

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

VOL. XXXIV.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., DECEMBER 5, 1899.

No. 491

Aid to the Fire Sufferers in Dauphin.

Mr. McKellar, of the Department of Agriculture, made a personal inspection of the burnt districts of the Dauphin country, investigating each individual case, and upon his report the Manitoba Government are giving assistance to those absolutely in need of sufficient supplies to tide them over the winter and assist them in making a fresh start next spring, hay and bran for the stock being the chief item. Although a good many settlers had their buildings burnt, it being a bush country they were able to rebuild almost immediately. In some few cases provisions for families who lost everything, and also seed for next year, are required. The total amount required to afford this needed assistance is only about \$2,500.00.

Ventilate the Stables.

Undoubtedly one of the chief causes of so much mortality among horses in this country is the poor and unsanitary condition of the stables. Old buildings that have been a long time in use, with rotten floors and a regular cesspool of filth lying underneath, emitting foul and poisonous gasses, and with little or no ventilation, cannot be healthful places for any animal. Very many people keep their stables too warm, even in the best and most modern buildings. It is general, upon first opening the doors in the winter mornings, to be met with a rush of hot, fetid air. While it is essential that proper overhead ventilators be provided, it is equally essential that an adequate supply of fresh air be allowed ingress. This should come at or near the floor, and be so arranged that no draft strikes upon any animal. Animals will be much more healthy in stables where the temperature is never allowed to go above 50° than where higher temperatures are common.

Wheat Grades High.

The following statement, issued by Chief Inspector Horn, of wheat inspected at Winnipeg in the months of September and October, gives a good idea of the relative quality of the season's crop, and it will be noticed that a very large percentage is No. 1 hard. A very small quantity of oats or barley undergo inspection at Winnipeg, but 44 cars of flax was inspected during the two months named:

Wheat.	Cars.	Bushels.
1 hard	8,312	6,923,890
2 hard	1,285	1,074,850
1 northern	307	254,810
2 northern	25	20,750
1 spring	11	9,130
3 hard	250	207,500
1 frosted	33	27,390
2 frosted	21	19,920
3 frosted	8	6,640
Rejected 1	191	158,530
Rejected 2	35	29,050
No grade	62	51,460
Total	10,583	8,783,890

The Distribution of Small Packages of Grain from Experimental Farms of Little Benefit.

For a number of years now the Experimental Farms have been sending out to farmers all over the Dominion small sample packages of seeds of various kinds, the ostensible object being to have these varieties tested in different localities. Whether any good has ever been derived from this distribution of small pound packages of grains, etc., in any other part of Canada, we are not prepared to say, but from somewhat extended personal observation, the writer cannot recall an instance where in Manitoba or the West any practical result has been achieved. The settlers in this new country, with so much development work to be done, and such short seasons in which to overtake the work, have no time nor conveniences to give the necessary attention required to get results from a pound of seed of any variety of grain. When desirable to test likely varieties in districts where soil or conditions are

different from that on the Experimental Farms, a better plan would seem to be to supply a fair quantity of seed to some one man, who would give it proper attention, and report promptly on results. There are some crops, such as potatoes, that can, with decided advantage, be distributed in small lots, as they can very easily be planted by themselves, harvested and kept separate, and the yield from even a very small quantity of seed will generally suffice for a considerable test the second year. In connection with this distribution of small packages of grains, Mr. McKay, Superintendent of the Indian Head Farm, is reported to have said at an Institute meeting, held recently in Alberta, that a new plan would in future be tried. He said:

"The plan of sending round to farmers a few pounds of seeds of different varieties of grains, etc., grown on the Experimental Farm, had not worked very well. The quantities were too small for the recipients to devote attention to the growth, etc. It had therefore been decided to adopt a different plan. Sufficient seeds of several varieties to sow an acre would be sent to the Agricultural Societies that applied for them, and then these could be entrusted to farmers in whom the Society had confidence. Farmers in several districts would then be able to conduct their own experiments. No Experimental Farm was in Assiniboia, and it was possible that certain seeds and particular methods that were suited to that part of the country might not be suited to Alberta. By the plan above indicated the kinds suited to the different districts would be ascertained, and thus would the farmer be benefited."

Free Transportation of Bulls to N.-W.T.

In connection with the free transportation on 8 carloads of pure-bred bulls granted by the Canadian Pacific Railway on behalf of the Northwest Territorial Government, as announced in the Nov. 20th issue of the *ADVOCATE*, we are advised by C. W. Peterson, Dep. Commissioner of Agriculture, Regina, that "the scheme is identical with that of last year. This Department will offer to carry animals from Ontario to Territorial points at the uniform rate of \$5.00. The Canadian Pacific Railway has, however, recognizing the usefulness of the work undertaken by this Department, come forward upon the request of the Department and agreed to co-operate to the extent above indicated. This will enable us to carry out a more vigorous policy in this matter this year than we have been in a position to do in the past."

