

A New Rural Life.

The pressing problem of rural life is relief from the isolation which is regarded as, in a measure, inseparable from it. The gregarious feeling is among the most insistent needs of human nature. The pioneer settlers in every new country must be people with little need for or dependence on the association of their fellows. They accept, and in a measure enjoy, an isolation that would be intolerable to the great majority in any more developed community. The pioneer opens the way for others with greater need for human associations, and for the social intercourse that is essential to the highest development of civilization. But the isolation of rural life has not been relieved, and it is at present the chief cause of the cityward migration that all must deplore.

Women are for many reasons the greatest sufferers from this condition, which must be regarded as unnatural, and the record of mental disease among them tells a most pathetic story. While woman's need of social intercourse is greater than man's her opportunities in rural life are more restricted and there is nothing in human experience more pathetic than the mental deterioration and collapse that so frequently follow a long and uneventful life of social isolation. The Menonites have solved the problem among themselves by the grouping of about a score of farms, the division of the land, and the erection of contiguous dwelling-houses. Their system provides for quite as much social life and enjoyment as in a village, town or city, and is also economically advantageous. But the strong individualism of Canadians of British extraction precludes the possibility of any general adoption of the village community system.

The earlier communal operations on the farms, the logging bees of the men, the quilting bees of the women, the corn-husking and apple-parings of the younger generations, served a purpose, like that happy Highland custom, the caillidh, more social than industrial or economic. But these good old institutions have gone. Logging bees are a thing of the past. The wool-cards, spinning-wheels and knitting-needles have disappeared. The churn is rare in most localities. The factories take the raw products and supply the needed wares. The farmer and all the members of his household have more leisure than in the earlier days, with the naturally proportionate loss of interest in their work.

So far industrial and economic improvement has been the chief object in view, and the need of greater facilities for social intercourse has not received sufficient attention. But the broader and deeper needs are gaining recognition. The improvement in country roads, inaugurated as an economic reform has become even more important as affording relief from the isolation of country life. The bicycle, too, has done its part, and will become more and more useful as roads are prepared for its use. The rural telephone service must come. Many localities are already alive to the needs of it. In St. Joseph's Island a purely voluntary telephone system has been established from house to house. Each household recognizes its own signal as the call passes through and answers it. The system is so popular that it has already outgrown this primitive method and there is talk of the establishment of a central exchange board. A half hour's chat with a neighbour near or distant relieves the monotony of a long day. Social engagements are made and evening entertainments arranged without inconvenience. The whole community has been brought closer together, and the oppressive spell of isolation has been broken.

Rural mail delivery will also tend to relieve that one unfavourable feature of farm life. The daily newspaper, the promptly delivered magazine, the certainty of personal correspondence, are changes that will materially improve social conditions. The reading circle will take the place of the earlier communal industries, and, while filling social needs, will broaden the mental horizon. Clubs and circles for nature study, for musical, literary and artistic studies and pursuits, will grow up. These must become the objects of life after the material needs are satisfied. Rural life must become adjusted to new conditions, and the primary need is easy and frequent communication, leading to the establishment of better social relationships.

To Cure a Cold in a Day.

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

Treatment of Negro Physicians.

The relations which have existed between the white and colored physicians of the South have been most commendable. The colored physicians have been treated with courtesy and respect by the white medical profession, who have given them all needed assistance in serious cases and difficult surgical operations. There is less friction between the two races in the practice of medicine than in any other department of industrial or professional activity. It is to be hoped that this kindly feeling which now prevails will, in the years to come, prove to be a potent factor in establishing a better understanding between the two races.—[Dr. George W. Hubbard in Southern Workman.

Sunday School Evangelistic Week and Decision Day.

It is recommended by the International Sunday School Executive, that all Sunday School Associations observe Decision Day with such preparatory work as may help to make it effective.

In harmony with the acceptance of other Provincial and State Associations, the New Brunswick Executive have adopted the week preceding Easter Sunday—April 5th-11th—for special evangelistic work for our Sunday schools, using Sunday 12th, as a day of decision or ingathering.

Doubtless some will make their own plans, while others will welcome suggestions. For the latter, the committee make the following outline:—

At a reasonably early date—not later than March 22nd, let pastor, officers and teachers unite in prayerful conference to form such plans as may be in agreement with the church rules, to bring about the object contemplated.

