

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

Germany and Tramps.

GERMANY has solved the tramp problem. It is announced that she is reasonably free from vagrants, and that such as are slinking about the byways are a relatively harmless lot, who seldom commit robberies and assaults of magnitude. And the way she has settled the difficulty is this: She arrests all tramps and puts them at work. She makes the work so much harder than the work of decent men that, after a trial of it, the tramps reform and quit the road. In our own country we have an army of the useless and vicious, from which is annually recruited a considerable addition to the ranks of the active criminals.

There is not so much in vagrancy itself which conduces to crime. Indeed some men would be in better health and morals if they occasionally allowed their legs to run away with them and carry them into the country, where they would renew the physical life that grows anemic at the bench and the desk. It is not the free and open air life that demands; it is the effort to live without work; to get all and give nothing; to shift and sneak and steal in order to obtain food, instead of toiling honestly, even for an hour or two a day. Many of the tramps that are now idling along our highways and "hooking" rides on freight trains could pay for their meals by sawing a little wood, or weeding a garden patch, but they are extremely unwilling to do it, although not infrequently they work as hard at robbery as other people do at honorable employment.

Tramps carry moral corruption as they do physical contagion. Although mentally sodden and representative of a class that gradually eliminates itself, since it is an easy prey to the diseases that are invited by meager, un-governed life, with spells of dissipation and periods of exposure and hardship, they exert some influence over young people whose minds and habits are still unformed, and when a boy is found in their company prison authorities assure us that it would be better for him if he were dead. The boys who drift into the reformatories and goals of the land, after a season on the road, are among the most depraved that the authorities have to deal with. Our tramp army, then, is a missionary company that is going about the land preaching and practicing the most detestable of vices and often involved in crime.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Time to Close the Gates.

LONDON newspapers are gloating over the fact that the slums of that city are being depleted by reason of the \$9.60 steerage rate, which enables the riffraff of Europe to come to the United States. As a result this country is threatened with a deluge of the offscourings of the world. We are menaced with an overflow of the scum and dregs of pauperized humanity. The managers of the transatlantic steamship lines engaged in this despicable traffic apparently have no other thought in the matter than of the income it brings. Having landed a shipload of the refuse of Europe's population on our shores these steamship agents practically say: "Now, you beggars, shift for yourselves!"

The situation demands immediate and energetic action on the part of the immigration authorities at our Eastern ports. There ought to be a thorough sifting and winnowing of this horde of newcomers, a majority of whom are chronic beggars and professional criminals.

The steerage rate war, which has brought the emigrant fare from Liverpool to New York down to \$10, is the kind of a rate war which no thoughtful American citizen can regard with satisfaction. On the contrary it suggests a deluge of pauper immigrants of the most undesirable type.

It is easy to see how, under a possible continuation of these rates, several of the old world governments can well afford to pay the passage of countless hordes of their poverty-stricken, ignorant and turbulent subjects to America, making this country a dump for the refuse of continental Europe. Here is a subject which should arouse Congress to speedy action. When a person can travel from the Roumanian provinces to New York for \$15, it is time to set about putting up the bars in earnest.

This country welcomes thrift, intelligence and loyalty to law and order from whatever land they hail. But our republican institutions are already taxed to the danger

point in the effort to assimilate the legions of illiterate immigrants that are coming to our shores from southern and far eastern Europe. There is a general feeling that the time has come to impose greater restrictions upon the importation of this class of persons.

Those who assert that this would be a violation of the tradition that this country is the asylum for the oppressed of all races should remember that with nations as with individuals, self-preservation is the first law of nature.—Chicago Journal.

"Passing of the Country Church."

THE Passing of the Country Church" is the title of an interesting article in the Outlook by James E. Boyle. From this article we learn, if we do not already know it, that the country, upon which we have been accustomed to look as the stronghold of organized religion, has lost its character as such in recent years. According to Mr. Boyle, the decay of the rural church is due chiefly to the tendency to schisms and divisions. The congregations divide and subdivide over some new religious fad or some difference in dogma, and with each division the amount of true religion decreases.

