OPEN LETTERS TO A FARMER

By Rev. M. V. Kelly, C.S.B.

(Continued from last week)

II.

Content When Successful.

I am not going to tell you how to keep your boys on the farms. If there is any piece of advice for which you have supreme contempt, it is surely that. City editors, women's magazines, agricultural college lecturers, farmers who have had no sons of their own, and a host of others who know nothing about it, have undertaken to instruct you on this subject. I have heard few real, experienced farmers say how the problem is solved, and I don't pretend to know. As is generally the case, those who have had the greatest success with this supposed difficulty have least to say in the way of advice. There are farmers, however, all of whose five or six sons continue in their father's calling, and there are others with five or six boys willing to stay on the farm, if their father or mother or both did not actually urge them to something else.

If there is anyone really anxious to know how to keep boys on the farm, I should suggest his trying to find out in a number of particular cases—say a hundred or two hundred—just what causes prevailed to make them leave. I dare to write you on the subject at all, because I have done this and feel a little the wiser for it. There are rural districts in Ontario with whose residents I have been acquainted for thirty years, in other districts much longer. In all these districts I know the history of families for several generations. I know the whereabouts of many young men whose grandfathers I remember in their days of ambition and vigor. As far as I can see, in at least nineteen cases out of twenty, a boy will stay on the farm if his father is making a success of it. If the prospects are good, if the farmer understands his business, if his interests are right there, if he has respect for his calling, his sons are satisfied with their lot, their interests also are centred there, they have confidence in the future. It is sometimes supposed—by city people, of course—that hard work is driving the boy away. Look around among your neighbors, and you will remark that on any farm where things are going right, everyone is working steadily and faithfully, and it is precisely there that none of the boys are thinking of giving it up. You know men who started with nothing and are called wealthy farmers to-day; you know the long hours everyone, old and young, puts in, and you know that every son is still farming, because there was a farm to give him and he knew how to handle it.

Just while we are on the subject, it is pertinent to remark that not only the boys, but many farmers themselves are off the farms they once owned and cultivated. Go through a list of these, and you will find the very same causes prevailing; they left, either because they were incapable of managing it, because they were giving too much attention to something else and neglected the farm in consequence, because they became too fond of spending long hours and late hours in town, distracting their minds from their real interests, or perhaps they had had the misfortune to marry a woman determined to not live on a farm, and dreaming of life in a town, where she and her children could dress with greater delicacy and fashion. Under none of those circumstances could farming be a success; no calling can be made a success without giving earnest attention to it. Farming, like every other business or profession, is full of interest for those who understand it and look after it. If a man's work is not his chief interest and chief enjoyment, he is not likely to be contented with any other.

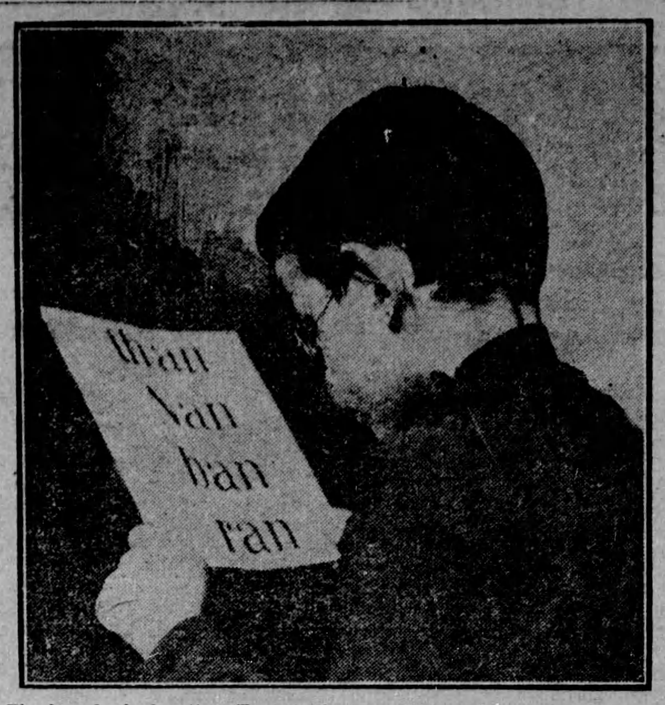
When Parents Drive Them Away.

