

EDITORIAL

Prove the quality of your seed by testing.

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Smut can be prevented by treating the seed.

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Grow only good milling varieties, pure and clean.

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After eating some of the M. A. C. cheese, you'll want no other.

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Hand selection is a good way to keep varieties pure, to improve vitality, and increase yield.

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The reception being accorded the Seed Train Special might be termed 'the great awakening.'

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All seed should be thoroughly cleaned to remove weed seeds and all small grains. Once through a mill may not be enough.

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The seed is the starting point of all successful crops. This is one of the few factors in crop growth that is controllable.

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Now does the stallion seller limber up his larynx to enable him to dilate on the many excellencies of his horses.

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The smut spore is being roundly abused these days, even the railroad men are after him—his finish cannot be far away.

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Grow your own seed. Changing seed is poor policy. Avoid the danger of introducing weeds. Change only when a better quality of clean seed is obtainable.

The Livestock Commissionership

It seems to be pretty well understood that Mr. F. W. Hodson has resigned the above position, and that a successor becomes necessary to be appointed in his stead. The position is an important one and the suggestion has been made that the work done under the above gentleman's direction should be merged in future with that of the Veterinary branch and all administered by the one head, who would of necessity be a veterinarian, similar to the procedure followed in the Bureau of Animal Industry at Washington.

To this suggestion we are opposed for reasons as follows: The present V. D. G. well and favorably known throughout Canada, finds the work of his branch a severe tax on his physical powers. His branch even yet, in spite of the immense amount of constructive work done by him, being in the formative stage it yet lacks a meat inspection division and it is neither just or advisable to unduly tax a public official because he is willing or capable. Generally speaking, however, the appointment of a veterinarian would be undesirable. The men capable of filling the dual position are so few as to be practically non-existent, for while the present V. D. S. is fully capable, it would be an unsafe precedent to establish due to the meagre supply of the properly trained veterinarians. It does not yet seem to have dawned upon the teaching portion of the veterinary or agricultural professions that the ideal animal husbandman is the veterinarian who has been properly educated and trained; up to date the average veterinarian's education is narrow and lopsided. The two positions it seems to us must then remain entirely separate and it will not be amiss to point out, now that the time is opportune, the advisability of making the appointment of a deputy livestock Commissioner with headquarters West of the Great Lakes. One gentleman well known to our readers has practically been filling such a position without either proper official recognition or status, and without adequate salary as recompense for high class and effective service rendered. The development of educational work in livestock lines, the guidance of fat stock shows and livestock sales, superintendence of the spending of moneys, granted for the work in the different provinces, and other important matters arising from time to time, demand a lot of attention which can hardly be attended to properly by one man. The present V. D. S. is a man of many parts, and his position is a very important one. The rapid change of conditions in the livestock industry, the increasing importance of the meat inspection division, the increasing importance of the fat stock shows and livestock sales, the increasing importance of the spending of moneys, granted for the work in the different provinces, and other important matters arising from time to time, demand a lot of attention which can hardly be attended to properly by one man. The present V. D. S. is a man of many parts, and his position is a very important one.

ence of a man on the ground, not for the purpose of straightening tangles or smoothing over things, but rather to avoid friction by being able to advise his chief of matters as such arise, even to being able to doing a little forecasting when necessary. This division of the civil service has done some good work, but the fringe has only yet been touched, good men, although not plentiful at any time, happen in this particular case to be available in Messrs. J. H. Grisdale and Geo. H. Greig, and should these two be given the appointments respectively of Live Stock Commissioner and Deputy L. S. C. for West Canada, the public most interested, stockmen and farmers would be well satisfied, the Minister could look forward to progress in that particular division, with a minimum of friction and the tax payers could rest assured that moneys expended by the division would be used in the proper manner and value got for the same.

The Rule Governing Entries for Championships.

In some prize lists a rule has existed regarding entries for championships which has been used by some breeders and importers to their own advantage and not to that of the society under whose auspices the show is held or prizes donated. The rule in question stated that "no animal shall compete for a sweepstake or special prize that has not won first prize in a regular class, or is eligible to be shown in such class." The latter part of the clause permits an exhibitor to show one animal and win a first with it, and then bring forward another animal and win the championship. He in order to make more sure of winning both prizes, does not show his first prize horse and thus balks the society's endeavor, namely, that of ensuring good competition, without which a class has little interest for the spectators. Far better results will accrue to the society from amending the rule to read "no animal shall compete for a championship that has not won a first or second prize in a regular class" thus avoiding prizes being awarded without good competition, and thus ensure the interest being sustained, not only so but a reserve to the championship should also be awarded (as in the Old Country shows). It requires no explanation to demonstrate that where the method we support is followed, the second prize animal in each section should be allowed to show for class championships. Inter-breed championships between pure-breeds should not be provided for, such serve no useful purpose unless it be, say for a draft championship between Shires and Clydesdales. Between geldings of Shire, Clydesdale, or Percheron ancestry championship competitions are permissible, as also in the case of steers of the various beef-breeds, or for bacon hogs, or for mutton wethers, in all of which cases there is a certain fixity of type set by the requirements of the markets.