"The rural church," says Mr. Boyle, "seems doomed. Each time it changes name—now Baptist, now New Light, now Saint—it loses in membership and vitality. Its fire may be rekindled temporarily, but its ultimate extinction is inevitable. Soon the little church stands by the wayside forsaken. The doorstep decked with tall weeds, the windows broken. Then it becomes a granary or a corn crib for some thrifty farmer, or is torn down and carried away. This process may take years, even decades, but it is inevitable."

Mr. Boyle does not think that the decline of the rural church is accompanied by an increase of vice and crime in the rural districts. The country school house is better and more influential than ever. The rural free delivery mail box is fast appearing at every front gate. Intelligence is more widely disseminated than formerly. There is less ignorance. The people are no longer interested in the kind of preaching that used to appeal to them.

The higher order of rural intelligence demands a better church than the old country church ever was or could be. In the future Mr. Boyle thinks the church people of the country will belong to strong and ably conducted churches in the towns and villages. Thus the building of good roads, the introduction of rural free delivery, the building of suburban trolley lines and the popularization of the automobile will have a good effect religiously as well as materially, for they will strongly tend to give the rural communities a better religious connection than they ever had in the old days of small country churches.—Minneapolis Journal.

What Kills Men in War.

IN the last issue of the Army and Navy Journal some data are given as to the number of wounds actually inflicted by the bayonet and saber as compared with firearms and artillery. Of all wounds treated by medical officers of the Union armies in the Civil War about four-tenths of 1 per cent, or 922 out of 240,712, were saber or bayonet wounds. In the Crimean War the English and French had 2½ per cent of such wounds; in the Schleswig-Holstein War about 3 per cent, while in the Franco-Prussian War the records show that the Germans received less than one-third of 1 per cent.

A striking commentary this upon the advance of modern military science, showing that with the general adoption of long range firearms the saber and bayonet are rapidly falling into disuse, and the time is coming, if it has not already arrived, when those old and honored weapons will become obsolete.

But it is not the bullet or the artillery fire which strikes down the largest number of men. It is disease. In the Civil War one man out of every 6.7 was wounded in action; one of every 38 died of his wounds; one of every 42.7 was killed in action. Of the total mortality among colored soldiers 60 per cent was from disease. Of the total mortality among the white volunteers, 70 per cent was owing to disease; among the white regulars, 60 per cent.—Chicago Tribune.

ACCURATE RAILROAD WATCHES.

Companies Require Employees to Adjust Their Timepieces to Standard.

Absolute accuracy in timepieces is nowhere else so vital a matter as in the operation of railroad trains. If watches vary no schedule or time table is of any value. Where so many thousands of watches are in use it has been found necessary to adopt some system whereby perfect uniformity may be insured. All watches are examined at close intervals and kept in order by a staff of experts especially engaged for the purpose. There is no reason why a railroad man's watch should keep inaccurate time. It costs him nothing to have it regulated and it is part of his duty to see that it is in order.

The time by which the watches of an entire railroad force are set is telegraphed from Washington. At a certain time the operator at the railroad headquarters receives the time, records it at his own station and at the same instant sends the information to every "train-order" station along the line. It is the duty of the operator at the train-order station to set the clock right by Washington time and from that clock every employe attached to that station must set his watch.

At every station there is a clock that records standard time. At the larger stations there is a clock that records the correct time to a second. If it varies from the standard time a notice is affixed to the clock stating the exact variation. Upon returning from a trip or before beginning the return trip after a run, the trainmen must compare their watches with this carefully regulated clock. If it is found that the watch has lost or gained during the trip the timepiece must be handed in to the time-keeping department.

Here the railroad man receives another watch for temporary use while his own is being regulated, and the expert employed by the company overhauls the condemned watch and returns it later to the owner. With the watch is given a certificate showing that the department has regulated it

and it is again a good railroad time-piece.

