

THE DAILY MAIL

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THE FARMER AND POLITICS.

At a time when old political divisions are fading out and new lines of cleavage, often following the boundaries of class or of occupation, are beginning to appear, it is interesting, says an exchange, to speculate on the probable course that the great farming population of the country will take. The farmers do not, perhaps, number an actual majority of the voters, but they come so near it that their influence, if it could be diverted to the support of any single party, would be quite decisive.

But it has always been quite impossible to control the agricultural vote. The farmer is the most independent citizen that exists. He is usually his own master; he comes nearer than anyone else to producing for himself and his family all the necessities of life; he thinks much and independently; he is less subject than the town dweller and the craftsman to the infection of crowd or class opinion.

The new Labor party in the United States promises to make a special effort to affiliate with itself farmers' organizations all over the country, and in so far as both workingmen and farmers are agreed upon a vague discontent with present conditions and a desire for a larger share in profit making and in the political management of the country there is an apparent basis for such a union.

But no movement that hopes to meet the problems of society by a constantly increasing scale of pay for a constantly diminishing amount of work can get permanent support from the farmers. Some effort has been made in the past to unionize farm labor, but it never amounted to anything. The farmers' experience of life has taught them that easier conditions can be obtained only through increased production, and that you cannot get production without work. They are the practical economists; they have never succumbed to the fallacy that has deceived thousands of town dwellers in commercial and industrial occupations alike—that something can somehow be had for nothing. They know they must work, and work hard, if the world is to be fed, and that others must work hard if it is to have the other necessities and comforts of life. No more sensible views on the present situation have been expressed by anyone than those embodied in the resolutions of the International Farm Congress that met recently at Kansas city. They put the blame for the high cost of living where it belongs—on the tendency toward idleness among all classes of the people and on the disposition of employers, merchants and work people alike to demand more than their services to the community are fairly worth.

The city was thronged with visitors on Saturday and local merchants report the best days business on record. The farmers came to the market in hundreds and after disposing of their product at good prices, made a round of the city stores, where they expended

most of the money which they gathered in during the forenoon. The interests of the residents of the city and country are closely interwoven, and it is decidedly to the advantage of both that they should trade with one another. Fredericton would not amount to much were it not for the support of the workers of the surrounding country.

Says the Woodstock, Ont., Sentinel-Review: A man was complaining on the Toronto market on Saturday of the present price of eggs. No, he was not a buyer, but a farmer, with eggs to sell. He declared that even if he got three dollars a dozen he would still be behind, at the present cost of producing eggs. He continued to persevere in the business of producing and selling eggs because he was sustained by the hope that in some way he would be able to make good his loss. The capacity for self-sacrifice of some people is almost beyond belief.

New York Sun: Americans are fully satisfied for things to remain as they are. Should Great Britain ever offer the islands (the West Indies) for sale this country would feel it necessary to buy them, for it cannot afford to permit another power to entrench itself so close to the Panama Canal. But, so long as the British hold them, the United States feels that they are in safe hands. The guns and the battle-ships at Kingston are more a protection than a menace to the canal.

It is just as well perhaps that Sir Robert Borden has decided to hold on to the Premiership for the time. Neither party wants an election at the present time and the combination now in charge of affairs at Ottawa could not be held together by any other leader. Sir Robert Borden will leave early in the new year for an unknown destination for a long and much needed rest.

Boston Transcript: At the rate her audacity is growing, how long will it be before Germany will be demanding pay for the ships the Allies permitted her men to sink at Scapa Flow?

THROUGH OUR SIEVE

Two more shopping-days—to say nothing of three more evenings.

A beautiful disposition doesn't need a powder puff and a lipstick to make it attractive.

You can't scare Santa Claus with the high cost of things—why he's a promoter of that sort of thing.

Our own fashion note: Purses will be worn shorter after Christmas, until further notice.

A woman who coddles a poodle can't get any joy trying to make it believe in Santa Claus.

If the people in heaven know what is transpiring on earth they must think it is the other place.

Discipline sometimes comes in the form of hard luck. That is when we have to take it, with or without smiling.

When an old bachelor dreams he's married, and an old maid dreams she's never going to be, each talks next morning about the "dreadful nightmare" they had.

Someone with an imagination and a good line of chatter recently sold a Kansas farmer stock in a mythical company organized to furnish the world with ice from the North Pole. Next someone will be trying to finance a company to deal in coke from Hades.

GEM THEATRE
BURNED TO SHELL
SUNDAY MORN'G

(Continued from page 8.)
ular attention to cutting the fire off at the rear of the theatre and the snow on the roofs protected the dwellings to a great extent.

