

What Is Wrong With the Rural Schools of Ontario

William Morris Point: Out interesting Weaknesses in Our Present System With Serious Consideration

TRUSTEES' PROBLEMS

By WM. MORRIS

No body suggests that country people are not interested in the education of their children. It is a well known fact that the boys and girls who get their early training in the country schools are able to compete successfully with their cousins of large urban centres in the battle of life. There are some who maintain that the wood box and other chores around the barn and the home deserve considerable credit for the establishment of sound character in the lives of country youths. Whatever the cause might be there is a constant flow of intelligent, healthy young people from the country to the city and which constitutes a strong factor in the maintenance of a high standard of morality and citizenship in urban life.

Neither does anybody suggest that a change in the system of the administration of the rural schools would secure a higher and a more intelligent type of school trustee. The rural school board member compares very favorably with the members of boards of education anywhere else and indeed with the members of councils and legislative assemblies generally. He is not an office seeker nor does he receive any remuneration for his services.

What is wrong then with education in rural Ontario? An agricultural committee was appointed by the Provincial Government a few years ago to hold meetings in various parts of the province, confer with representatives of rural organizations and receive suggestions from people in all walks of life with a view to improving the conditions of country life. Having heard many complaints with reference to education the committee recommended a larger unit in the administration of the schools. Evidently they obtained this information from the people who reside in the country.

A great many resolutions have been submitted to the Ontario School Trustees' and Ratepayers' Association by rural school boards and county organizations since its inauguration nearly forty-two years ago. A perusal of these resolutions gives substantial evidence that rural trustees are far from satisfied with the system of education in vogue in rural Ontario.

Survey Made Out

The Minister of Education through officials of the Department made an extensive survey of rural educational conditions a few years ago and reported through the press and direct to rural school boards that many rural schools were neither efficient nor economic in their administration. The report calls attention to the amazing inequality in the cost of education to ratepayers of adjoining communities. The revenue by which rural schools are maintained is obtained from three sources, the local trustee levy, the township grant and the provincial grant. It is quite apparent that the attendance at a given rural school might vary from three pupils to twenty-five pupils without affecting the tax rate of the section but the question is whether the school board is justified in using the money of the people of the province as a whole and for the township in maintaining a school that only has a few pupils in attendance if these pupils could receive a better education at less cost in an adjoining school.

The greatest problem however confronting rural school boards to-day is the necessity of providing educational facilities for those pupils who have graduated from the public or elementary school. When the present three trustee system was established over eighty years ago the people were satisfied with a much lower standard of education than parents demand to-day for their children. The rural three trustee school board has not as a rule a sufficient number of pupils to warrant them in providing educational facilities beyond the entrance examination to high school. It would require co-operation among rural schools over a larger area to get sufficient funds and pupils to make it worth while establishing a secondary school for the pupils who pass the entrance examination. This necessity for co-operation led to the proposal of a school board for a larger area.

The advocates of this system claim that they are not wedded to the Township School Board as the only system by which this co-operation may be secured. If rural school board can suggest any other means by which they can work together in the interests of the rural child the Department of Education would be glad to consider any plans suggested.

There are many educational features that rural people desire to have incorporated in the program of their schools. Country parents demand equal educational advantages for their children with those of the youth of the towns and cities. Every child that attends a city school has the advantage of medical and dental inspection so that his parents may be informed of his physical condition. The

pupils of most urban centres enjoy the privilege of a few years training in vocal music. It is estimated that 33 per cent. of the students attending secondary school in urban centres throughout Ontario are in Technical, Commercial, Vocational or Industrial Schools while the vast majority of the students from country homes are restricted to the course of studies leading to the Normal Entrance or to the University. Rural parents naturally enquire why there cannot be equal educational advantages for their children with those of the children of the towns and cities.

This leads to the consideration of secondary education for country children. The public or elementary schools in the rural parts of Ontario are rendering very good service and if it were not for the necessity of providing secondary or high school education of a more varied type for country children the larger unit of school administration would not be a subject of such keen interest. It is estimated that the rural people of Ontario are contributing 50 per cent. of the cost of maintaining high schools in the towns and small cities while they have no control over the administration of these institutions. County Councils are required by the High Schools Act to appoint three trustees to each high school of the county, two of whom may reside outside the high school district. As a matter of practice however very few of those appointees reside outside the high school district. The money is simply paid over by the county council to help build and maintain schools in urban centres and these schools are owned and controlled by the school boards of the urban centres.

To sum up the advantages that are offered by the larger unit of administration.

1st. It provides for co-operation among rural school board over a larger area with a view to securing the advantages of secondary education that country people desire for their children.