I maintained that when the farmer is prosperous, his sons are not disposed to leave the farm. There is, however, one widespread exception to this. Many farmers, when they acquire a neat competence, feel constrained to encourage one or more of their sons to aspire to something else—to enter one of the learned professions or perhaps go into business. They will let themselves run away with the notion that this is advancing—getting into something higher. Instead of impressing upon their family, in season and out of season, that no other secular calling is higher or nobler or does greater service or is more honorable than theirs, they actually seem ready to belittle their own position and pay homage to occupations less dignified and meritorious. As far as worldly position is concerned, the farmer who can tell of all his sons—five or six or seven—continuing successfully filling the positions for which he himself trained them, has every reason to be proud. Unfortunately, he is often more willing (or if he is not, his wife is) to refer, with satisfaction, to a son practising law or medicine, than to several who are proving successful farmers; this, even when he is aware, and all the neighbors are aware, that it was the boy of real capacity he kept at home, having encouraged the other to continue at school, because it was evident he would never be able to make a living on a farm. How is it that the boy who leads his class in a high school, and is first in an examination, demands the admiration of all, is reported through the press of the country, while there are no means of drawing public attention to the record of a boy of much greater capacity, just because his achievements are manifested in connection with farm activities or farm management? While the country is stocked with class leaders who are failures in life, I have no hesitation in saying there is no case of a young man capable of handling a farm who would not prove a success in any one of a dozen other spheres.

Between ourselves, you know, there is often another reason for keeping the boy at school; it takes less money to set a boy up in a profession than to set him up on a farm. I suppose we should not be too hard on the father who takes the easier course in providing for his family. Perhaps it is the best he can do. But we certainly do resent his taking credit for doing the greater thing and posing for the admiration of the crowd, as a father who "had done particularly well for his family," "had tried to make something out of them." While he is sparing them, that they may take advantage of opportunities at school, he is also calling upon the Government to disburse thousands of dollars for their benefit. The father who fits his boys for the farm and gives them a start on it, must stand alone; the time has not yet come for governments to consider his efforts and co-operate with them.

In this connection, I would also have you note that the average doctor or lawyer does not belittle his own profession. If it was good enough for him, it is good enough for his boys. He is quite satisfied to have them take up where he left off. Because he has made a success of his profession, he does not feel obliged to train them in the notion that it is a second-rate calling at best, and devote his energies to training them for something else. Why should you?

(To be continued).



The board of education, Toronto, has supplied equipment for the use of pupils with defective eyesight. One of the children in the sight-saving class at Orde Street school is shown reading giant type.

Dr. Serge Voronoff

French surgeon and discoverer of the monkey gland operation, who will receive the income for life from the American estate of his late wife.

Horses will do more for a whistle than for a whip.

Pleasure may fill up the interstices of life, but it is a poor material to build its frame-work out of.

Lake Ontario Fisheries.

Gratifying results are reported by the hatcheries service of the Department of Marine and Fisheries from the work of restocking Lake Ontario with whitefish. The great catch of this species taken by Canadian lake fishermen during the season of 1922 totalling 21,020 cwt. as compared with 12,034 cwt. in 1917, and 1,266 cwt. in 1895, gives a good idea of the extent to which the whitefish fishery has been re-established in this great inland body of water.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries undertook the restocking of Lake Ontario at first with fry from the hatchery at Sandwich but the fishery showed such promising results that it was found feasible, in 1914, to establish one of the largest whitefish hatcheries in the province of Ontario on the Bay of Quinte. The work has progressed rapidly during recent years and the number of eggs collected each year by the new hatchery has increased from 30,000,000 during the first years of its operations to 221,715,000 in 1923.

Everything Handy.

