

Nation & Shewan, Limited

Our Great Annual Whitewear Sale Commences on Tuesday, Jan. 26th

Minister of Agriculture Dealt Comprehensively With Present Conditions in Livestock World

Hon. Geo. Lawrence Urges Upon Every Farmer in Manitoba the Advantage of Retaining His Livestock—Province Has Splendid Opportunity if Farmers Will Only Keep Their Heads and Act Wisely—Highly Successful Convention in City Hall Last Night—Practical Talks on Stock Feeding.

The joint convention held Monday under the presidency of Mr. J. D. McGregor, was well attended, and the audience listened with intense interest to the speakers.

The feature of the evening was an address by Hon. Geo. Lawrence, minister of agriculture for the province, who could not urge too strongly upon every Manitoba farmer the necessity of retaining his livestock.

The first address was delivered by Mr. E. Ward Jones, D.S.A., professor of animal husbandry, Manitoba Agricultural College, on "Stock Feeding Tests at the College and the Farmer."

Mr. Ward Jones dealt exhaustively with the feeding of hogs, and pointed out with the aid of charts what the college is doing in the direction of experimental feeding of farm animals.

The college will publish in the course of a few days the result of experiments tried on swine as to whether it is more profitable to feed hogs twice a day, or to keep food before them all the time.

Experiments are also carried out on the feeding of steers on oat straw, oat and barley chop, and roots.

The steers are weighed twice a week, and a record kept of the various weights and condition of the animals.

With horses experiments are being tried with feeding timothy hay, 16 lbs. each, when on work for five weeks, and they are then put on red top for five weeks, the weights are carefully kept. Experiments in feeding corn instead of oats, are also being made.

Horses are also fed on oat sheaves, whole, for five weeks, then on cut oat sheaves for five weeks and finally on oat straw and oats for five weeks.

The first lot of sheep are fed on barley and oats, the second lot on elevator screenings, the third lot on small black seeds and wild oats. All the sheep have been fed for 51 days.

There are seven sheep in each lot and up to the present those fed on elevator screenings show a great advance in weight over the others.

that the stock breeders and grain growers of western Canada must cooperate, and in this she sees the salvation of the farming industry throughout the west.

The Hon. Geo. Lawrence, minister of agriculture, was the next speaker, and said in part:

Now what is the present outlook in regard to livestock? According to reports of the ministers of agriculture for Saskatchewan and Alberta there will be a fifty per cent reduction this year in the number of hogs in each province, this has been brought about by the scarcity and high price of feed.

The same situation prevails in the United States. During the first eleven months of 1914 receipts at the principal western markets, Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, St. Joseph and Sioux City, were 6,125,629 cattle, 12,213,252 hogs and 11,591,171 sheep, the decrease shown compared with the corresponding period of 1913 being 772,630 cattle, 1,983,458 hogs and 586,362 sheep.

The principal cattle shortage is at Kansas City, with 302,013 head; Chicago comes second, with 237,155 and St. Joseph third with 89,445 less than last year. The significant fact is that not a single market was able to show an increase. Even discounting the scarcity of feed in Kansas, still there would have been a deficiency. The figures represent cattle scarcity and no other conclusion is possible.

Owing to the cholera ravages of 1913 the decrease in hog receipts at these markets is approximately 2,000,000 head, while it is not surprising that live hogs sold at new high levels every month since last June in view of the sheep statistics. And it is believed that the real scarcity in sheep and cattle has not yet been revealed by the 1914 returns; in other words, the cattle on feed this winter, it is believed, are everywhere less in number than last year.

The destruction from "foot and mouth" disease in the United States has been enormous and short-sighted farmers all over North America have been rushing breeding stock to the packers and in an unfinished condition at that. The present sag in prices is a natural outcome, and entirely a temporary condition brought about by war prices for grain, tight money and the sacrifice sale of breeders. When the war is over Europe will be clamoring for breeders, grain prices will drop to normal and then livestock will come into its own. So scarce is good breeding stock and so scarce it will continue to be that the man who parts now with what he has may have to wait for years to replace it; for good breeding stock is short all over the world.

