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Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

March 10, 1909

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

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AND

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EDITORIAL

Give the Women Their Dues

Women's Institutes, as a feature of our agricultural and domestic education, have not been given the consideration that their needs demand nor their importance warrants. Women's Institutes, where they are in operation, are organizations of women to discuss matters of practical concern in the management of the home, either farm or urban. The organization, generally, has a head-quarters in the Provincial or State Department of Agriculture and is managed by the superintendent of Farmer's Institutes. Throughout the West the question has been frequently asked, "Why have we not got Women's Institutes?" And the conviction carries that there is a need for them and that they would be utilized by the girls and women.

The problems of housekeeping in a new country involve just as many modifications and makeshifts as the problems of grain-growing. Practices that are followed as a rule of thumb in many of the older settled parts, have to be entirely abandoned under new conditions, and some substitutes devised. Take for instance, the matter of managing a house without a plentiful supply of fruit; there are numerous schemes for avoiding the excessive use of canned goods, and a discussion of this and other kindred subjects lightens household cares, and makes far better health and contentment. As a people, we are open to the condemnation of neglecting the education of our girls and women, and in addition, we have shifted the duties of education upon the female portion of the population. If there is one thing more than another that our ministers of agriculture and education could co-operate in, to the advantage of the whole population, it is in the inauguration and development of Women's Institutes with a lady as director of each provincial organization.

The Functions of Prophecy

There are several kinds of prophets. First, are the prophets who specialize in the forecasting of direful events, such as the end of the world. This kind is common, but fortunately, their prophecies fail usually to materialize, and the makers of them are held up frequently to the ridicule of men.

Then come the specialists in long range forecasting, the ones who think they get the range of coming events before vision of them is vouchsafed to ordinary mortals. The beauty of long range prophecy is that the prophet is likely to be a long time dead before anybody gets a chance of determining, from the way things shape themselves, whether he saw anything coming at all, or was merely talking the way prophets are supposed to talk, for the publicity and free advertising which that manner of speech gave him.

The third department is that of practical prophets, the kind that realize on their own work.

For some months now it has been fashionable to prophecy a sort of never ending agricultural prosperity. Numberless "bulls" on the grain exchanges of Europe and America breathed into a first unwilling public ear, but latterly, a more receptive one, the thought that wheat would never more be sold below the dollar mark. And it was good to listen to. The public after a time came to believe it every word. They were willing to substantiate belief by buying wheat at a hundred and two, and boosting it along till it got high enough to let the prophets out with a good long profit margin. That was prophecy practically applied. The prophets in this case realized on their own work.

Circumstances always make a man an optimist or a pessimist, unless he is too far gone to be either. Present conditions seem tending to make us rather too pessimistic, or is it optimistic, of the future? The people of this continent have been warned frequently during the past year or two that this old world was spinning into a pretty black looking future, and only by miraculous effort could we hope to stave off for a generation or two more what was coming—a continuous scarcity of the fruits of the earth, and a never ending scramble for food stuff. Not a very pleasant outlook unless, of course, one were a producer of food stuff or wanted to get rich buying and selling it. This theory that grain, wheat especially, will never again go below a minimum value, a dollar a bushel (we believe it is), results from the conditions obtaining in the wheat trade during the past year or so. The reasons given generally for its not getting cheap again are that it is dear now. Had production been normal, and had the advance in wheat been attributable to an increase in the number of wheat consumers, then it would be a comparatively simple mat-

ter to figure into the future and forecast with reasonable accuracy the probable result. But wheat advanced in price, not because there was more people on hand to consume it, but because there was less wheat for the same number or less to consume.

Given conditions for production as favorable as those prevailing for the greater part of the decade previous to 1907, and wheat can go as low within the next two years as it ever did during the past ten. However, maintaining that it will never go below a certain point again, can do no particular harm to the producer, and may be of considerable help to some by stimulating interest in the buying end of grain occasionally, and causing slumps and reactions in the grain trade with reasonable regularity and with sufficient magnitude to make them profitable. That is the chief functions of prophecy, either practical or long range in the grain business.

Imports of American Hog Products

From March 21st, 1907, to March 31st, 1908, Canada received from the United States 29,983,640 pounds of pork products, valued at \$2,834,311, made up as follows:

	Pounds	Value
Pure lard.	11,691,325	\$1,063,553
Compound lard.	698,850	64,828
Bacon and hams.	7,307,949	852,301
Pork in barrels.	8,966,365	704,779
Pork, dried & smoked	1,318,151	148,850

These hog products were produced by American farmers, on land worth from \$50 to \$150 per acre, and by the use of grain that sells for higher prices than ours, so much higher, in fact, that the better price on the American side is a constant conundrum to us in Canada. Nor is the labor required to produce hogs cheaper in the States, and, as for combines, which are supposed to keep down prices, the American meat producer is represented as being at the mercy of the original beast of the jungle.

The logical conclusion of a study of the situation is that our own abattoir systems exact too large a toll for their services, due partly to the smaller supplies, and, also, that there is a possibility of making money raising hogs under the conditions which exist in Western Canada.

Where are the Poultry Men At?

The situation in poultry circles in Manitoba may be satisfactory to those who are engaged in breeding and showing fancy birds, but if it is, the public will be surprised to know it. As far as the trade in poultry goes, there appears to be going on a healthy growth but the management of the winter poultry shows is not calculated to assist, to the full extent the further increase of trade. In the province, there are a large number of breeders of exhi-