The old man on his first visit to London, was greatly interested in all he saw. Stopping at a street corner to light his pipe, he was accosted by a boy with, "Matches, sir?"

Taking a box from the boy he struck a match, lighted his pipe and returned the box, saying, "Ayee, it's a wonderful place, London! Everything's that handy!

Some of Her Best Friends.

Marjorie, aged six, shocked her mother by picking up the saucer in which she had had her strawberries and cream and licking it vigorously with her little pink tongue.

"Why, Marjorie!" reproved her mother. "What disgraceful manners! Whom have you ever seen doing that?"

"Dogs," said Marjorie curtly.

A Very Well-Known Name.

"Could you publish a volume of poems for me?"

"Certainly, sir," answered the publisher, "but the terms will depend on whether your name is well known or not."

"Oh, my name is one of the best known in the country."

"And you so young? Pray honor me with it, sir."

"My name is Smith.'

The AUTOMOBILE

SPRING TONIC FOR AUTO ADDS TO LIFE OF CAR.

In the good old days it was the custom of many human beings to take a tonic at the first indication of spring weather. The idea was to tone up the system after a strenuous winter and get it in shape for the warmer climate. Nowadays it is the human being's automobile that comes in for the spring tonic. After a period of hibernation in the family or public garage or after months of use in cold weather, bad weather and over frozen roads, every car needs a tonic to put it in shape for warm weather use.

The motorist who desires the maximum of satisfaction in the use of his machine during the pleasanter months of the year and the driver who wishes to get through the season with a minimum of maintenance expense will do well to give his car a thorough going over at this time of the year.

The automobile that has been in storage with its various parts properly protected may need only a mild tonic, such as attention to lubrication, battery, tires and a good cleaning. It all depends on what was the condition of the car when it was put away. To say the least, a good overhauling will insure a more satisfactory use of it than if it is taken for granted that everything is O.K.

INSPECTION IS NEEDED.

The car that has been in use, more or less, during the winter months, will need a much more thorough inspection. The running gear, for instance, should be carefully looked after, especially if the machine has been driven over rutted roads. Such roads increase side thrust on the wheels and consequently upset the steering apparatus, wearing the knuckles excessively, also the wheel bearings.

The wheels, if of wood, may need tightening at the hubs. If the wheels have wire spokes, some of these spokes may need taking up. Spring clips should be tightened and motor support bolts should be given attention.

The owner can do this work himself if he is mechanically inclined and enjoys tinkering with his car. Or he can take his machine to a reliable service station and let an expert automotive mechanic thoroughly and scientifically check up on various parts of the car and administer the tonic in such doses as will accomplish the best results. Or the owner can do some of the simpler things that do not require expert knowledge and then let the service station expert finish the job. This last mentioned method is probably the most practical.

Among these items which can well be given attention from the standpoint of the engine, the vital organ of an automobile, are the following: Scrape carbon from cylinders if necessary. Valves ground and adjusted. Spark plugs cleaned and adjusted. Vacuum tank tested. Oil reservoir drained, cleaned and refilled. Engine tightened in frame. Ignition instruments cleaned, oiled, points dressed and adjusted. Starter brushes and commutator smoothed up. Starter brush springs examined for tension. Carburetor float, float valve stem and float valve weights examined for wear. Carburetor float valve and carburetor needle valve inspected for proper seating. Carburetor body and strainer chamber cleaned. Spray nozzle blown out.

LOOK AFTER AXLES.

The front axle should come in for consideration. Replace felt washers where necessary, examine the bearings, bearings should be repacked with grease and adjusted, yoke pins and bushings and steering connections cleaned, inspected and lubricated, wheel hub bolts tightened and spring clips tightened. The steering gear housing should be cleaned and repacked with lubricant and the gear adjusted if necessary.

The rear axle should not be neglected. Adjust and repack the bearings, refill the differential case and clean it, the wheel hub bolts should be tightened and the spring clips tightened.

