cumble or smudge: One cup of flour, one-half cup of cold water, two tablespoonfuls vinegar, one tablespoonful salt, one tablespoonful kerosene. Cook in a shallow pan until it forces a ball, stirring constantly. This is especially good for paper in rooms where the walls are blackened somewhat from the furnace all winter. Mix the ingredients in the order named.

CORN SYRUP INSTEAD OF SUGAR.

This substitution is very easy to make. Simply measure corn syrup instead of sugar in any good recipe for cake that you are accustomed to make. While sugar is so dear one may use a very little baking soda with acid fruits, when canning or cooking them. They will take much less sugar, and many like the result quite as well.

AN IMPROVED PRUNE.

We are promised a change in the despised prune, according to Popular Mechanics Magazine. A horticulturist has been working to replace the big hard stone to which we are accustomed by a tender, unprotected seed. Those produced so far have the appearance and flavor of an almond kernel, making the whole fruit deliciously edible.

TAKE GREASE FROM SOUP.

If soup must be served as soon as it is made, and there is no time to let the grease harden, a piece of ice may be put in and then taken out; then remove the grease that has hardened on it, put it in again, and repeat until the grease has all hardened on the piece of ice.

USING DRY CHEESE.

Dry cheese makes delicious cream cheese by grating one-half pound of dry cheese and blending thoroughly with one teaspoon mustard, one tablespoon butter and one-half cup sweet cream.

Kerosene will remove finger marks from white paint.

KNITTED BAG RUG.

A simple and economical way to make rag rugs is to knit them. The strips should be about an inch wide.

A pretty pattern is a checkerboard design, which can be worked out by casting 22 stitches onto large needles and knitting 11 rows, thus completing one square. The next square should be of a contrasting neutral color. Make the strip the desired length and sew several strips together to make the rug the size required.

A SEWING HINT.

When the sewing-machine needle sticks in sewing heavy cotton goods, rub the line of stitching to be done with a bit of rather dry soap.

MUSLIN SAUSAGE CASINGS.

For those who do not use the natural casings for sausage to keep for a short time, it is a good plan to try using muslin bags and after they are stuffed to paint the bags with paraffin. If you do not use the sausage every day, dip the end in hot paraffin each time you use it.

Eucalyptus oil will remove grease stains from any kind of material. Apply with a clean piece of flannel, and rub gently until the stains disappear.

When washing cut glass add turpentine to the water in the proportion of one tablespoonful to two quarts of water. This will insure a brilliant polish.

To remove rust from steel flatirons, first rub them with a piece of flannel saturated with ammonia. Then dry with powdered bathbrick and polish with a dry cloth.

REVENGE AT LAST.

P. C. Youngun: "Mr. Williams, I love your daughter, an' would most respectfully ask you for her hand in marriage."

Mr. Williams: "Ah! ah! you snake! One year ago to-day you arrested me for drunkenness, an' truncheoned me all the way to the police station. Now I have my opportunity to get even. You can have her!"

Wigwag—My wife makes as much fuss over my mother-in-law as she does over me. Henpeckke—What are you kicking about? Any married man ought to consider himself mighty lucky to be treated like one of the family.

Wigg—Bjones hasn't much use for grass widows, has he? Wagg — No, he acts like a human lawn mower.

PEDIGREE IS MOST VALUABLE TO PURE-BRED STOCK OWNERS

Not So Important to Know That Animal is Pure-Bred, As it is to Know That Strain in the Herd is the Very Best

CASH VALUE OF A PEDIGREE

(Experimental Farms Note.)

All animals have a pedigree of some sort, whether pure-bred or scrub. Only the pure-bred animals have their pedigree registered and have pedigree certificates issued. A pedigree is valuable only when it proves some fact that is worth while about an animal, either favorably or otherwise. We frequently hear comments of some such nature as "I do not care about the papers, it is the cow I want." Speaking broadly that may be good business for a butcher, but the real stock breeder is paying more attention to pedigree than ever before and we often hear him say "that is a beautiful individual but I do not like her breeding."

The man who attaches the most value to a pedigree is the one who knows the most about its true value. The pedigree student may learn of a cow that has had a brilliant showring career. She may be particularly pleasing to the eye in type, form and conformation. He studies her pedigree and finds that she has sprung from ancestors that were of little value and immediately decides to let her alone, regarding her as a freak. On the other hand he may find a cow that is not a particularly fine individual in type but he studies her pedigree and finds that she has for ancestors some of the very best animals of the breed. He decides to buy the cow doing so on what he knows about her ancestors. He has made use of the pedigree to select a cow that he has not, as so many are inclined to state, paid a big figure for papers.

Pedigree does not make value, it decides value by establishing the history of ancestry. The cow backed by several generations of good producers is much more liable to be the dam of producers than the cow whose dam only, of all ancestors is a producer. This does not of course always hold true. Just as we frequently find a good individual with a poor line of ancestors so do we find poor individuals with strong ancestors. Like as a general rule, produces like, but the law of variation is also felt. The pedigree student studies these laws and draws his conclusion.

