

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. *

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Harvest Help for Assiniboia.

Present crop prospects all over the wheat section of Assiniboia indicate that a large number of harvest hands will be required from outside sources. The Hon. Mr. Bulyea, Commissioner of Agriculture, has, therefore, been in constant communication recently with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company on the subject, and a scheme has now been worked out between the Department of Agriculture and the Company which, it is hoped, will enable the authorities to form an estimate of the number of hands required at each important point, and materially facilitate the distribution of harvesters.

Every railway station agent in Eastern Assiniboia will have in his office an employment register furnished by the Department, in which each employer will register his name, residence, number of men wanted, when wanted, and probable period of employment. The number of applications received will then be communicated each day to the office of the General Passenger Agent at Winnipeg, which will be a sort of "clearing house" while the rush is on, and the register will be available for inspection by the harvesters as they arrive, and be some indication to them as to where help is wanted. An effort will, of course, also be made to have the names of intending employers ruled off the register as they are supplied with help.

In order that the interests of Territorial farmers may be protected, it is probable that the Department will have an officer stationed at Winnipeg during the coming autumn, who will meet all harvest excursion trains and will be in continual touch with the railway people, and lend every assistance in getting the newcomers forwarded to points where help is required and thus avoid the confusion that arose in the distribution of harvesters last year through lack of organization.

The Department is showing in a practical manner a desire to assist the grain-growers on this occasion, but it must be patent to everyone that unless the farmers co-operate the efforts of the Department will be unavailing. Every farmer who has reason to believe that he will require help to remove his crop, should at once call at his nearest railway station and register the help he requires, or if he cannot leave home himself, arrange with someone else to do it for him. The Department has done its part, and it is now "up to" the farmers to perform theirs.

Pointers.

It is a most significant fact, pointed out in the letter by Mr. Falconer, President and General Manager of the Palmerston Pork-packing Company, that Canada was not able to fill large orders for bacon for South Africa, nor have our packers been in a position to take care of the Canadian home market for pork. With a steadily-increasing demand in Great Britain, and with prospects of a big crop of coarse grains in sight, why not raise more bacon hogs?

Be wary of the stranger who proposes to leave you a large sum containing \$10,000 in exchange for \$5,000 of your own cash. Josh Billings used to have a good deal to say about the future of any man who thought there was any better way of getting a dollar than by industriously and intelligently earning it. Be wary of the stranger who wants to give you some thing for nothing, but subscribe for a first class agricultural paper.

The Benefits of Exhibitions.

In the light of the history of agricultural and industrial exhibitions, no thoughtful and unbiased person can, we think, dispute the beneficial influence of these institutions in stimulating to improvement in methods of farming, in the character and quality of agricultural and dairy products, in types of live stock, and in the production of efficient labor-saving implements and machinery. The question, "Have they been worth what they have cost?" is, to our mind, fully answered in the affirmative by the great improvement made in the various breeds of live stock, through the healthy rivalry incited by competition for the prizes and honors held out for the production of the best in all classes. How otherwise is it possible to determine that improvement is being made or has been effected? Advancement can only be made by bringing together for comparison the best specimens of the different breeds, the choicest of agricultural and dairy products, and the latest and best devices for effective and economical cultivation of the soil and harvesting crops. In no country has the fairs system been so long and successfully tried as in Great Britain, in no country has equal advancement been made in live-stock improvement as a consequence, and in no other country is more interest taken by all classes of the community in the encouragement of fairs, wealthy people contributing liberally of their means to the prize list, and the common people by their presence, both classes in large numbers attending purely agricultural and industrial exhibitions, with no extraneous attractions of any description. The prominent position taken by Canadian products at international exhibitions in recent years has undoubtedly proved one of the most efficient methods that has yet been devised for advertising the resources and capabilities of the country and its suitability as a field for immigration, its productions comparing well with those of the other favored nations of the earth and finding favor and preference in the world's best markets.

It is not only the larger and more pretentious exhibitions, either, that have thus exerted a progressive influence. The smaller and local fairs have also played an important part in the encouragement of young farmers and new beginners in various lines of breeding, in the cultivation of new and improved varieties of grains and grasses and the production of a better class of dairy products. These have acted as feeders to the larger shows, new exhibitors coming up from year to year from the township and county shows to the larger field of the provincial and national exhibitions.

If the exhibition system has not in every respect met the expectations and wishes of its friends, if there has been a decadence in some of its most useful features in some quarters, it is a hopeful and encouraging sign that fair managers are amenable to faithful criticism on the part of their friends among the press and the people, and that an honest effort is evidently being made to raise the standard of attractions and to introduce more of practical and educative features into their programme of events. These efforts, we are confident, will be appreciated and encouraged by the public, and will redound to the credit and satisfaction of all concerned. Patience and consideration will need to be exercised by the public with the management of fairs in introducing these improvements, for it is certainly much easier to criticize and find fault, or even to suggest a remedy, than to successfully im-

produce and carry out these suggestions, however reasonable and desirable they may seem to be.

We predict an unusually successful fairs season in all the Canadian Provinces the present year. Prosperity marks nearly every branch of the agricultural and industrial life of the Dominion. The seasons have, on the whole, been favorable to a bountiful harvest and for the condition of live stock, and we may reasonably expect a larger and better display in all lines of the usual exhibits, besides a fair share of new and improved features.

The leading provincial fixtures in all the Provinces have been strengthened both financially and by the increased zeal and energy of their boards of management, and they are confidently expecting the patronage and support of the public in effecting a successful issue. The Winnipeg and Brandon shows have opened the season auspiciously, scoring splendidly. The Central Canada Exhibition, at Ottawa, opens the campaign in the Eastern Provinces this year, the show commencing on the 22nd of August, the principal events being set for the second week, or from the 25th to 30th. An earlier date than usual has been chosen in the hope of falling upon finer weather than has been its lot in the last few years, and every effort has been and is being put forth to maintain its good reputation for efficient management and the placing of a good representation in all lines of live stock and farm products, as well as affording a pleasurable holiday outing for the people of the large constituency of which it is the "hub," and whose circumference is scarcely within the boundary lines of the Dominion. The Toronto Industrial, the Western Fair at London, and the Quebec and Maritime Provincial Shows, the dates of which are given in our list of fairs in this issue, follow in perhaps as satisfactory order as could reasonably be arranged.

Farmers in Office.

A writer in a recent issue of the Prairie Farmer has the following to say of farmers who become affected with the office craze.

"The man who gets to running for office habitually is not fit for much of anything else after a while. We have had two close neighbors who were once comparatively well fixed, and who, through this terrible office disease, are now out of farms, and also out of office. A good farm, well taken care of, beats any county office all to pieces, and it may be kept as long as you live if you will stay by it and take care of it. I would rather see a young man working for a farm any time than for an office."

We in Canada can quite agree with the statement, "a good farm well managed beats any county office," but then there is no reason why a successful farmer should not become a useful public official at the same time. In fact, many such can be pointed to in this country. Numerous practical and thorough agriculturists pass through the municipal councils and on to the Provincial Legislatures or Dominion Parliament, where, distinguished by prudent sagacity and intelligence, they become an ornament to their profession and an honor to their country. Nevertheless, there is truth in the contention that there is a type of chronic office-seeker who, upon entering public life, begins at once to neglect his farm, and such men should be gently but firmly rebuffed by thoughtful taxpayers. There is no doubt that their own private interests would be best served by neglecting public office.