Besides the watches of the train crews, there are still the timepieces of all the station employes, the signal tower men, the thousands of hands working along the tracks and in the shops, to be looked after.

For these a special force of experts is employed to travel up and down the line, stopping at all stations. To the expert come the railroad men, watches in hand. From constantly visiting the various points the watch repairer knows the timepiece as well as he knows the men, and a short examination determines whether or not the watch is ticking to proper railroad time.

Part of the duty of the repairer is to see that the station clocks and the clocks in the signal towers along the line are ticking according to railroad time. If they are not doing their duty he halts in his progress long enough to make them register time according to the Washington standard.

The railroad company will not permit the employe to carry any watch his fancy suggests. He must purchase a watch that meets with the favor of the management. If a certain watch comes again and again to the repair department and proves to be always behind or ahead of the time it is condemned finally and the railroad man must provide himself with one to the liking of the company, or carry a watch that the company will provide at his expense.

DANCES A DAY AND A HALF.

Small Woman Infected with Religious Frenzy in English Town.

A small woman has astonished Bradford holiday-makers by dancing without a stop for thirty-six hours.

It was no part of her business thus to exert herself; she simply entered with excessive and unexpected heartiness into the spirit of the great Whitsuntide festival.

A number of women of the Small tribe are proving a great attraction at Bradford exhibition, and it was ex-

plained to them that Whitsuntide is a great religious celebration, corresponding in importance with their Muharram, also an occasion of rejoicing.

The festival proved infectious, for one of the women broke into what is termed "the mad dance." Her companions unconcernedly became passive spectators of the woman's frenzied exertions.

A quick, eccentric and yet at times rhythmic step was maintained for the long period stated. Not for one moment did the dancer pause for refreshment or rest.

She collapsed at the close of the thirty-sixth hour. After an interval she was housed by the other Somali women, who, by beating their tambourines and by cries of exhortation, succeeded in encouraging her to another effort.

The second dance, however, did not last long and the woman again fell exhausted.

Following this bad attack another of the natives—a man—lost his head and frantically threatened the holiday-makers, who were startled by his wild conduct. He was taken in hand by the police, however, and eventually calmed down.—London Express.

Andrew Gleeson's Eloquence.

For twenty years Andrew Gleeson, contractor and builder, was a member of the Republican National Committee for the District of Columbia. He controlled the Irish vote, and Perry Carson controlled the negro vote; and they were very successful, politi-

cally. Carson, the negro, was a natural orator, but Gleeson, rich and powerful, could not make a speech. One evening at a political meeting, where one hundred Irishmen mingled with about two thousand negroes, Perry Carson did not appear, and the crowd called on Gleeson for a speech. He hesitated, shook his head, but finally arose and shouted:

"God bless the Irish, both white and black."

It was his first, last and only speech; but it pleased the crowd all right.



Special correspondence:

The old Romans used to say that Gaul was divided into three parts; so is the Canadian Northwest. Gaul's divisions were political; those of the Western Canada's prairies are created by the unerring hand of nature.

Chiefly because of the elevation of the country, the absence of large lakes and rivers, and the operations of the "Chinook" or Pacific ocean winds, which readily cross the Rocky Mountains in Southern Alberta through gaps and passes, the southwestern portion of the Canadian provinces is regarded as somewhat arid, and less fertile than other portions of the country. Although this has been a prevailing idea in the past, it has been left for American settlers, who have invaded this district within the past two or three years, to prove that splendid crops of grain can be grown on the land, which had hitherto been the feeding ground for the herds of cattle and bands of horses that ranged there.

That ranching is carried on most successfully in other portions of the prairies West, just as agriculture is to a limited extent conducted successfully within this boundary is fully established, but taken as a whole it constitutes a territory above all others most admirably adapted to this particular industry.

The buffalo, bison and other grasses that grow in profusion in this district and retain their nutritive properties the year round, and the moderate climate of mid-winter rendered such by the Chinook winds preventing any considerable depth of snow at any time, especially fit the district for the peculiar methods of the ranchers—raising his herds the year round in the open country.