On the next Sunday after such conference, let the pastor preach to parents showing them their responsibility and asking a hearty co-operation with their teachers. We also advise the distribution of leaflet literature promoting this subject among teachers and parents. A little book on "Decision Day in the Sunday school," by Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman, can be obtained free by sending postage at the rate of one cent per five copies, to the Secretary's office—Rev. A. Lucas, Sussex, N. B.

We advise each teacher to visit parents of scholars in his class, conferring with them on the aim of the school, and the best methods of winning their own children to Christ.

On Sunday, April 5th, let one sermon be on the subject of early conversion, trying to have children, teachers and parents present. Let the session of Sunday school on this day be followed by a prayer-meeting, specially seeking the guidance and help to the Holy Spirit.

During the week several meetings should be held with the scholars for simple instruction on the plan of salvation as the only means of escaping from sin and its evils.

So far as possible a teacher should seek personal conversation with each individual scholar, making plain the way of salvation.

Sunday 12th, should especially be used for opportunities of confessing Christ by those who have decided, not forgetting to aid such as do not as yet clearly understand.

In the school session the exercises may include prayer by teachers, and a brief appealing address by pastor or other person.

Some schools distribute cards containing the following:—

DECISION DAY CARD.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His Righteousness."

MY DECISION.

Believing that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Saviour of the world, and that no other name is given under heaven among men by which men can be saved, and further

Realizing that I am a sinner and cannot save myself, I do now, after having carefully read God's word and engaged in earnest prayer, decide to accept Christ as my Savior, to begin a christian life, and to unite with the church of God.

Name.

Address.

Teacher.

"Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."

In all we do let us seek only to be instruments of the Holy Spirit, being careful not to hinder His work. Some hinder by being silent when He wants us to be His mouthpiece, but we can talk too much and frustrate the operation of the Spirit. He will guide. Let us follow.

T. S. SIMMS

REV. T. F. FOTHERINGHAM D. D.

REV. G. C. GATES, D. D.

REV. A. LUCAS, Committee.

To aid superintendents and others the committee sends this circular to every newspaper in the Province, for early insertion, and they will make the March issue of The Sunday School Advocate a special evangelistic number, suitable for distribution. Extra copies can be obtained by sending to the Secretary, Rev. A. Lucas, Sussex, N. B., before Feb. 22nd, at the rate of one dollar per 100.

A Good Showing.

As a result of the commercial prosperity in Canada during the past year, the Life Assurance Companies have largely increased their business.

The amount of new business written in Canada by the leading Canadian Companies is as follows:—

1 North American Life.....	\$4,640,890.00
2 Canadian Life.....	4,521,713.00
3 Mutual Life.....	4,181,040.00
4 Imperial Life.....	4,127,642.00
5 Sun Life.....	3,793,829.00
6 Great West Life.....	3,788,200.00

"So the Smiths have grown stuck up since the old man made such a lot of money, have they?" "Awfully! Why, instead of an ordinary 8 they spell their name with a dollar mark (\$)."—Brooklyn Life.

WOMEN'S ILLS.

Promptly Relieved and Cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are woman's best friend. They enrich the blood, tone up the nerves, and strengthen the vital organs to perform their functions regularly. They bring the rosy cheeks and shapely forms that tell of good health and happiness. To the growing girl they are invaluable. To the mother they are a necessity. To the woman of forty-five they mean relief and ease. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are the best medicine that science has devised for women at all periods of life. These pills succeed when all else fails. Thousands of grateful women endorse the truth of these statements. Mrs. John White, Sahantien, Ont., says: "It gives me pleasure to bear testimony to the great value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills as a cure for the ailments that afflict so many women. I suffered greatly and the periods were very irregular, but thanks to these pills I am now quite well and free from the pains that made my life almost a burden. I cheerfully give my experience for the benefit of suffering women."

Remember that substitutes cannot cure and see that the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People" is on the wrapper around every box. If in doubt send direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and the pills will be mailed, post-paid, at 50c. per box, or six boxes for \$2.50.