When a cow is purchased for a breeding herd two things are kept in mind, first the value of the cow for what milk she will produce and secondly, the effect she will have upon the future of the herd. A good judge of dairy cattle can estimate closely her value as a milk producer but her worth as a herd improver must be determined chiefly by pedigree.

Individual merit is very important and should not be overlooked, yet it must not be the main deciding point. History shows as some excellent individuals who have apparently sprung from inferior stock and later have become wonderful foundation cows. Such animals are valuable if properly developed, but the owner must have skill and patience to handle a problem of this kind as often, after a few generations, there may be a reversion back to the old ancestral type.

Some herds have been built almost to perfection with the exception that possibly a single defect may be noticed through the entire herd. The owner is a true stock breeder and wishes to have as perfect a herd as possible. He decides to secure a new sire and correct this fault. He selects an animal not only strong itself where the defect is shown in the herd, but the breeder finds that the animal is from families perfect in this respect. This sire is core certain to correct the fault than an animal who is strong individually but part, or all, of his ancestors are weak.

This is where the real value of a pedigree is recognized. It is not so important to know simply that an animal is pure-bred as it is to know that the strain in the herd is of the very best.—W. M. Hicks, superintendent, Agrassiz, B.C.

TIP BURN OF POTATOES

(Experimental Farms Note)

A trouble which is widely distributed and very prevalent in some seasons, and to which the name "Tip Burn" has been given, is to be found among our potato crops. This trouble takes the form of a gradual burning and drying-up of the leaves of the plants, often commencing at a comparatively early stage in their growth and, in many cases, if allowed to go on unchecked, slowly but surely involving the whole of the plants so that they lie down a considerable time before the tubers are fully developed.

The appearance of this trouble in the field is often mistaken by growers for late blight. There is, however, a marked distinction between the two, for late blight may commence by attacking any part of the plants—leaves and stems alike—has a dark, water-soaked appearance, and, in its early stages, is damp to the touch, while Tip burn invariably commences at the margin or tips of the leaves and has a decidedly dry appearance and touch with the exception of after rain. It also appears much earlier in the season than late blight has ever been recorded, and does not cause the death of the plants so rapidly. Nor has it ever proven so destructive as late blight, although evidence has been obtained that in seasons when it is severe and where no effort is made to check it, a considerable reduction in the yield of marketable tubers, due to the premature death of the plants from this cause, may result.

Investigators of this trouble are not yet in agreement as to the cause. The observations of some have led to the belief that a period of hot, dry weather during the growing season causes the leaves to throw off moisture more rapidly than it can be furnished by the plant, the result being the appearance of tip burn. This belief seems, however to be disputed by the fact that the trouble is not found in the hot regions of the Western States, where the temperature often becomes excessive and the air is especially dry.

More recent investigations lead to the belief that this burning of the leaves probably follows the depredations of the insect known as the potato leaf hopper. These investigations are not yet complete, but enough evidence has been produced to serve as a warning to potato growers to keep these insect pests thoroughly under control in an endeavor to avoid tip burn.

We have found in our experimental work with potatoes that Bordeaux mixture will to a large extent control this trouble. In 1918, when it was extremely prevalent, Bordeaux mixture was not applied. These plots suffered from a severe attack of tip burn and the plants were all killed down by the second week in August, while other plots on the same land, and to which, for the control of late blight, Bordeaux mixture was regularly and thoroughly applied, suffered to a very slight extent only, the plants remaining green until frost came. Bordeaux mixture acts as a repellent to the leaf hopper, as well as a protection to the plants; many other cases in addition to that referred to have come to our attention bearing evidence that regular and thorough spraying with this mixture will reduce to a minimum the ravages of tip burn.—Geo. Partridge, Asst. Plant Pathologist.

PAINTED TIRES LOOK BETTER AND LAST MUCH LONGER

Painting the tires with a coating of liquid rubber to which whitening has been added, not only gives the shoes an attractive appearance, but it also helps to preserve them, especially in the hot summer time. There are a number of tire-painting compounds on the market, and they are intended to fill in small cuts and scratches as well as to add to the appearance of the shoes. In sealing over cuts and bruises the preparations further tend to keep moisture from working itself into the fabric.

For the benefit of the motorist who likes to do his own tinkering insofar as possible, it might be added that a satisfactory compound for coating both the inside and the outside of the shoes can be made by stirring five pounds of whitening into a quart of gasoline, and after a thorough mixing has been effected, adding a quart of rubber cement. The cold patch cement sold by nearly every tire company will do. This latter is the rubber part of the mixture. Once thoroughly mixed, the compound is applied with a brush like any other paint, and due to the elasticity, the paint will not crack after it is applied to the shoe.

THE TRUTH.

Sybil: "Did you tell him the truth when he asked you how old you were?"

Sophia: "Oh, yes!"

"What did you say?"

"That it was none of his business!"

ONLY WISHED HE COULD.

Horticultural Horace: You say here, in this article of yours, that you have cultivated hot-house lilac bushes that have attained the height of over fifty feet."

Literary Leslie: "Yes; why?"

Horticultural Horace (musingly): "Nothing; only I wish I could lilac that."