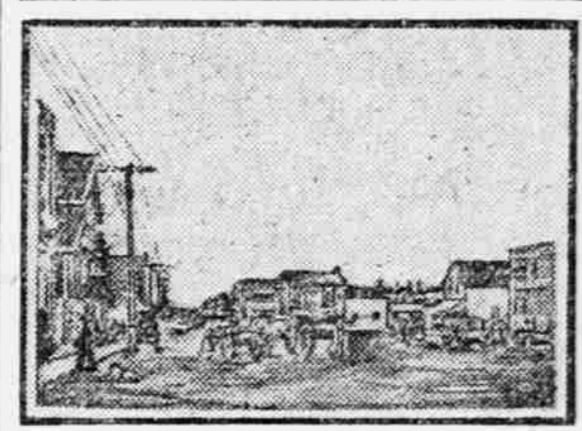
While there are no large lakes or rivers in this whole country, there are numerous fast running streams fed the year round by melting snow in the mountains, furnishing an abundance of the coolest and purest water, the best for beast as well as man. The country has at once an abundance of the best of food and drink the year round, a clear sky, but little wet or stormy weather and a favorable climate the year through. This makes Southern Alberta more especially the most favorable ranching country in the known world, and the enterprise is making most unprecedented headway. Ranchers, however, as well as others, learn that it pays best to raise thoroughbred stock and accordingly the wild herds of scrub horses and cattle are fast giving way to better animals through the importation of thoroughbred males. Just how many ranchers, ranches and horses, cattle and sheep

of spring wheat off \$37,234 acres, an average of 19.04 bushels per acre; off 440,662 acres of oats there were grown 14,179,705 bushels, an average of 32.17 bushels per acre; 69,667 acres produced 1,741,200 bushels of barley, 24.65 to the acre, and 32,341 acres produced 292,853 bushels of flaxseed, 9.03 to the acre. As but 1,383,434 acres, or a little better than one per cent of the entire wheat growing area of the territories, was under crop, a little figuring shows 13 per cent of the entire country under wheat will raise the 200,000,000 that Great Britain annually requires from outside countries. It is a fairly safe statement to make that in 12 or 15 years the Canadian prairies will be supplying the entire demands of the mother country.

In this part of the country wheat is king, and here it is raised in the greatest possible perfection by a combination of soil and climate in its favor, and the tendency has been to neglect the more laborious branches of husbandry for which the country is equally well adapted.

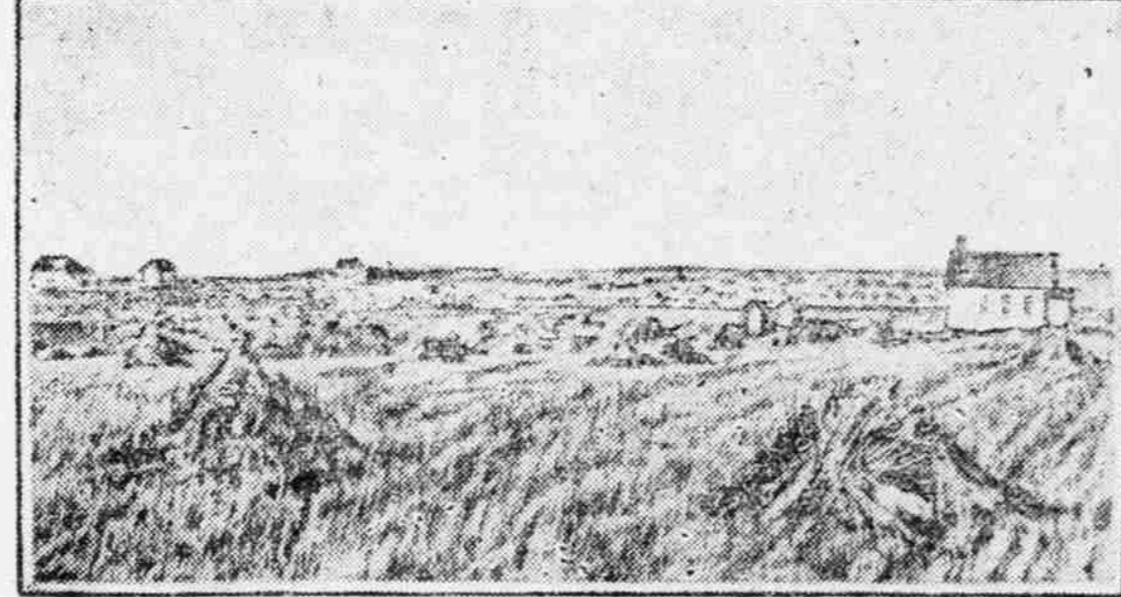
Free Homestead Lands.