While many European countries are suffering from depression it is encouraging for Canada that the general tone of the British market, on which we are getting to be so dependent, is good. The year just closed was on the whole a good one for trade in the Motherland and was marked by much reorganization and necessary reconstruction, all of which will have good permanent effects. The stress and strain of these latter days has pointed out the need of newer methods, which, being adopted, Great Britain is putting herself farther away from the fear of successful foreign competition. There are indications now that the British cabinet will have a Minister of Commerce, who himself has been a commercial man, and under whose direction England's commerce ought to improve more rapidly than it has done in the past.—The Maritime Merchant.

"Do you get a rest every summer, Mr. Shadda?"

"Oh, yes, thank goodness; I am only in business—I'm not in society."

BORN.

SMITH.—At Woodstock, on Friday, February 13th, to the wife of B. Harry Smith, a son.

DIED.

TOMPKINS.—At Cabano, Quebec, Feb. 5th, 1903, Mary Edna, infant daughter of Sarah E. and Zediascher Tompkins. Although baby's life was brief, she lived long enough to endear herself to many, for love is always responsive to the touch of baby fingers. Seldom would one see a fairer face or form, than was given this bud plucked so early by the Master's hand; and though the parents would fain have kept their little darling, they bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well. Mr. Tompkins took the remains to River de Chute, N. B., (his old home,) for interment.

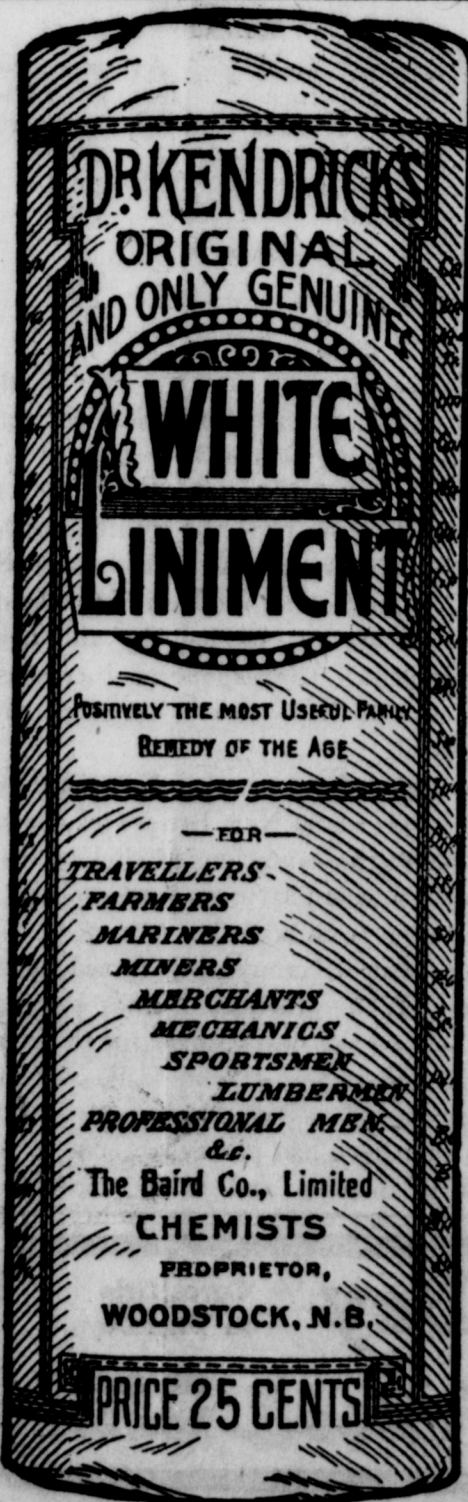
MARRIAGE LICENSES

WEDDING RINGS.

Marriage Licenses issued and Wedding Rings sold, guaranteed as stamped U. S. assay, at

W. B. JEWETT'S.

JEWETT'S CORNER, WOODSTOCK.



You Will Admit

After having worn a "FIT-REFORM" SUIT OR OVERCOAT, that

The original platform of "THE FIT-REFORM Co." viz: Clothing Ready-to-Wear, Equal to the Custom Tailor, at one half the cost, will be proven beyond doubt.



FIT REFORM

has become more and more popular. "IT'S WEARERS KNOW THE REASON."