2nd. Such a larger board would be in a position to co-operate with the agricultural representative in the holding of short courses for the young people of the community.

3rd. The public school inspector could meet regularly with such a board and thus provide for co-operation between the professional and the practical sides of our educational system. No industrial or commercial institution that engages an expert to direct its affairs would ever think of excluding him from meetings of the Board of Directors. Here in the larger unit of administration, provision is made whereby the expert or public school inspector may meet in conference with the Board of Directors.

4th. A larger board would be in a better position to employ the services of a teacher of music, a health nurse and a director in manual training or agriculture.

Next week some of the disadvantages will be considered. In the meantime school boards are reminded that this whole question will be debated at the Annual Convention of the Provincial School Trustees' Association in Toronto, April 3rd.

Smallest Plane, 550 Pounds, Is Being Built in Germany

Berlin—What is believed to be the world's smallest airplane is now under construction at the Phoenix airplane works in Duesseldorf. It weighs only 550 pounds. It is fitted with a 34-horsepower Skon motor, which gives it an average speed of eighty miles an hour, and it is able to carry two passengers and fuel for a five-hour flight. Its total radius is 400 miles. The plane is twenty-five feet in width, can speedily be assembled or disassembled and needs only the smallest barn for a hangar.

Freedom's Friends Meet in Death

Fatal Clash Between Fascists and Communist in Germany

Berlin—Strike between the extreme Right and Left elements in this country resulted in bloody clashes between Fascist and Communist followers in the village of Woehrden, near Heide Schleswig-Holstein recently when three were killed and eight seriously wounded. As recent Fascist and Communist meetings in Woehrden had been broken up repeatedly by the opposing party, district authorities forbade the Fascist meeting scheduled here.

Woehrden Fascist, therefore, formed a demonstrative procession of about 150 members who were attacked by about 130 Communists. Street fighting followed in which Fascist Otto Strelbel, of Roest, and Hermann Schmidt, of Annen, and Communist Stuerzenberg, of Silesia, were killed. It is reported that the Communist attack was organized by former members of the party.

Holstein is considered the chief field of activities of agitators of the Radical Right party, who repeatedly have succeeded in inciting the rural district to sabotage of taxes.

"Are you willing to admit that you are dependent on your wife in your public career?" "Perfectly willing," answered Senator Sorghum. "I have no ear for music and I am compelled to depend on Mariah to nudge me so that I will be among the first to stand

