

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME JOURNAL

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

Vol. XLV.

Winnipeg, Canada, October 5, 1910

No. 941

FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1896

Western Canada's Agricultural Weekly
Published Every Wednesday.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
Canada and Great Britain, per annum, in advance \$1.50
(if in arrears) 2.00
United States and Foreign countries, in advance 2.50
Date on label shows time subscription expires.
In accordance with the law, THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to all subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance, accompanied by payment of all arrearages.
British Agency, W. W. Chapman, Mowbray House, Norfolk St., London W. C., England.
Specimen copies mailed free. Agents wanted.
Address all communications to the firm, not to any individual.
FARMER'S ADVOCATE
OF WINNIPEG, LIMITED
14-16 PRINCE ST. WINNIPEG, MAN.

EDITORIAL

Road Dragging Competition

In four municipalities in the vicinity of Winnipeg an interesting competition in keeping roads in good condition by the use of the split-log drag has been concluded, and cash prizes totalling two hundred dollars awarded. Enthusiasm has been aroused, and it has been demonstrated that no implement excels the split-log drag in keeping roadways in condition when economy and efficiency are considered.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE has for some years been interested in the drag as a road implement. Feeling satisfied that its introduction into Western Canada would be a boon to all who travel the highways, a cash offer was made last winter to the Manitoba Good Roads Association, if this organization would use the money to promote a competition that would induce individual farmers to give it a trial. Details of the contest were arranged and four municipalities entered, with four competitors in each.

The contest has been a success, as will be noted by the report of the judges given on another page. In addition, letters received by THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE from several of the contestants show that they are satisfied that no implement ever seen can be used to such advantage.

This Fall's Weed Weather

As a general rule Western Canadian weather in the fall is pronounced unfavorable for promoting weed growth. Recent rains that have fallen in many localities gave almost ideal conditions for the germination of seeds that had fallen. Wherever discs or other implement that would help to cover these seeds had been used there is no danger of lack of germination sufficient to permit of the destruction of the pests, either by subsequent

cultivation or by the winter's frosts. Perhaps even those who have felt positive about wild oats not germinating until they had stood through the winter will change their minds. If wild oats that ripened and fell to the ground did not sprout after being treated to a liberal rainfall, followed by balmy sunny days, provided they had even a scanty covering of soil, then there are good grounds for the assertion that a season's wild oat crop will not grow in the fall. We would like to hear from those who have anything definite on this point.

Not only has the weather of September been favorable for the germination of weed seeds, but also for unusual development of stem, flower and seed in weeds that had made little development during summer. Sowthistle, Canada thistle and quack grass fields in particular call for special attention. The root stocks of these weeds are very tenacious of life. Cultivation in the earlier part of the summer may have so weakened them that no signs of life appeared while the weather was dry. The rains, however, may have roused up a small spark of life that remained here and there, and if something is not done sufficient growth will be made before winter sets in to re-infest what otherwise would have been a clean field.

Examine your summerfallow and see if it would not be well to cultivate again before freeze-up. It would be folly to allow late summer and fall development of weeds to step in and spoil the summer's work on the summer-fallow.

The Pulse of the Western Farmer

Premier Laurier has spent some weeks feeling the pulse of the Western farmer, as far as legislation demands are concerned. Incidentally he and his allies no doubt have endeavored to reach conclusions as to what demands are worthy of "serious consideration" and what should be ignored. It can safely be guessed that the trip did something to awaken even these able men to the fact that the agricultural interests of the Canadian West call for attention at Ottawa on Parliament Hill. It is to be hoped that consideration will be given these problems in proportion to their real worth, and not because a move in that direction may mean votes.

Farmers and those interested in the farmers' welfare have told Sir Wilfrid very plainly that they want government ownership of terminal elevators; that free trade at least in machinery used on the farm, is desirable; that a line of railway from the prairie provinces to Hudson Bay would be a boon; that our live-stock industry will be helped by the establishment of a chilled-meat trade. And there were several other pertinent suggestions urged with due force. What action will be

taken remains to be seen. It is safe to say, however, that some element in one or more of the provinces will find reason to complain. When will big questions in the way of legislation be handled in a business way? It is true that what is satisfactory for Eastern Canada is not the best for the West. But there must be compromise. If representatives of the Dominion government were to meet with representatives of the various provinces and talk matters over frankly in a business way, even tariff problems can be worked out on such lines as will come pretty near giving fair treatment to the greatest number. What is wanted is business, not politics.

Judging by Jury System

To obtain live-stock judges of unimpeachable integrity and possessing absolute knowledge of the classes of live stock to be awarded is the problem that confronts every exhibition association once or twice each year. Such men are to be found, but they are not always obtainable. Then, too, the cost of securing their services often is an item for serious consideration.

The Vancouver Exhibition Association this year followed in many of the classes the "jury system." This system, as practiced, may be briefly explained: The names of seven qualified judges are placed in a hat. Three are drawn to act as judges, and one as referee. These four enter the ring as judges, and are to arrive at their decisions without consultation and hand their decisions to the clerk, the referee only being consulted in the case of a tie. It was most remarkable how seldom the referee's ballot was consulted. Most of the leading exhibitors and all of the judges spoke in the highest praise of the system.

While there is no doubt that it is best at an exhibition to have a competent, qualified judge for every class of live stock, still there are occasions when the jury system may be properly employed. It is to be strongly recommended in advance of the services of judges such as sometimes are engaged.

Subsoiling

Subsoiling is stirring or plowing the soil deeper than it is ordinarily plowed. The object in doing so is to render available for the crops grown on the land a larger percentage of the rainfall. It is a process most useful in sub-humid climates. A sub-humid climate is one in which rainfall is below normal, normal rainfall here being taken to mean the amount necessary to produce crops.

Subsoiling increases the capacity of a soil for moisture; it decreases the power of a soil for lifting moisture from the lower depths, and it increases percolation, that is, the downward movement of water. It is a process that is