

THE DAILY MAIL

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TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1918

THE VALUE OF SNOW.

Writing on "Snow and Its Value to the Farmer" in The Scientific Monthly (New York, February), Dr. Andrew H. Palmer, of the United States Weather Bureau, reminds us that in cities snow probably does more harm than good. It makes walking difficult, delays transportation and interferes with wire communication. To the farmer, however, snow is an asset. Although it does make roads impassable for a time, and although in the plains of the west a heavy fall temporarily cuts off the food supply of cattle, snow may be considered an agricultural resource. "A snow year, a rich year," says one proverb. Dr. Palmer goes on:

"As a protective covering or blanket, snow serves very much like leaves or straw, only in a lesser degree. The denser the snow the poorer it is as a protector. Loosely packed snow containing much air mixed with it serves as the best blanket. Besides being a poorer conductor of heat, and therefore a better protector than ice, loose snow permits the respiration of submerged vegetation, which proceeds even at temperatures far below that at which actual growth is possible. Grass and grain are sometimes smothered when the snow, through alternate thawing and freezing, is converted into ice."

Besides serving as a blanket, a covering of snow prevents evaporation from the soil and also prevents winter winds from tearing the dormant vegetation. Furthermore, snow permits the penetration of some light, and light can replace heat to a considerable extent in the processes of vegetation. To quote further:

"Snow has aptly been called 'the poor man's manure.' The reason is obvious. The melting snow moistens the soil gently and gradually without condensing particles by pounding them, and without floating up any clayey mud to the surface to encrust the land when it dries. Rain compacts the surface soil, but snow and frost loosen it."

"Snow also checks the run-off when the temperature is low. Ground water is replenished more easily by the melting of snow or by rain falling on the snow, than it is when an equal amount of rain falls upon bare ground. Moreover, the beneficial effects persist longer, the beneficial effects persist longer."

"As a source of moisture, snow is perhaps less important than rain, generally speaking. However, in the western portions of the United States the winter snows furnish practically all the water used for irrigation and power purposes throughout the year. Fortunately, the snowfall in the western mountains is abundant. Packed by compression as well as by alternate freezing and thawing, great banks and drifts of snow solidify to ice. Slow melting follows in the spring and summer, the resulting water collecting in natural and artificial reservoirs to form the only available summer supply."

Among other services of snow on the farm, Dr. Palmer specifies its value as a roadbed for hauling by sled. Logging and lumbering, as well as the transportation of bulky and weighty quantities of grain, wood, coal and ice, could not be accomplished without the snow. He goes on:

"Every farmer has observed that a good hay crop follows a winter of abundant snow. After such a winter the subsoil is almost saturated."

We have certainly had a most liberal supply of snow during the present winter and it is to be hoped that it will result in better crops during the coming season, and thus help out the increased production movement.

The Standard, in commenting on recent legislation brought down in the Legislature, claims that the old government would have done all the things for the betterment of the province that Premier Foster and his colleagues are now doing. The old government certainly had an opportunity to do a lot, but sadly neglected it. The members were too busily engaged in playing the game of politics

and looking after the interests of certain financial agents and other friends, to give serious attention to the interests of the province. The new government is now doing the things which the old administration should have done, but did not do. In other words, the old government did those things which it ought not to have done, and left undone those things which it ought to have done.

Government bills now before the Legislature include a new Highway Act, a Workmen's Compensation Act, a bill to provide for the reorganization of the Crown Land Department, and a bill to amend the forest fire law. More important measures are still to come. Not since Confederation has such an extensive programme of constructive legislation been brought down in a single session.

The federal government has made a grant of twelve million dollars towards the rebuilding of Halifax. An individual losses up to \$5,000 will be paid in full. The government's action will meet with general approval of the country.

Company was Fined.

The case of the Dominion Express Co. charged with delivering intoxicating liquor and not keeping a record of the same, was before the police magistrate Tuesday afternoon. The company was fined \$80.

Sentenced to Two Years.

The young lad charged with stealing \$5 from a local place of business was sentenced to two years in the Boys' Industrial Home at St. John this afternoon.

Through Our Sieve

Teuton militarism is swelling up like a poisoned pup.

Germany is also obtaining a slice of Sweden's place in the sun.

After this war the holy land will be a good deal holier than it was.

Folks who say a man is his own worst enemy generally turn in and help his enemy.

Father gets the benefit of the dispute when the children can't agree how he should be brought up.

The more than 2,000,000 crosses which have been given to the German soldiers are not the only crosses they are bearing.

"I know girl's necks are warm these days," says an observing friend, "because they are cool in summer."

When a man tells a woman that he understands women he is at once classified as an easy mark.

No wonder some women look faded—they spend too much time casting withering glances at the men.

If the mere people will adjust their human difficulties the amiable hen and the genial cow will do their bit.

In these days of abbreviated skirts and marriages, what woman will admit that she can remember the time when her husband always rode gracefully into a ballroom on the train of her gown.

Alackaday! By the time a man has made enough money to enable his wife to command elegance in dressing she usually is too stout to show off the clothes.