There is yet a large quantity of government land for homesteading in this



TYPICAL WESTERN CANADA TOWN.

country and as in everything else, "the early bird catches the worm." Those who come first are first served. When it is preferred to purchase railway or other company lands they can be got at from \$5 per acre up. This section cannot be better closed than by showing practically what is made by wheat growing in this district. The average from the first of operations is 20 bushels per acre. Breaking the prairie, as first plowing is called, is, of course, an exceptional expenditure, as when it is once done it is done for all time. This costs about \$3.50 per acre. After the breaking, plowing and seeding, harvesting, threshing and marketing—all expenses combined amount to about \$5.25 per acre, that is, if a man likes everything done it will cost him \$5.25 per acre. If he does the work himself



SCHOOLHOUSE AND FARM, MORDEN, MANITOBA.

there are in this district of country at the present time, it is hard to say, as there are no positive statistics available. It is known, however, that the country is settling up fast.

Englishmen and Americans in the western territories are bringing in their herds as fast as they can and leasing or purchasing land in lots from 1,000 to 20,000 acres from the Dominion Government. An idea of the growth of the industry will, however, be gathered from the fact that in 1899 there were but 41,471 head of cattle shipped and sold from the ranches, these figures ran to 55,129 in 1900, and to 160,000 in 1903, averaging \$40 per head for the owners. But it takes a great many ranchers and a large number of cattle to cover an area of 200,000,000 acres, the area available for ranching in the Canadian Northwest.

It is not at all necessary that large investments should be made at the outset. Many men commenced with small capital and small herds, and have worked themselves into large herds and great



CORN CUTTING IN CANADA.

wealth. There is still in the country plenty of room for those who desire to go and do likewise.

The Second Part.

The second part of the Canadian prairies embrace the great wheat growing belt of the country, which is easily a half larger than any other in the world. It includes about 150,000,000 acres. As it is comparatively free of broken land, large lakes and rivers about 125,000,000 acres of it can be brought under the plow. Placing a farmer on every half section (320 acres) it can comfortably locate 800,000 farmers or 4,000,000 of an agricultural community. A glance now at what the farmers of the territories are doing will give the reader a better idea of what can be done in this great wheat growing zone. The territorial government reports show that in 1903 there were raised 16,629,149 bush-

EARLY FROSTS NIP CRANBERRIES

Corn Suffers from Drought, While Rust Damages Spring Wheat.

The weather bureau's weekly summary of crop conditions is as follows: The weather conditions during the week as a whole were less favorable than in the previous week. The central and east gulf and Atlantic coast districts, except northern New England, suffered from excessive rain, while drouthy conditions in the central valleys and portions of the upper lake region have become more serious. Generally sufficient rainfall has afforded relief in Texas. In Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas the week has been too cool, while Idaho, Washington and Oregon have suffered from excessive heat and dryness. Killing frosts occurred in the cranberry region of Wisconsin.

