



Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

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EDITORIAL

Get the mower knives sharp and the bearings well oiled, for haying time cometh on apace.

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The cost of production by any bovine of beef or butter is the criterion by which its usefulness must largely be judged. Production to be satisfactory must be profitable.

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Get something ready for your local fair, and have the girls and boys enter some animal or article in their own names—never mind the secretary's objections—he's paid for it. He may object because only one membership fee is paid by the family—it is up to the association to make a reduced fee for the entries of minors, if made by and exhibited by a minor.

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Keep up the supply of cream by feeding the cows a little extra morning and night, so that as the grass fails, the cream supply will not.

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A method practised by many farmers to prevent mustiness in the hay, when made in uncertain weather, is to sprinkle about a pailful of dry salt on each load (ton or more), the salt being distributed at intervals while the hay is being unloaded.

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The short lease is hard on the tenant, the owner, and the farm so leased.

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"The farmer who constantly raises grain and sells it, is consuming his principal."—FRANK LOWDEN.

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William Duthie, Scotland's breeder of Short-horns sails from England in July and will judge the reds, whites and roans at the Canadian National, Toronto, this year.

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Land to produce wealth must be worked.

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The only real agricultural college in Canada west of Guelph, is the M. A. C. on the banks of the Assiniboine, a short distance from the Winnipeg city limits on the west.

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The Western farmer's boy will have the opportunity to get an agricultural college training in the West. Doors open, when it freezes up.

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The value of a study of heredity lies not so much in what your ancestors did for you, but in what you are doing for your descendants.

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Every grain grower seems satisfied to cut out the word 'plump' from the description of a hard, and all seem agreed to abolish the extra hard grade; these changes therefore should be made so as to apply to the next market season for wheat.

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Red clover got badly hit during the latter days of winter and the early ones of spring. One year's experience in clover growing should not deter from a dozen more attempts. Some red clover plots are looking exceptionally well, just now.

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Seeing that Canada is British and Christian the Lord's Day Act should not be modified to exempt Jews or Seventh Day Adventists from its operations. Some of our lawmakers are far too sensitive on behalf of aliens and newcomers and are inclined to forget that the two great characteristics of Canada are, that it is a Christian and a British country.

People who come to Canada should expect, and be made, to abide by Canadian laws, not to have the laws revised for their benefit.

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The Bay of Quinte conference embodied the following sentiment in a resolution to be sent to parliament: "Inasmuch as this is in constitution a Christian commonwealth, and the Lord's Day is known and recognized as the statutory rest day in this land, the members of conference think that all persons and classes of persons who seek citizenship in this land should conform to the civil requirements of our Christian institutions. To do otherwise would be dangerous legislation, and would lead to the subversion of the Lord's Day itself."

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The menace of the farm is said to be the call of the city, promising relief from the routine of farm life.

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Only the extraordinary man succeeds in the city. The same man will be a greater success on the farm. Ninety-nine men out of a hundred are mediocre, with no special training, with no latent talent and with no brilliant idea.

Optimism Abundant.

June rains and summer sunshine all over the grain belt have set the crops growing with such luxuriance that everyone is in an optimistic mood. It would be hard to realize more favorable conditions than have existed the past few weeks. The country is one grand, great promise of plenty.

Early summer is a season when farms appear to their best advantage and added to bounteous prospects in our own country there are reports of a probable shortage in Russia from whose ports usually come millions of bushels which enter into market competition with Canadian and American wheat. The rumors of revolution and the petty outbreaks indicate that Russia may at any time be plunged into the throes of a civil war, in which case her wheat exports may be expected to measurably fall off. Wheat dealers are well aware of the situation and there is a steady buying in October wheat at comparatively high prices which augur well for the Canadian producer. In a general sense Canadians regret the prospect of war in Russia but as we are powerless to divert it, or even the prospect of it, we can only hope that it may be short and trust that we may be favored by any advantage in high prices it may cause.