Early Start For Garden

Indoor Planting Assures a Good Start for Plants Requiring Longer Season

HEALTHY PASTIME

ARTICLE No. 3

Growing Plants Indoors

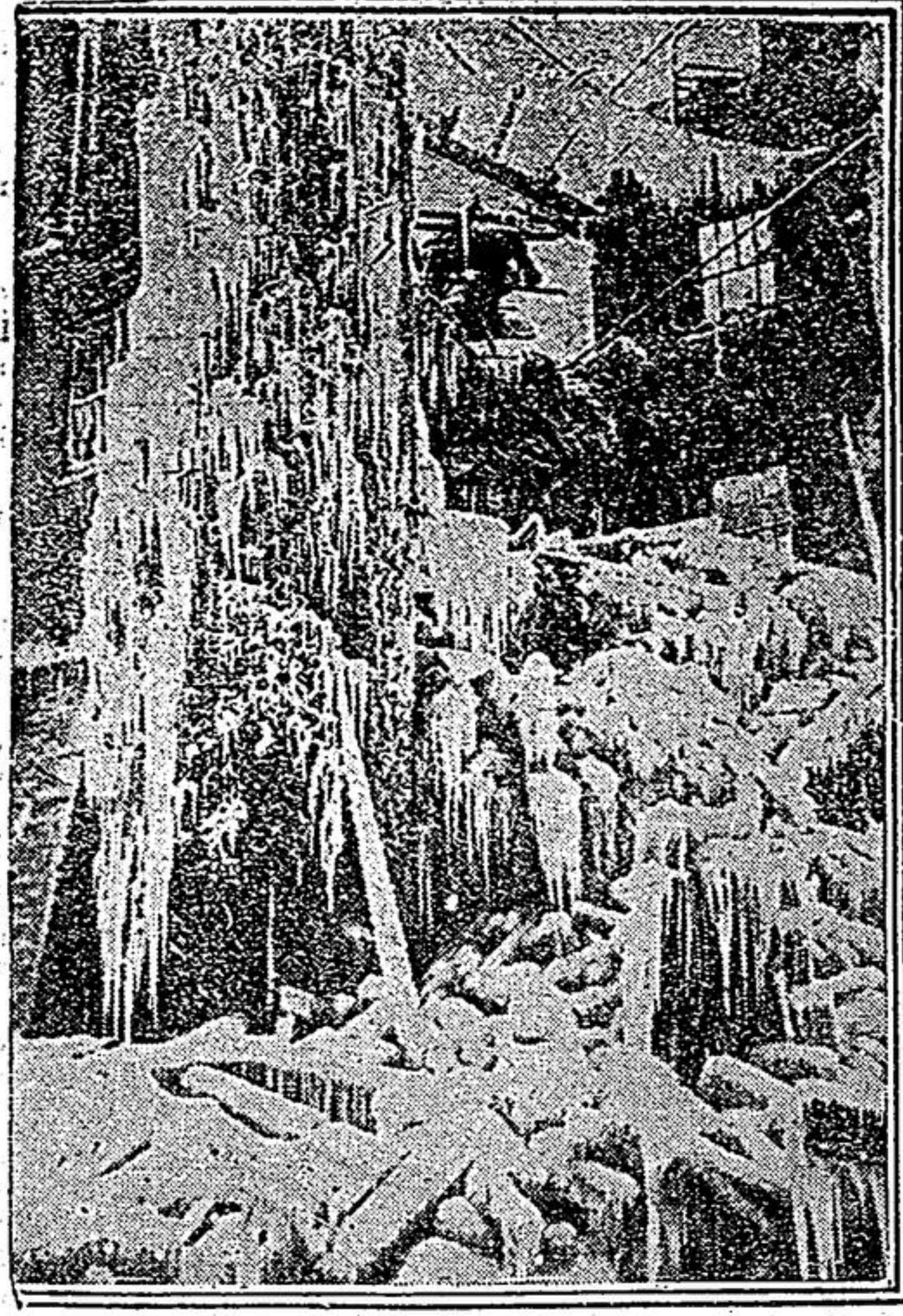
One can get the garden off to an early start and also grow those tender plants which require a longer season than our climate allows, by starting many flowers and vegetables indoors. Supplies for the window box or hanging basket can also be produced in this way. Among the flowers zinnias, petunias, cosmos, marigolds, in fact practically anything except poppies, which do not transplant readily, can be started under glass in March or April, and will benefit from being moved around a few times before they are placed in their permanent locations. In the vegetable line, tomatoes, cabbage, head lettuce, cucumbers, melons, and even a few early beets, carrots, and corn can be planted. A box a couple of inches deep with holes bored in the bottom for drainage and filled with sand mixed with a little loam makes the best material for indoor planting. If such material is not available, the nearest greenhouse man will be able to supply some. Moisten the earth, then mark off the rows, which need only be an inch apart, sow the seed and cover the box tightly with a piece of sacking or burlap. This covering will hasten germination, and prevent the seeds from being washed out. It is best to get the plants started in a dark, warm cellar, and after they have pushed up through the soil, remove the covering and place them in full sunlight, at least a foot away from the glass, if it is single, or closer if a storm window has been provided. Make sure that they are protected on nights when the thermometer threatens to go to zero. Where a large quantity of plants is desired, it is advisable to provide a hot bed. This is simply a glass-panned bed placed on a pile of horse manure, which should be fresh, at least eight or ten inches deep. The bed should face the south with the glass sloping a few inches that way, so that water will run off, and the sun rays caught fully, and should not be planted until the manure is heated up and cooled down again to about seventy degrees. In cold weather, water very sparingly, and only on bright days. Ventilate a little by raising the sash, and keep this open longer as the weather gets warmer. Plants grown in a hot bed should be transplanted to a cold frame, that is a glass protected bed without the heating manure underneath, where they are hardened off before transplanting outside.

Can Place No Value on a Garden There will always be many critics who will maintain that, if the labor involved in gardening was valued at so much an hour, it would be cheaper to buy vegetables and flowers. Such a calculation, however, neglects to take into consideration the exercise and pleasure derived from the growing of vegetables and flowers upon which no proper value can be placed. No money could purchase the quality of vegetables grown within a few yards of the kitchen, or the flowers fresh picked from the beds at the door.