The clutch should be looked after. Lubricate the clutch collar, and adjust the clutch collar. The transmission is an important factor. Drain, clean and refill it. Tighten the transmission support nuts.

The brakes represent a major consideration. They should be relined if necessary. At any rate adjust the service and emergency brakes. It is well to give the battery a careful once-over. Have it examined by a local service station expert.

The wiring—what condition is it in? Test for grounds and intermittent shorts, the worn or broken parts should be replaced and the wiring should be tested for loose connection.

The body, besides needing a bath, may require other attention to make it look like a car one would be proud to own. Revarnish it to renew finish and protect undercoats if it is needed, tighten the body bolts.

Having properly prepared your car for the coming season by this thorough-going tonic method, your mind will be greatly relieved—for you will expect to get good service out of your machine and you probably will.

Lady A Must Have Gasped.

Stories of absent-mindedness are common, but one that Lord Ernest Hamilton tells in Forty Years On is so extraordinary that it deserves to be repeated here.

Lord Strathnairn, says Lord Hamilton, was so absent-minded that he sometimes forgot whether he was dining in his own house or in another's. On one occasion when he was dining with Lady A and was in a particularly absent mood he suddenly turned to his hostess and said:

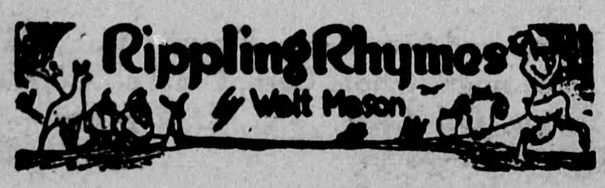
"My dear Lady A, I really must apologize to you for this extremely nasty dinner. I cannot imagine what has come over my cook. I have never known her to disgrace herself so before."

Obeying Orders.

An Irishman suffered from a stomach ailment. The doctor was called in and on his second visit questioned his patient.

"Have you been drinking hot water an hour before each meal as I directed?"

"Doc," said Pat, "I tried hard to do it, but I had to quit. I drank for thirty-five minutes and it made me feel like a balloon."



TOO LATE

THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

The fathers of the village are busy all the time; they're on the trail of pillage, uprooting graft and crime. They have impeached the traitor who runs the village scale; his misdeeds, small and greater, have landed him in jail. They're now investigating the keeper of the pound; they're whooping and orating and pawing up the ground. The uproar louder waxes, each day its new probe brings, and men who pay the taxes are saying bitter things. "No office holder bothers to do his proper chore, but all the village fathers are out for some one's gore; we hear them idly spoofing, and while they rant away, the village jail needs roofing, the peelers lack their pay. The Cockleburs are growing upon the public street, while eloquence is flowing where tinhorn statesmen meet. The village pump is needing a handle and a spout while aldermen are pleading for warrants for some scout. The alleys are dirty, the bridge is broken down, and there are ten or thirty bootlegging joints in town; and still the village fathers investigate and roar, and not a statesman bothers to do his proper chore." Some day there'll be a rising of those who pay the freight; catastrophes surprising the Bugle will relate.

Rules for Care With Fire in the Woods

If Every Person Strictly Observed These Simple Rules, the Great Annual Loss by Forest Fires Would be Reduced to a Minimum.

1. Be sure your match is out before you throw it away.
2. Knock out your pipe ashes or throw your cigar or cigarette stump where there is nothing to catch fire.
3. Don't build a camp fire any larger than is absolutely necessary. Never leave it, even for a short time, without putting it OUT with water or earth.
4. Don't build a camp fire against a tree or a log. Build a small one where you can scrape away the needles, leaves or grass from all sides of it.
5. Don't build bonfires. The wind may rise at any time and start a fire which you cannot control.
6. If you discover a fire, put it out if possible; if you can't, inform the nearest Forest Ranger or Fire Warden as quickly as you possibly can.

Above are shown Mrs. Long, Mrs. Kingswell and Miss B. W. Redding, England's three new lady magistrates, who were recently sworn in at the Portsmouth court.

IN RABBITBORO