B. B. MANZER

At Church on Easter Sunday



Every man not only wants to look his best, but if possible better than any other man. If you have your Easter Suit, Overcoat, or Trousers made by NICHOLSON, you will have no reason to regret any detail of your personal appearance, as the style and fit of your garments will be unsurpassed. We are securing a larger direct importation of seasonable goods, which we will make up in the most artistic style.

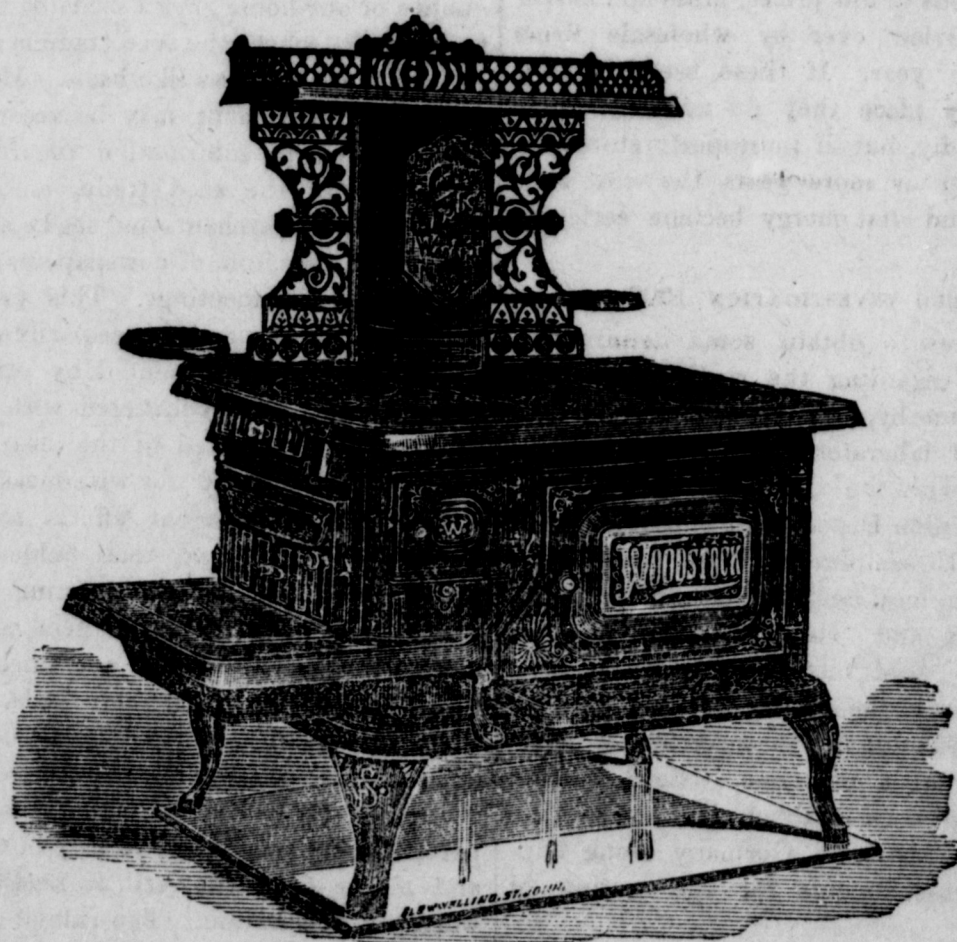
W. B. NICHOLSON, Merchant Tailor, Woodstock, N. B.

Busy at keeping out the cold these days. Storm Doors and Windows are a specialty with us. Better order these in time. Remember the high price of fuel.

Woodstock Woodworking Co.

WOODWORK of all kinds.

THE WOODSTOCK RANGE.



The Methodist Parsonage, Jacksonville, Carleton Co., N. B., Oct. 11th, 1902. Messrs. Small & Fisher, Woodstock:

Gentlemen,—After upwards of thirty years experience with a large variety of cook stoves, none has ever given the satisfaction derived from your "Woodstock." It is a perfect heater and baker, keeps the water tank hot day and night, with less fuel than any stove we have ever had in our parsonages.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN C. BERRIE.

P. S.—I kept the fire going night and day from the 1st of October to the end of March with less than five cords of hardwood.—J.C.B.

SMALL & FISHER COMPANY, Limited, WOODSTOCK, N. B.

DR. MANZER,

DENTIST,

WOODSTOCK, N. B.