Wherein Lies the Fault of Our Educationists.

The great obstacle to improvement in our educational system lies in the assumption by the pedagogues from the normal schools down, that in order to do their work properly, they must devise a system which will turn the pupils out—educated, by which they mean, finished. It is this fallacy, because one's education has only begun on leaving the portals of the schools, that has loaded the school system with trimmings in place of solid matter, that has rendered it more costly than it should be, and accounts for the inferiority of teaching given in the country schools.

As a correspondent rightly remarks in a previous issue, not more than ten per cent of the scholars go beyond the public school; the instruction given at that school should be such as to aid the child at its start into the life of the outer world. It is a debatable question as to whether a government should devote money from the taxes to higher education, and if allowed, as to what proportion of the money allotted for education, should be diverted to the higher branches. Provision for the higher branches, universities, etc., should be made from the resources of a province land, timber, mines, etc., and enough thus put to one side to furnish a good endowment. The first duty of the state is to furnish the opportunity to obtain good common school education to all.

Nominal Summer Fallows.

Elsewhere in this issue attention is called to the all too prevalent custom of summer fallowing a field in name alone and not in reality. Everywhere throughout the country can be seen fields in which the weeds are allowed to grow almost to maturity and in many cases fully ripen before the plow is used. Of what value is a summer fallow cultivated in this way? It presents an unsightly appearance, it detracts from the present worth of the farm, and it injures the prospect for next year's crop.

The prime objects of a summer fallow should be to conserve moisture, to improve tilth and to remove weeds. And when a vigorous crop of weeds pull the moisture from the soil and dissipate it in the warm summer air you stand to lose and not gain the objects for which you strive.

Begin the summer fallow early, harrow thoroughly, induce the weeds to grow and kill them in the early stages of growth and your reward will come in the increased yield of the coming harvest time.

The Markers of Western Progress.

Annually at this time of year Western Canada puts on holiday garb and attends one or other of the big fairs, Winnipeg, Brandon, Edmonton, Calgary or Regina. These annual exhibitions serve more than one purpose, viz., that of recreation, they are, as it were, great mirrors into which the dwellers of the plains may look and note the development of the agriculture of the country. As it is only to be expected the most attractive feature is the live stock, not only because of its excellence or the money invested in it, but because it is something alive and responsive to command and caress of the human voice and hand. In the barns and show rings are to be seen superlative animals bred in Canada showing that the breeder's art is not confined to that wonderful little isle to which we all claim kinship and which is the great nursery of high class live stock and improved agriculture but that the skill transmitted to her sons has thrived and developed in Canada. The throngs that gather about the show rings are not mere idle spectators but intelligent critics, noting good and bad qualities of the stock shown and mentally deciding whether progress is being made by comparing the exhibits with those of former years. It is fortunately rare to hear of any sliding backwards, the quality of the stock is continually improving and value constantly increasing. It is well that we have the shows, especially in this country where distances are so great and travelling so expensive as to largely prohibit visits to many of the noted studs, flocks and herds of the country. Another attractive and educative feature is that furnished by the implement firms whose demonstrations with new patterns and types of machinery show to the farmer avenues by which the investment of moderate sums means great saving in time, labor and money. The Western farmer is ever on the lookout for new labor saving devices; necessity, the great mother of inventions, and the rapid and short crop seasons force the Western agriculturist to keep in touch with the newest inventions of labor saving machinery so that in the competition for trade in the world's markets he may not be left in the rear. The production of high class fuel for the human engine is also of much more moment and one finds the buildings devoted to dairying and fruit, to domestic manufactures and domestic science demonstrations thronged by interested sight seers; this is as it should be! One cannot watch the crowds of such healthy prosperous humanity without feeling that we live in an enlightened age and in a grand country. There is no cringing in the attitude of our men, no shrinking as the result of over consciousness in the attitude of our women and maidens, all are at the big fairs for recreation and education, and while on the surface the former may seem to be the ruling idea, yet