In the Ohio valley, corn, the late planted especially, is suffering more or less seriously from drouth, and rain is less needed for this crop in portions of the central Mississippi and lower Missouri valleys. Over the central and eastern portions of the corn belt corn has advanced favorably and continues promising. In the upper lake region districts lack of warmth and absence of rain have checked growth, the crop being generally backward. In the Atlantic coast districts corn has made vigorous growth and generally is in excellent condition.

Fine weather for thrashing prevailed over most of the winter wheat belt, harvesting of winter wheat having been completed in the more northerly directions, except on the north Pacific coast, where it is nearly completed.

Reports of rust in spring wheat continue general in the Dakotas and in portions of Iowa and Minnesota, and indicate that the crop has been greatly damaged, except in Minnesota, where only a portion of the spring wheat area has been seriously affected, a good crop being promised in other portions of that State.

Harvesting is in progress in South Dakota and southern Minnesota, but has not begun in North Dakota, where the crop is ripening slowly. Very high temperatures on the north Pacific coast have hastened maturity of spring wheat and caused premature ripening and shriveling of the grain in portions of Washington.

Harvesting and thrashing of oats have continued under favorable conditions. Rust is reported in the more northerly sections and has proved very injurious in North Dakota and portions of Minnesota.

Generally well distributed rains have benefited cotton in Texas, but in the central and eastern portions of the cotton belt the crop has suffered from excessive moisture, many fields being grassy, and too rapid growth, rust and shedding are reported from nearly all States east of the Mississippi river. West of the Mississippi, with the exception of Louisiana, the crop is in a good state of preservation and complaints of rust and shedding are less numerous than in other districts.

In Atlantic coast districts and in Tennessee tobacco continues promising.

Plowing for fall seeding has become more general, but the soil is not in favorable condition for this work in the Ohio valley and much of the lake region.

HAY ON WAR CONTRABAND.

Secretary of State Defines America's Position in the Matter.

"The recognition in principle of the treatment of coal and other fuel and raw cotton as absolutely contraband of war might ultimately lead to a total inhibition of the sale by neutrals to the people of belligerent States, of all articles which could be finally converted to military uses. Such an extension of the principle by treating coal and other fuel and raw cotton as absolutely contraband of war, simply because they are shipped by a neutral to a non-blockaded port of a belligerent, would not appear to be in accord with the reasonable and lawful rights of a neutral commerce."

This is a summary of a declaration by Secretary Hay on the right of neutral nations during war. It was embodied in a circular to American ambassadors in Europe which was issued from the State Department June 10 last, but for some reason was withheld from the public, although certain shippers who inquired at the department for the right were supplied with copies. The circular is based on a declaration by the Russian government that coal, naphtha, alcohol and other fuel have been declared contraband. British sentiment is declared to be in complete accord with this declaration.

BIG DECLINE IN WHEAT CROP.

Loss of 60,000,000 Bushels in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Reports from nearly 300 grain men and millers in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma indicate a wheat crop of 60,000,000 bushels less than in 1903. The following table shows the crops of the two years:

	1904.	1903.
Kansas	58,000,000	84,000,000
Nebraska	32,000,000	42,000,000
Okl. and Ind. Ter.	15,000,000	27,000,000
Total	105,000,000	153,000,000

July half of the deficiency is the direct result of the excessive rains in June and July on fields that were ready for harvest or on wheat in the sheaves awaiting the threshers. The Kansas crop July 1 promised to exceed 80,000,000 bushels. The loss during the month in Oklahoma was 3,000,000 bushels and in Nebraska nearly 7,000,000 bushels.

Notes of Current Events.

Pennsylvania Railroad may allow employes to farm its land along its right of way.

The Duluth and Iron Range car shops at Two Harbors, Minn., were destroyed by fire. The loss is \$50,000.

Ellen McCloskey's 3-year-old daughter fell 150 feet down mountainside, Mahoney City, Pa. Child was bruised, but not seriously hurt.

Supreme Court of District of Columbia says Dewey and his men are entitled to half of the property they captured at Manila. It was valued at \$1,657,355.