Fought From Outside
The firemen were forced to fight the flames by pouring water on from the outside which is contrary to their usual procedure of "inside" fighting. Four streams were laid as soon as possible and the pumping-station gave excellent pressure at all times. Celluloid film added to the flames and the large open interior gave every chance to the fire. At various times the gallery and the front part of the roof fell in with loud crashes.

That part of the building near the screen escaped the best. The stage and wings although damaged still are there with a part of the roof over them. The rest of the theatre is a tangled mass of ruins in the basement.

Another Zero Fire
Again the firemen drew zero weather for a bad fire. Although the cold was not so severe as on Wednesday night when the Auld Kirk apartments burned, the mercury was several degrees below zero. The firemen felt the cold and the ruins after the fire were covered by masses of icicles.

Ruins Enclosed
Sunday morning police were detailed to warn people off the side walks in the vicinity of the ruins and about noon a barrier was erected to enclose the building and lessen danger from collapsing walls.

Staff of Theatre
The Gem Theatre was managed for Mr. Spencer by A. D. Callan formerly of St. John. Other members of the staff were James Collins, collector; Albert Harrison, caretaker; Miss Lilian Conley, ticket seller; Miss Alice White, pianist; Misses Eva Cyr and Gertrude Farrell, ushers, and John Merriman, operator. Mr. Callan was in Woodstock at the time of the fire always spending the week-ends in that town in connection with a picture-house there.

It is not known what action will be taken with regard to Mr. Spencer's business here. The fire leaves Fredericton with but one picture-house unless the Opera House is used for that. It is not believed that anything can be done with the ruined building until spring.

It is reported that representatives of Mr. Spencer already have opened negotiations for the Opera House.

Insurance on Building
Mrs. D. M. Richards who is not at home today was insured for \$7,000 on the building and \$1,000 on contents. This with \$3,000 carried by F. G. Spencer Limited makes \$11,000 in all. A total loss is the general verdict today and the fire loss is believed to be about \$18,000. Mr. Spencer is said to be further protected by a "use and occupancy" clause. Mr. John Merriman operator lost personal effects to a considerable amount.

May Quit Politics
Word comes from Carleton County to the effect that Hon. B. Frank Smith has grown tired of the political game and has intimated to friends that he will not be a candidate for reelection. Mr. Smith is now in Boston and it is said will engage in the brokerage business and make his permanent abode in that city. While in Boston the member for Carleton will be fairly safe from the sight draft vampires of the opposition.

Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Belyea of Upper Gagetown are at the Queen.

Wool Underwear

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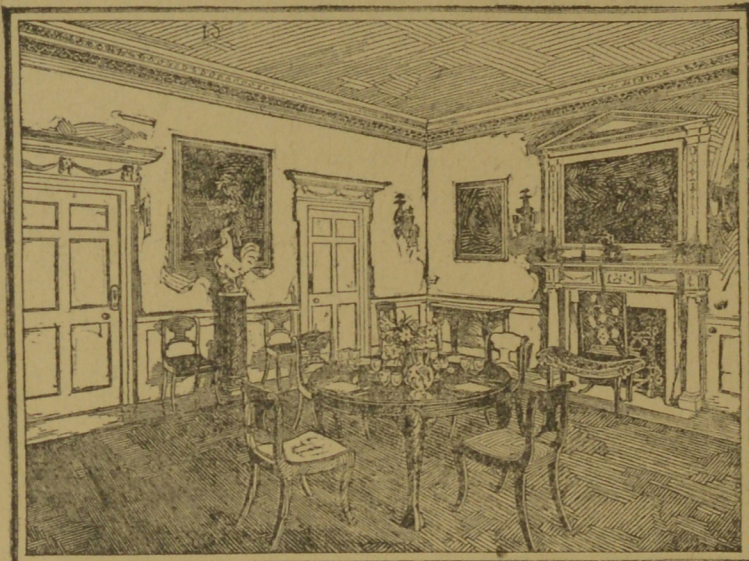
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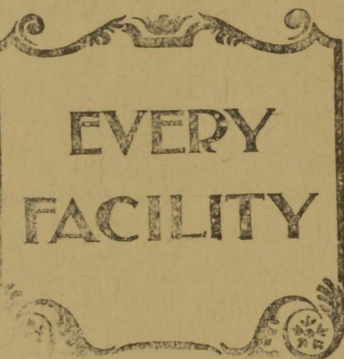
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