Manitoba Legislation of Special Interest to Farmers

The following brief references to some of the newer Provincial Acts now in force in Manitoba, are intended to indicate only in the broadest way the general lines on which recent important legislation (especially affecting the farmers) is framed.

The intention of this article is not to offer information in detail, but to stimulate enquiry for the Acts themselves, which may be had from the offices respectively indicated.

Legislation of 1917

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES ACT (New)

During the year 1917 an entirely new Act respecting Agricultural Societies was passed. This Act provides definitely for the encouragement of many lines of agricultural enterprise not previously indicated as among the work of the Agricultural Societies.

The following activities are now definitely indicated as the work of these Societies:—(a) Holding exhibitions, (b) Seed grain fairs, (c) Standing crop competitions, (d) Good farming competitions, (e) Horticultural shows, (f) Live or dressed poultry shows, (g) Plowing matches, (h) Summer fallow competitions, (i) Importing or owning pure-bred livestock, (j) Providing for the circulation of literature relating to any of the objects mentioned in this section, (k) Offering prizes for essays relating to agriculture, (l) Taking approved action to eradicate animal, insect and weed pests, (m) Co-operating with other organizations already in existence in promoting the progress of any branch of agriculture, (n) Importing and otherwise procuring seeds and plants of new and approved specimens, (o) Carrying on experiments which have for their object improvement in methods of agriculture, (p) Holding meetings for the delivery of lectures and discussion of subjects connected with agriculture.

Provision is made that legislative grants shall be paid on several items, these relating to the membership of the Society, the number of its activities, the amount of money actually paid out in prizes, the number of pure-bred male animals kept for breeding purposes, the expenditure of money for agricultural periodicals, the expenses of speakers.

THE CATTLE BRAND ACT (Amended in 1917)

The Cattle Brand Act provides for the registration in the Department of cattle brands and for exclusive use of these brands by the persons so registering them. Severe penalties are provided for the misuse of brands.

During the last session of the Legislature amendments were passed for the purpose of automatically cancelling the ownership of brands after they have outrun a certain period of time, but provision is made whereby ownership of brand may be renewed by the owners. Also, if a brand lapses through lack of renewal by the owner, the same brand shall not be allotted to anyone else within a period of five years.

MANITOBA FARM LOANS ACT (New)

This is a new Act, the purpose of which is to provide money for farmers on long-term land mortgage loans at the lowest rate of interest. In order to carry out that purpose, the Act incorporates an Association to be known as The Manitoba Farm Loans Association, which has all the powers and can do and perform all such acts and things as bodies corporate can usually do and perform.

The administration and management is delegated to a Board of five members, presided over by the Commissioner, who is the chief executive officer of the Association.

The Board of Management is appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council and is composed of representatives of agricultural, municipal and business interests, and passes on all applications for loans.

Loans will be made to persons residing or intending to reside on farm lands, and money so loaned shall be used for the purposes stated in application for said loan, and must be utilized to pay off prior encumbrances, to make improvements, or for productive purposes.

The security for such loans must be a first mortgage on the land, any encumbrances have to be removed from title out of the amount loaned. The mortgage will be for a term of thirty years, but may be paid off at any annual payment date, at or after the end of five years from date of such mortgage.

The amount loaned will not be more than fifty per cent. of the appraised value of the land together with the buildings thereon, and the value of the land will be based on the earning ability or productive value for purposes of agriculture only.

FIRES PREVENTION ACT (New)

This is an extensive Act, of which not even the principal provisions can be summarized here. It provides for the protection of hay stacks, and regulates the kindling of fires and permitting them to run.

Provision is made for the appointment of fire guardians, who are authorized to call upon other men to help in extinguishing fires. The dropping of burning matches, ashes of a pipe, lighted cigar or cigarette or any other burning substance are subject to specified regulations.

Certain parts of the province, indicated as "wooded districts," are subject to special regulations.

GAME PROTECTION ACT (Amended in 1917)

This Act with the 1917 amendments contains a great many provisions. A few of the leading ones are in the direction of altogether prohibiting the hunting of elk or wapiti, imposing new regulations as to big game, prohibiting the shooting of prairie chicken, partridge or grouse of any kind, prohibiting spring shooting of wild geese, prohibiting entirely, until 1927, the shooting of several birds of the pigeon, crane, duck, swan, snipe and other families, further protection of muskrats, licensing of fur traders, and imposing the necessity of securing a permit to export or ship live animals protected by this Act.

INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS ACT (Amended in 1917)

This new Act prohibits attempts to catch, wound or destroy any of the insectivorous birds known as bobolinks, catbirds, chickadees, cuckoos, flickers, flycatchers, grosbeaks, hummingbirds, kinglets, martins, meadow larks, night-hawks or bull bats, nut-hatches, orioles, robins, shrikes, swallows, wax-wings, whippoorwills, woodpeckers, wrens or any other perching birds which feed chiefly on insects; also any of the migratory non-game birds known as auks, auklets, bitterns, fulmars, gannets, grebes, guillemots, gulls, herons, jaegers, loons, murres, petrels, puffins, shearwaters and terns, or any other non-game bird, whether resident or migratory, except as in this Act provided.

Also the destruction of nests and the taking of eggs are prohibited.

Regulations are imposed as to exporting privileges.

One section of the Act states that eagles, falcons, goshawks, sharp-shinned hawks, duck-hawks, pigeon hawks, coopers or chicken hawks, crows, ravens, blackbirds, rusty grackle, purple grackle and English sparrows are not among the birds protected by this Act.

HAIL INSURANCE POLICY ACT (New)

This is an Act to regulate hail insurance companies. It provides for prompt acceptance or rejection (on same day as received) of any application for hail insurance, and also prompt advice as to acceptance or rejection being sent to the applicant.

Other provisions govern the limitation of liability of the companies, proof of loss, conditions in policies and other matters.

NOXIOUS WEEDS ACT (Amended in 1917)

A few minor alterations were made in this Act. An added section permits any city, town or village council to extend the operation of the Act within said municipality by including in the list of noxious weeds the name of any weed not enumerated in the Act, but considered noxious to the well being of the municipality.

RURAL CREDITS ACT (New)

This Act provides for the organization by Manitoba farmers of Rural Credit Societies through which the individual shareholders of such societies may be enabled to secure short term loans for carrying on or extending their farming operations. Such loans will be secured on the security of the crop for the production of which the loan is secured, or the livestock, or the machinery bought with the money thus borrowed. The money will be secured from the bank at 6 per cent. and the borrower will be charged 7 per cent., the difference going to pay expenses of the society and augment the guarantee fund.

The Act provides specifically that short term loans secured for members for paying the cost of farming operations of all kinds and increasing the production of farm products shall be for any of the following purposes:—

(1) The purchase of seed, feed or other supplies.
(2) The purchase of implements and machinery.
(3) The purchase of cows, horses, sheep, pigs and other animals.
(4) The payment of the cost of carrying on any farming, ranching, dairying or other like operations.
(5) The payment of the cost of preparing land for cultivation.

It is also provided that the Rural Credit Society may act as agent for its members in purchasing supplies and selling products, and may also take steps to promote co-operation for the improvement of conditions of farm life, and to extend the application of the society's activities to all residents of the district.

Any further information required will be sent on application to The Acting Supervisor, Rural Credit Societies, Parliament Buildings, Winnipeg.

SHEEP PROTECTION ACT (New)

This is a new Act intended to protect sheep owners against loss caused by dogs worrying sheep.

It provides that any dog may be killed by anyone if seen pursuing or wounding sheep; also the owner or occupant of a farm or his servant or member of his family may kill any dog without lawful permission on the farm, if barking at and terrifying sheep.

A certain amount of liberty is given to kill dogs straying at night over farms where sheep are kept. Unless, however, there is reason to believe such dog is likely to worry sheep, it may not be so killed if it belongs to the occupant of adjoining property, or if it is muzzled or accompanied by or within reasonable call of some person having it in charge.

On complaint that any person is the owner of a dog which within six months previous has worried or destroyed any sheep, a police magistrate may summon such dog owner, examine witnesses, and, in case of conviction, order the owner to kill the dog.