Expected Home Tonight.

Several returned soldiers from this vicinity who arrived at St. John yesterday are expected home tonight. Among them are Lieut. Gerald Hubbard, son of Mr. W. W. Hubbard of this city, Sergt. Major A. Walton, A. Kitchen and C. McMeniman. Other returned soldiers from this section who have arrived at St. John are Archie Pond and Amos Pond of Marysville and Harry Gregory of this city. Ray Kean of North Devon, also is at St. John.

Donations Acknowledged.

The Ashburnham Branch of the Red Cross Society acknowledge the following with thanks: Mrs. A. E. Kilburn, \$5, A. Friend, \$16. The proceeds of a pie social held at Burt's Corner by the following committee: P. A. Sparks, V. S. Griffiths, L. A. Pugh and O. M. Pugh and amounting to \$30.95. Also fifteen pajama suits, fourteen hospital shirts, six pillow slips, six towels from the Parish of St. C. C. C.

Wife Seriously Ill.

Private Fred Abrahams of the Central Ontario Draft, who was seriously ill in the Park Barracks Hospital some time ago and whose wife was called here on that account, left last night for Providence, R. I., where his wife now is seriously ill as the result of a heavy cold she caught while here.

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AN IRISH EDEN APPRECIATED BY LARGE AUDIENCE

ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY ENTERTAINMENT

Excellent Specialties Between Acts—Local Amateurs Give Very Creditable Performance.

"An Irish Eden," a three act drama produced under the auspices of Division No. 1, A.O.H., was produced at St. Dunstan's Hall last night to a packed house. The cast was made up of local talent and included twenty-one characters. All played their parts well. The leads, Miss Dorothy Dever and Mr. Murray Cain, made a fine impression.

The specialties between the acts were very much enjoyed and resulted in many encores. Mr. Wm. A. Walsh's reading between the first and second acts was much appreciated as was also the comedy juggling act between the second and third acts by Messrs. Cox and Feeney.

Those in the cast of characters were as follows:

Joseph A. Cain, Alfred J. Hanlon, Murray Cain, Leo Cain, Earl Doohan, Gregory T. Feeney, Raymond Moore, John Ryan, Dorothy Dever, Marguerite Shea, Mabel Carten, May Doohan, J. Neil Collins, Marie Feeney, Agnes Feeney, Mary Shea, Beatrice Cain, Catherine Cain, Fred McGinnis, Alfred McLennahan, Jack Ivory.

Reported Seriously Ill.

Private J. F. McManus of South Devon, son of Mr. Frank McManus, is reported in the casualty list as seriously ill.

Deserter Sent to St. John.

A deserter from the 236th Battalion, MacLean Highlanders, who gave himself up to the local authorities yesterday was sent to St. John under escort last night.

Assault Case Dismissed.

The assault case from Devon in which a large number of the residents of South Devon were summoned as witnesses, was dismissed by Police Magistrate Limerick yesterday with a caution to the principals not to return. The proceedings were rather comic at times.

"CIVILIZATION" MIGHTIEST FILM SPECTACLE

Fascinating Story Given to the Screen at Almost Fabulous Cost.

(Toronto Daily News.)

So thinly veiled is the story of "Civilization" shown at Massey Hall this week, that the blood red hand of Prussianism shows through it from start to finish, like an ugly thing. The picture is not merely an indictment of any present world culture, but rather a showing forth of certain latent forces that have always been rampant beneath a veneer of civilization.

The theme is obviously anti-German but not anti-human, and shows conclusively that the real regeneration even of Germany, if it is to come, must come from some latent spark of spirituality within itself, working principally through the unselfish devotion of some tiny remnant of its own womankind. The story of Count Ferdinand and his sweetheart, Kathryn, lends enough personal interest to the picture to relieve some of the Divine Personality, and its particular relation to Count Ferdinand, might cause room for debate in some quarters, on the whole the subject was reverently handled. As a product of the stage director's and the photographer's art "Civilization" is one of the finest pictures ever produced. The second part of the film is most spectacular and realistic—a fleet of airships raining bombs on a doomed city, while warships share the bombardment from a distant harbor.

"The Birth of a Nation" fine as it was, was almost crudely staged beside this latest masterpiece of the Ince Studio, and if the size of last night's audience can be taken as a criterion, a great two weeks are in store for this picture in Toronto. "Civilization" will be presented at the Gem Theatre, Wednesday, and Thursday, this week.

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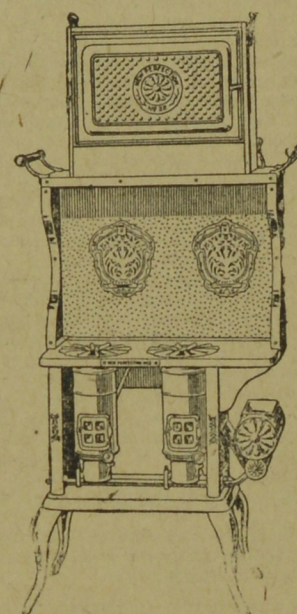
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