

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Show Something
A citizen of Brant has suggested to us a slogan which he says would work effectively for building up the declining fall fairs, and it is: "Show Something." This farmer says he never took much interest in a fair till he showed something. There's a whole lot of people who do not show anything, because it would inconvenience them, and they have the nerve to say when inspecting exhibits: "I have something in that same class and section at home that would beat the head of the exhibits that have taken the prizes. If everybody talked that way, the fair would soon die a natural death. All honor to the exhibitors but none for the critic.

Every director should set a good example by showing something, if at all possible, and he should encourage others to show. The directors can consider this an open letter if they wish. We are doing our best to prevent dry rot setting in for the country show, and we are in hearty sympathy with the idea of the progressive Brant farmer who suggests the slogan: "Show Something." There's a lot of people who do not even put in an appearance themselves, and the slogan so far as they are concerned would be: "Show Yourself," but if they have an exhibit, there will be no much likelihood that they will fail to attend themselves.

No sporting loam will be a success with a lot of laggards in it, neither will a Fall Fair Board, and the best thing for a disinterested director to do is to resign and let a live wire take his place.—Chesley Enterprise.

Agnes Macphail, M. P., Fails in Crisis

For the past five years, Agnes Macphail, M. P., has been travelling throughout Canada dilating upon the elevation of public morals and the improvement of Canadian public life. In the great crisis, so great a one that the Governor-General refused to accept the advice of his Prime Minister, the man for whom Miss Macphail has religiously voted on every occasion in the last few months, the lady member for Grey, fell down with a thud.

Miss Macphail has not represented the women of Canada, the motherhood of Canada, who want to see their sons and daughters grow up trained in the ideals of British free government, and respecting the sound precedents of British constitutional practice. Miss Macphail has been a blind follower of Robert Forke, M. P., camouflaged cohort of Mackenzie King, and her ladyship has only aggravated matters at various times by talking one way and voting another. Her hurried departure with bag and baggage on Saturday evening from the stateroom of the steamer Anania, was probably to provide another exhibition of volte face, from which the country has been saved by the Governor-General's edict.

Voters of Grey County in the next contest, should see to it that Miss Macphail's proposed trip to spread the gospel of peace in Europe is neither delayed nor interrupted. Agnes Macphail, M. P., may be of utterly no use in the salvation of Europe, but the esteemed lady M. P. is better employed over there than at home in the salvation of Canada.—St. Catharines Standard.

Discourtesy

Some Progressive members of the fifteenth Parliament of Canada have discovered for themselves a novel ground for criticism of the dissolution of that Parliament. Mr. Robert Forke is indignant, according to a Toronto newspaper; Mr. E. J. Gar-

land, of Bow River, is indignant, and paces his room in the Parliament Buildings in the effort to master his emotion, and Miss Agnes Macphail is indignant at the discourtesy with which the House of Commons has been treated.

It appears that these legislators were all ready to take their seats in the Green Chamber on Friday but found "the doors of Parliament slammed in their faces." They learned of the dissolution of Parliament from the lips of page boys. Mr. J. S. Woodsworth asserts that "even an ordinary business concern would not wind up its affairs without some sort of a meeting," and quite ignores the fact that the House of Commons was given by Mr. Meighen, after his acceptance of office, an opportunity to wind up its sessional affairs, which opportunity was thrust aside by the votes of Progressives and Liberals. Mr. Forke feels that the members should have been permitted to come together to "receive a decent and courteous statement," Mr. Garland thinks the House should have been allowed to receive and discuss such a statement. Mr. Forke has never heard of a precedent for this, and Mr. Garland is forced to go back for a precedent to that autocratic ruler, Cromwell, who once dismissed a Parliament by force of arms. Miss Macphail finds the discourtesy with which Parliament has been treated so "amazing" that she does not even seek a precedent. Some people will find it still more amazing that Messrs. Forke and Garland and Miss Macphail could not carry their memories or their researches back fifteen years. On the evening of Friday, July 28, 1911, the late Edward Kidd, then the Conservative representative of Carleton, Ontario, addressed the House of Commons on the reciprocity agreement with the United States. He had not concluded his speech when the House adjourned, and he never had a chance to conclude it. On Saturday, July 29, Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked and obtained a dissolution of the eleventh Parliament of Canada.

The eleventh Parliament of Canada ceased to exist at noon on July 29, 1911, and the Commons branch of that Parliament never met again to receive "a decent and courteous statement," or for any other purpose. No one then complained, not even Mr. Kidd, whose speech had been so summarily stopped, that the House of Commons of that day had been discourteously treated. The dissolution of 1911 ended the existence of the House of Commons of that day just as the dissolution of July 2 ended the existence of the last House of Commons. After dissolution there remained no legally constituted House of Commons to hold a meeting.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Worse and Worse

Shortly after an indignant neighbor woman had gone into the Brown home, Mrs. Brown came to the door and called her son. "William," she said, "Mrs. Crabbe here tells me that you called her an old fool. Did you?" "Yes'm." "Well," sighed the distracted mother. "I'm glad you are truthful." And now she wonders why Mrs. Crabbe doesn't speak to her.

What we need is a windshield that will make the pedestrian in front resemble a dog. Every decent driver dodges a dog.

Canada's Key Problem

The Creation of a Unanimous and Vigilant Public Demand for a Comprehensive and Constructive National Colonization Policy.