Best Vegetable Varieties The following list of vegetables, suitable for planting in Eastern Canada, is recommended by the Government authorities at Ottawa: Asparagus, Washington, satisfactory from the standpoint of disease resistance and a good cropper. Beans—Pencil Pod Wax, Round Wonder Golden Pod as pole sorts. Beets—Flat Egyptian Early and Detroit Dark Red later. Cabbage—Golden Acre, as a round-headed first early, followed by Copenhagen Market Enkuzen Glory as mid-season, with short stem Danish Ballhead for winter storage. Cauliflower—Early Snowball and Early Dwarf Erfurt. Carrots—Chantonay and Danvers, Corn-Extra Early Cory, Golden Bantam and for later use, Stowell's Evergreen. Cucumbers—Perfection, Celery—Golden Plume and Paris Golden. Lettuce—Grand Rapids, Nonpareil, and Iceberg. Muskmelons—Hearts of Gold or Hoodoo, Miller Cream or Osage, Bender Surprise and Emerald Green. Onion—Yellow Globe Danvers, Prize Taker Yellow Globe, Red Globe. Peas—Thomas Laxton, Blue Bantam, Hundredfold, Stratagem. Parsnip—Hollow Crown. Radish—Scarlet Turnip White Tip, French Breakfast. Spinach—Bloomsdale, and New Zealand. Tomatoes—Canadian as first early, followed by Earliana with John Baer and Bonny Best as the main crop. It is well to remember that the quality of the seeds is even more important than variety, and that vegetables to have the highest quality must be grown quickly. To get this result, beds must be thoroughly worked before and after seeding and a quickly available fertilizer, such as nitrate of soda, should be applied every two weeks during the early part of the season. The easiest way to apply this is to dissolve about a tablespoonful in a gallon and soak the ground about the plants with a watering can.

A biologist has decided that the ape is not man's ancestor, and that ought to be comforting to the ape. Indianapolis News.

Visible Evidence of a Hard Winter



IF WINTER COMES, CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND? With recent cold snaps in Europe, winter came to England with a vengeance, with the result that this fire-scarred building in Bath took on the appearance of a Canadian ice-palace.

Prince to Assume Serious Duties

Suggestion That Royal Heir Should Dissolve Parliament is Made

QUESTION NOT DECIDED

London.—The Mail Monday morning says that the possibility of appointing the Prince of Wales Regent to act for his father is being discussed. The complicated constitutional position resulting from the long illness of King George was said to be the reason.

The newspaper says that it is now clear that his Majesty, although his progress is maintained, will not be able to undertake the duties of State until after the general election, which is expected during May. He will therefore be unable to dissolve Parliament himself.

The Council of State which was appointed to act for the King during his illness cannot perform this function. The proclamation which constituted that body declare: "The Counsellors shall not dissolve Parliament." Other difficulties arise from the fact that Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Halsbury, are among the Counsellors.

The Mail understands that the situation is under consideration, and that the possibility of a bill under which the Prince would become Regent was being discussed. No decision has been reached as yet. The paper recalls that there are complete precedents for the proposed course.

The peace pact allows the countries to carry warships in their budgets and friendships in their agreements. —Atlanta Constitution.

Japanese Doctor Wins Cancer Prize

Receives \$1,000 Award for Experimental Research

Munich, Germany.—Prof. So. Yamagita, of the University of Tokio, is the recipient of this year's Dr. Sophia A. Nordhoff Jung Cancer Prize for the best work in cancer research.

The prize, which is worth \$1,000, was awarded Yamagita by a unanimous decision of the committee for his experimental production of cancer in animals painted and injected with tar and for his investigations of cancerous growths in their promotion and retardation.

The prize was founded by Dr. Nordhoff, a woman physician of Washington, D.C. The committee was composed of four well-known German scientists, Professors Dorst, Doederlin, von Romberg and Sauerbruch.

Scottish Nationalism

New Statesman (London): No nationalist movement can hope to succeed without a touch of the inspiration of anger. In the Scottish movement this wholesome irritant is supplied by the huge influx of Irish labor into the west and the industrial belt of Scotland. Already in Glasgow with its Presbyterian motto, "Let Glasgow flourish by the preaching of the Word," the largest religious communion is the Roman Catholic, and apart from the fresh arrivals, the Irish are displacing the Scots by their greater fertility. The Irish in Scotland do not become Scottish; they remain Irish, an dit is largely the fear that their country is being taken from them which inspires what there is of a native feeling of revolt in the Scottish Nationalist movement.

MARKETS

HAY AND STRAW

Local wholesale hay and straw dealers are making the following quotations to farmers (delivered at Toronto):

No. 1 timothy, loose, \$18 to \$20; do, baled, nominal; No. 2, do, do, \$13 to \$14; No. 3, do, do, \$11 to \$13; lower grades, \$8 to \$9; wheat, straw, \$9.50; oats straw, \$9.

GRAIN QUOTATIONS

Grain dealers on the Toronto Board of Trade are making the following quotations for cash lots:

Man. wheat—No. 2 North, \$1.32; No. 3 North, \$1.28; No. 4 wheat, \$1.24; No. 5 wheat, \$1.14; No. 6 wheat, \$1.02; feed wheat, \$1.02 (c.i.f. Goderich and Bay ports. Price on track, 1c higher than above.)