The Act further provides that where the owner of sheep killed or injured is unable, after securing conviction, before the police magistrate, to collect the amount ordered to be paid, the municipality shall pay two-thirds of the amount. Also, provision is made whereby the municipality may be called upon to pay part of the loss in case the ownership of the dog or dogs cannot be ascertained.

THRESHERS' LIEN ACT (Amended in 1917)

This Act, which provides for the protection of the men on threshing gangs by enabling them to file liens for wages with the farmer or person for whom threshing has been done, was amended at the last session to make the right to lien include fuel used by the threshing outfit while same is engaged during the threshing season on the farmer's premises.

WOLF BOUNTY ACT (Amended in 1917)

The Wolf Bounty Act, which provides for the payment of a bounty of $5.00 for each timber wolf and $2.00 for each prairie wolf, or coyote, killed in the province, was amended to make this bounty applicable to animals killed in the unorganized territory of the province south of the 53rd parallel of north latitude.

The person killing animals is required to produce the head or pelt with the ears on before a commissioner for taking affidavits, or a justice of the peace, or a police magistrate, within the province, and, on making a statutory declaration or affirmation according to the Act, will receive a certificate on which the bounty will be paid by the Provincial Treasurer.

List of Acts and Amendments

Although many other Acts beside those enumerated below are of interest to farmers in their business relationships, the following short list has been prepared so as to enable Manitoba farmers easily to possess themselves of those Acts that are of most direct concern to them.

Agricultural Societies Act, 1917—Free from Department of Agriculture.

Animals Act—Chapter 7—King's Printer, Parliament Buildings. Price 10 cents.

Animals' Diseases Act—Chapter 8—King's Printer, Parliament Buildings. Price 10 cents.

Boundary Lines Act—as line fences—Chapter 19—King's Printer, Parliament Buildings. Price 10 cents.

Cattle Brand Act—Free from Department of Agriculture.

Co-operative Associations Act, 1916—Free from Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

Crop Payment Act, 1915, with 1916 amendments—King's Printer, Parliament Buildings. Price 10 cents.

Dairy Act, 1915, with 1916 amendments—Free from Dairy Branch, Department of Agriculture.

Fires Prevention Act, 1917—Summarized in April, 1917, issue of Manitoba Public Service Bulletin. Free copy from Publicity Commissioner's Office, Parliament Buildings.

Foul Brood Among Bees Act, 1916—Free from Provincial Apiarist, Department of Agriculture.

Game Protection Act—with all amendments to date—Free from Game Branch, Department of Agriculture.

Grist Mills Act—Chapter 61—From King's Printer, Parliament Buildings. Price 10 cents.

Hail Insurance Policy Act, 1917—April 7 Supplement to Manitoba Gazette. From King's Printer's Office, Parliament Buildings. Price 25 cents.

Home Economics Societies Act, 1916—From King's Printer, Parliament Buildings. Price 10 cents.

Horse Breeders Act—Free from Department of Agriculture.

Insectivorous Birds Act—Free from Game Branch, Department of Agriculture.

Manitoba Farm Loans Act, 1917—Summarized in April issue of Manitoba Public Service Bulletin. Free from Publicity Commissioner's Office, Parliament Buildings.

Master and Servants Act—Chapter 124—King's Printer, Parliament Buildings. Price 10 cents.

Noxious Weeds Act, amended to date—Free copy from Weeds Commission, Department of Agriculture.

Rural Credits Act—Free summary from Acting Supervisor, Rural Credit Societies, Parliament Buildings.

Settlers' Animal Purchase Act, 1916—Free from Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

Sheep Protection Act—Free from Department of Agriculture.

Threshers' Lien Act—(Chapter 192)—With amendments of 1916, but not of 1917—From office of King's Printer. Price 10 cents. Also 1917 amendments in April 7 issue of Manitoba Gazette—From King's Printer, Parliament Buildings. Price of Gazette 25 cents.

Wolf Bounty Act—(Chapter 95, 1913)—With amendments of 1916, but not of 1917—From King's Printer, Parliament Buildings. Price 10 cents. Also April 7 issue of Manitoba Gazette, with 1917 amendments—From King's Printer, Parliament Buildings. Price of Gazette 25 cents.

Manitoba Department of Agriculture - Winnipeg, Manitoba