AS SEEN BY CHARLES W. PETERSON, CALGARY, ALTA. The Seventh of a Series of Special Articles to Appear From Time to Time Exclusively in THE CHRONICLE

THE "FILLING IN" PROBLEM

Those who travel the agricultural portions of Canada are often puzzled to explain the presence of large areas of unoccupied lands around most of our old-settled communities. The Federal Immigration Department regards the colonization of these scattered areas as its major problem, and so it is. Such lands are generally well served with transportation, educational and other facilities. Their settlement would materially ease the burden of those already in occupation in various ways and could give rise to no new public liability for the extension of services. Careful study might well be devoted to the settlement of these areas in the interest primarily of the communities tributary to them.

SUBMARGINAL LANDS

An examination of these lands would at once reveal the fact that nine-tenths of them are below par in quality. They are heavily treed, are low lying, stony or have thin soil or exhibit other undesirable features. They are, in fact, culis or what is generally termed "sub-marginal." These lands present a problem in human labor. Most of them are sub-marginal only until reclaimed by hard pioneering effort when they will graduate into the class of more or less productive lands. But their reclamation involves clearing, digging out of stones, drainage or similar uninviting and time-consuming labor, unproductive for the time being.

COMMUNITY EFFORT

The ownership of such lands has generally passed from the crown, and is in the hands of all sorts of companies, individuals and municipalities. Here is an opportunity for community effort, and the various provincial governments might well take the lead in a movement towards a general "stock-taking" of these undeveloped resources, by promoting the formation of "Land Settlement Committees" in the smaller towns with the special object of colonizing these lands, and making them productive. They would generally be available at a very low price and on long terms of payment.

THE FARM LABOR PROBLEM

Such lands, in small areas, would

appeal with special force to the farm labor class of limited means and to the European peasantry. Their development would be slow and laborious, but the new settler and his family would be available for work on the farms in the neighborhood during the busy seasons and could thus add to his income and incidentally help to solve the agricultural labor problem which has always been acute in Canada. Until we promote the colonization of agricultural labor in our settled districts, our progress is going to be severely curtailed. An organized movement such as this would be helpful all around.

CLAIMS EARTHQUAKES BLESSING IN DISGUISE

Just as Natural as Hail, Rain or Storms, Says United States Expert.

Earthquakes are a blessing in disguise and just as common and natural to the earth as hail, rain or storms. That view is expressed by Major William Bowie, chief of the Division of Geodesy, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. He says:

"The mere fact that we have so many earthquakes should reassure us, for it indicates the materials of the earth's crust are so weak there will not be any accumulation of strains to wreck the world.

"The more earthquakes we have, the safer we are. The only way to stop earthquakes would be to stop the sun from shining, as rain, produced by the sun, is the chief cause of the upheavals, and our life and plant life depends upon rain.

"The primary cause of earthquakes, according to the best line of reasoning today, is due to the shifting of billions of tons of earth by rain, rivers and other streams. "The outer 60 miles of the earth is solid and brittle rock. Below the 60-mile limit, the earth is solid, but will distort without cracking. As

we load down the margins of the oceans with sediment, the material below gives way, and there is a rupture of the brittle rock. "We also have earthquakes in regions where erosion, due to heavy rains, is going on at a rapid rate. As we take material away from the surface, the sub-crustal material pushes up from the bottom to restore the equilibrium."

THE FIRE WOLF GOES ON RAMPAGE

Do you know him? This wolf in sheep's clothing, awaiting his confederate, Drouth, when, in a night, he shows his red fangs and starts devouring his prey, our timberlands, our young growth, the timbers of tomorrow. He laps up the streams, the rivers, devours the fish, the game, until at last Nature's bountiful gift is gone. And who is there to put the monster, destroyer of homes and industry, in bondage? You might if you knew him, but he is ever in disguise. One day we find him dressed as a boy going off to fish. He must play the man, have a little smoke, jauntily toss his match unbroken, not out, into the unnoticed duff. The canny wolf smiles and bides his time a day or two. Warm weather, a little wind, he bares his fangs—devours his meal—your wood, your work.

Again we see him in settler's garb looking over his slash piles which must be burned, today. The tongue shoots out again. More wood, more homes, industries, consumed. On Sunday he walks to the Beaver meadows. They must be burned up for fall cutting. He does not see Nature all around him raising his young wood crops. He drops his

match, and the fangs leap out again. "I'll look around the logging camp today," says Mr. Wolf. "My friend Jack will be working in that nice little slash I had prepared for me. Maybe he will forget to put out his match or drop his cigarette butt." As he thinks of this toothsome morsel, he snatches his chops again. "This will make a killing worth while," and the fangs leap out again.

At last we see him seated on his haunches on a high pinnacle, looking over his handiwork, and we know him for who he is. The Fire Wolf. No disguise now. "If they only knew, if they only knew, my feedings grounds, my army of helpers, my yearly fire harvest would be reduced to one-tenth."

SOME CHANGES MADE IN ELECTION LAW

Some important changes were made in the election law by the legislature this session. "The length of time a person has to be domiciled in a constituency is reduced from three to two months; polling booths will be kept open till 7 o'clock instead of 6, if a candidate decides to retire after the ballots are printed, the Clerk of the Peace is to be notified, and a notice must be posted up in the polling booths. The committee recommended that the number of names on nomination papers may be reduced from 100 to 50. Premier Ferguson objected to this last recommendation, as it might tend to get irresponsible candidates, and the amendment was lost.

At Those Informal Affairs On with the dance; let the records break as they may.

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