Man. oats—No. 1 feed, \$1.02; No. 2 feed, 55¢c. (c.i.f. Goderich and Bay ports.)

Am. corn—No. 2 yellow, kiln-dried, \$1.10; No. 3 yellow, kiln-dried, \$1.07; No. 4 yellow, kiln-dried, \$1.05. (Del. Toronto.)

Millfeed, del. Montreal freights, bags included—Bran, per ton, \$34.25; shorts, per ton, \$36.25; middlings, \$41.25.

Ont. oats—Good, sound, heavy oats in car lots, 52 to 55c, f.o.b. shipping points.

Ont. good milling wheat, f.o.b. shipping points, according to freights, \$1.30 to \$1.32.

Barley—Maltng, 76 to 79c. Buckwheat—\$8 to 90c.

Rye—No. 2, \$1.05.

Man. flour—First pats., in jute, \$7.60, Toronto; second pats., in jute, \$6.60.

Ont. flour—Track, Montreal, car lots—90 per cent. pats., per bbl., \$5.70.

SEED PRICE QUOTATIONS. The following range of prices, f.o.b. shipping points in Ontario, is being offered:

Alsike—No. 1, 97 per cent. purity, per bus., \$10; No. 2, 96 per cent. purity, per bus., \$9; No. 3, 95 per cent. purity, per bus., \$7.50; No. 4, 90 per cent. purity, per bus., \$6.

Red Clover—No. 1 grade, per bus., \$11; No. 2 grade, per bus., \$9.50; No. 3 grade, per bus., \$8.

Alfalfa—No. 1 grade, per bus., \$14; No. 2 grade, per bus., \$12; No. 3 grade, per bus., \$9.

Sweet Clover—No. 1 bright quality, from machine, per bus., \$1.80; No. 2, off color, from machine, per bus., \$1.25.

LIVESTOCK

Heavy beef steers, \$9.50 to \$10; butchers steers, choice, \$9.50 to \$10; do, fair to good, \$8.50 to \$8.75; do, com., \$7.50 to \$8; butcher heifers, choice, \$9 to \$9.25; do, fair to good, \$8.50 to \$9; do, com., \$7.50 to \$8; butcher cows, good to choice, \$7.25 to \$8; do, com. to med., \$6 to \$6.75; do, canners and cutters, \$4 to \$5; butcher bulls, good to choice, \$7.50 to \$7.75; do, com. to med., \$5 to \$6.25; w. steerlings, \$5 to \$6; baby beef, \$4.00 to \$12.50; feeders, choice, \$8.50 to \$9.00; do, fair to good, \$8 to \$8.50; stragglers, choice, \$8 to \$8.50; do, fair to good, \$7.50 to \$8.50; calves, choice, \$15 to \$16.50; do, med., \$10 to \$14; do, grassers, \$7.50 to \$8; springers, \$90 to \$110; milkers, \$75 to \$90; lambs, per cwt., \$15 to \$15.50; buck-lambs, \$11.50 to \$12; sheep, choice, \$7.50 to \$8.50; do, med., \$5.25 to \$6; do, culls, \$3 to \$4; hogs, selects, w.o.c., \$11.75 to \$12; do, do, fed., \$11.45 to \$11.70; do, do, f.o.b., \$10.75 to \$11; do, thick smooths, w.o.c., \$11.25 to \$11.50.

PRODUCE QUOTATIONS

Toronto wholesale dealers are paying the following prices, delivered Toronto:

Eggs, ungraded, cases returned—Fresh extras, 42c; fresh firsts, 40c; seconds, 32c; pullet extras, 32c.

Butter—Creamery, solids, pasteurized, No. 1, 42¢c; No. 2, 41¢c. Churning cream—Special, 40¢; No. 1, 45¢; No. 2, 42¢.

Cheese—No. 1 large, colored, paraffined and government graded, 21¢c.

Husband—But really, darling, we must try to live within our income. Wife—Live within our income? Don't be so mean, dear! We're not so poor as that.

Before man made us citizens, great nature made us men. —James Russel Lowell.

Winter Will Soon Be Past—Start Now to Season Horses' Shoulders



STEEDS STRAIN WITH MELLOWING FURROWS TURNING FROM THE PLOW Andrew Overend's team competing in the Mullishhead plowing match at Portadown, Ulster, when they took first prize for style and appearance of turnout. Spring work will soon be here. Washing horses' shoulders with strong tea or salt solution will harden the skin for the busy season. Look over collars to see the fit and have good clean, smooth surfaces.