Under this arrangement the party purchasing a pure-bred bull in Ontario can, upon filing an application accompanied with \$5.00 and a declaration that he is a bona fide farmer possessing a certain number of cattle, have the animal delivered to his nearest railroad station under the supervision of the Government, the Government undertaking, through the Dominion Breeders' Associations, the collection, shipping, and distribution of the stock. Last year each applicant was only entitled to get in one animal on these terms, and we understand the same rule applies still. The arrangement is the same as last year, so far as the farmers are concerned. The Government will be saved the freight, but \$5.00 a head is a very reasonable charge, and no one should object to paying that amount.

Preparing for all Weathers.

As the time is fast approaching when the Legislature and Stock Breeders' Associations will meet, the Farmers' Institutes and individual farmers should both individually and collectively impress it on the powers that be that every winter let pass without any opportunity of an agricultural training for farmers, their children, and their hired men, means thousands of dollars lost to the Province. Some may think this a strong statement, and in order to stifle their conscience will say: "Look at the expense of such an institution; the Province can't afford it;" and yet these good people can not or will not explain why so many creameries and cheese factories are idle; why the average yield of wheat in the Province is not higher; why the weed question is such a serious one; why a pork-packing firm cannot get enough hogs; why the stockers

all go out of the country (this same person swears at the tough beef his butcher supplies him with); or why it is so many of the fairs are such starvelings, and so on, *ad lib.* The editorial in the *F. A.* (Nov. 6), "Preparing for Winter," says, and the editor is correct: "Some of the older children should be given a few months' schooling, by which they would be greatly helped in their life's work, whether on the farm or elsewhere." A government ministers for the people; one of its primary duties is the improvement of the educational facilities. With a flourishing university (I refer to the attendance particularly), and colleges giving courses in arts, law, medicine, and divinity, Manitoba is fairly well supplied, educationally speaking, because there is no agricultural school. In the U. S. each State has its technical college, where the son and daughter of the poor man can take up agriculture, domestic economy (a science), engineering and other industrial pursuits. It is acknowledged by all that the professions are being overcrowded—the profession of agriculture will never be overcrowded, as that period will mark the millennium—and the wisdom of the direction of public funds in such a way as to further overcrowd these professions, law, art, divinity, etc., might be questioned. To the person who pays the taxes the project of an Agricultural College is a fearful one. He fears that a large bill will be incurred for expensive buildings and costly experiments, etc., and, while he is in error here, he forgets the resultant benefits of such an institution. Let me cite Wisconsin, and first show the rapid appreciation of the short course in agriculture. It has only been in existence six years, with very few students at the start, and to-day there are over 250 applicants for admission the coming winter. Who are these zealous people? Farmers, farmers' sons and hired men. The last mentioned class are well in evidence, and their reasons for appreciating such a course are shown when it is stated that the secretary of the short course last spring placed 102 students at good wages, wage running from \$20 to \$60 a month; and reflect, O reader! people do not offer such pay unless the services to be rendered are worth the price. Applications for educated agriculturists were so numerous that they could not be filled. Manitoba has not the funds to start an elaborate institution, giving courses in biology, chemistry and bacteriology; such subjects, I hold, being entirely without the province of the agricultural college proper; nor to turn out professors for agricultural colleges. The short course at Wisconsin is of 14 weeks' duration, no entrance examination, and the teaching is made as simple and as practical as possible. The students are shown how to handle a sheep, to judge a horse (not omitting its unsoundnesses), how to discriminate in all kinds of farm stock, are given the principles of feeding, soil physics, farm chemistry, farm bacteriology, horticulture, and dairying. The strong feature of the course is the live stock work, and the results are as stated above, and the students all go back to the farm with an increased earning power and love for their calling, and are also in demand as expert judges at the county fairs. Such a course can be started and maintained in Manitoba at a reasonable expense, because expensive buildings and laboratories are not necessary. The investment will pay 100 per cent. While the present state of affairs continues, the farmer population can say with justice, "Now is the winter of our discontent."

A. G. HOPKINS, V. S.

Are Wire Nails Durable?

It is said that the wire nail, that has to such a large extent displaced the cut nail, rusts through at the place where the two pieces of wood come together very much faster than the old-fashioned nail. One writer gives as an instance that where shingles have been put on with wire nails, but few years elapse before the nails are rusted through, and the shingles blow off the roof. Just why this should be so is not explained.

Crushing Oats.

The advantages of crushing oats before feeding them to horses are many. They are more readily masticated, and consequently the animal derives more of the nutriment out of them: horses cannot bolt crushed oats as many do whole oats. Of course with old horses, or young horses changing their teeth, the benefit is even greater than when horses have a full set of sound teeth. Bruising or rolling is now more generally favored than crushing, but when there are any foul weed seeds crushing fine is more likely to destroy the seeds.