We are glad to note that the more modern rule and method as used in Great Britain will obtain for the first time at a Canadian exhibition, at the Provincial Spring Stallion Show at Brandon the end of this month; we believe that the more the breeders, exhibitors and spectators think over the matter the better they will be pleased with the new order of things.

The Hen! "May Her Son Never Set."

This week the Manitoba Poultry Association is holding its annual show at Virden. This is the banner event in poultry circles each year and although it comes at a season when the shipping and displaying of birds is attended with considerable risk owing to frost, the plumage is at its best at this time, and in poultry breeding and exhibiting the tint of the feathers counts for far more than the ability to carry flesh or to perform the plebian function of producing eggs.

The hen is one of the most unappreciated of domestic animals and upon her is often heaped the cumulative ire of every member of the household. In spring she wends her inquisitive way to the garden and in the indulgence of her instincts works havoc with the carefully sown seeds of vegetables and flowers, in summer she hides her eggs under the barn, fouls the upholstered seat and immaculate body of the young man's new buggy; in the fall her vociferous sons make the restless hours of morning hideous with their clatter calls, and in winter when nothing tastes better than fifty cents a dozen fresh laid eggs our "feathered friend" huddles in the sun standing upon the snow. The hen is the most unappreciated of domestic animals and upon her is often heaped the cumulative ire of every member of the household. In spring she wends her inquisitive way to the garden and in the indulgence of her instincts works havoc with the carefully sown seeds of vegetables and flowers, in summer she hides her eggs under the barn, fouls the upholstered seat and immaculate body of the young man's new buggy; in the fall her vociferous sons make the restless hours of morning hideous with their clatter calls, and in winter when nothing tastes better than fifty cents a dozen fresh laid eggs our "feathered friend" huddles in the sun standing upon the snow.

But there is another aspect from which to view the actions and demeanor of the feathered biped. While pursuing the uneven tenor of her way, the Canadian hen produced in 1902 over eleven million dozens of eggs for export at a valuation of \$1,732,142. This is the largest amount of eggs exported from Canada in one year and returned the most money as home consumption began to increase at an enormous rate, so that three years later the number of eggs used at home was from three to four times as large as in 1901. In 1904 the latest year for which we have complete returns, the number of eggs exported was 5,780,316 dozen at a value of \$1,053,396, by which it is seen that although the export quantity of eggs decreased by one half, the export value was well maintained.

The export returns, however, from the barnyard fowl is a very poor criterion of the amount of wealth actually produced by them, for the reason that it is only the surplus that is tabulated. Upon every farm and in every village household are consumed eggs and fowl equal to from one quarter to one eighth of the meat diet used. Upon western farms during homesteading days, the consumption of eggs may even form one half of the strong food used. So considering the faults and virtues of the hen, we must admit that with all her faults she is indispensable to us, and being such a staunch and reliable a provider it is only reasonable that her interest should be advanced.

The idea of fostering the poultry industry of the West, takes various forms, about the least commendable of which is the attempt of a few Winnipeg fanciers to raise funds for the holding of a show by solicitation among citizens. What the poultry business needs is the affiliation of its associations with the livestock associations in the different provinces; a live, energetic directorate to conduct an exhibition each year aided by a government grant, which shall be used to encourage the keeping of breeds of proven utility; demonstrations to the public of the possibilities and methods of poultry fattening; greater care in the breeding, feeding, housing and yarding of farm flocks; and the exchange of personal experience by poultry keepers, then the hen will have an opportunity to perform her best work and demonstrate to the sceptical and unappreciative public her true worth.

Why Opposition to a Sample Market.

We must confess to being at a loss to account for the real reasons for the opposition by some parties to making Winnipeg an order point and sample market. The reason of the railroad is that the making of Winnipeg an order point would mean delay, an excuse when thoroughly examined found to be trivial. The second one, of the railroads is that the farmers do not want it, in which the transportation companies are evidently misinformed, as the grain growers in convention pronounced unmistakably for a sample market, that the executive of those organisations did not make a serious attempt to carry out the wishes of the farmers, can be best explained by them to the next convention. It seems to us that the excuse advanced, namely fear of mixing and consequent deterioration of our wheat in the markets of the world, is not a valid one, especially when the net returns to the farmer, who had rejected wheat, is considered.

The majority of the grain men are in favor of a sample market, but that is not reason enough to frighten farmers to take the other extreme. It is said that a sample market would mean more work for the Inspection Department—what if it did—the farmers pay for it. Inspections are not made for fun or done for sweet Charity's sake. If the Grain Growers had pronounced against a sample market, it would be a different matter, but they have said they wanted it, and as they know that the cost will come out of their pockets in any event, why deny them what they are prepared to pay for; it is hardly reasonable to assume that a very few know better than the many what is good for the majority. Mr. Gee in this issue gives some reason why a sample market should be established. Read the article and criticise, and write this paper.

Compulsory education is a necessity when the working out of the details call for thought. What would be alright in the town or city might be irksome in the country. The age limit (8-14) proposed is too high. School should start at 7 for town children and for country children during the summer months. It will be little use to have a compulsory school law if the children do not attend.

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