I have here the complete livestock receipts at Winnipeg for 1913 and 1914, the number of head handed through the Union Stock yards and through the Canadian Pacific yards. Let there be any doubt in your minds that western Canadian farmers are disposing of their livestock, let me read these figures to you:

Table with 2 columns: Year (1913, 1914) and Livestock Type (Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, Horses) with corresponding counts.

Here, then, we have an increase over 1913 of nearly 16,000 cattle, of nearly 387,000 hogs and of nearly 7,000 horses.

The receipts of sheep alone show a reduction, indicating less importations. The prices of mutton have been well sustained and the local demand is excellent.

Urges Retention of Livestock I cannot too strongly urge upon every Manitoba farmer the necessity of retaining his livestock. When everybody else is going out of a commodity it is the time to stay in it yourself if you want to make money. Manitoba has a splendid opportunity if our individual farmers will only keep their heads and act wisely and with foresight.

Plenty of Fodder The department has demonstrated that an abundant supply of fodder, corn and alfalfa can be grown in every part of old Manitoba every year if farmers will grow a sufficient area of alfalfa to supplement their fodder corn. They can obtain a perfect ration by putting together these choice fodders. Since the first experiment with alfalfa in 1911 Manitoba now has about 20 experimental plots and we obtained our first threshing of home grown alfalfa on the 22nd of September.

At the demonstration farm in October last, about six acres of the first crop of alfalfa was threshed and from this one field of less than six acres was obtained over 25 bushels (1,535 lbs. to be exact) of clean, pure seed of exceptionally high quality. The sample is apparently well matured. So that while many pastures are being plowed up and hay meadows drained there need be no anxiety for the future of the livestock industry in this province because of fodder supply problems.

Seeding and Cultivation. I would like to say a word in regard to the importance of good seed selection. Our seed grain fairs have proved of great value in this connection, as they enable the man who has good seed to offer to the public to exhibit it for purchase. Good seed is as essential as good cultivation, for the most profitable results and good cultivation is the foundation of the grain grower's success. Every farmer who knows his business knows this and I mention it in passing merely because there has been so much agitation of late for wholesale breaking up and cropping of new land to the end that we may patetically increase our grain output in 1915.

I want to say right here that I am heartily in accord with the laudable end in view—with the desire to help the Motherland in every possible way during the present unfortunate crisis. I do not think there is any part of our great empire that is more loyal and true to British traditions than the province of Manitoba and I feel sure that every Manitoba farmer is with me heart and soul in a common desire to help to the fullest possible extent. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that sympathies sometimes stamped good judgment and that there are certain basic lines which we must follow to carry out in the best advantage the special efforts we wish to make. For instance, grain sown on first breaking of prairie sod, even though broken and deeply disked, produces small returns and leaves the soil unproductive for a number of years following. The most active demand for grain at the highest prices the world has ever seen will not alter the fact that superficial work will not pay. Well prepared land and good seed are the essentials and where this course is adhered to the increase in production per acre will more than counterbalance the returns from a wide acreage poorly cropped and hurriedly handled. Thus, we can obtain the desired results by following the right lines and do it without plunging the whole country into agricultural bankruptcy.

There is a strong tendency in Manitoba towards factory or cooperative dairying. Through the co-operation of the farmers themselves making their butter, the co-operation of the creameries with each other in the adoption of a uniform system of grading cream and paying for the same, and the co-operation of the creameries with the department of agriculture through the services of the creamery inspector and butter grader, a complete chain is formed which links up the work from raw material to finished product.

The advance in quality as a result of these improved marketing conditions has been such that the demand for Manitoba butter is now keen, especially in British Columbia, which will take all we can send. It is the intention of the Department to continue this good work and to seed development of every marketing facility along practical and beneficial lines and on a permanent basis.

Other Features of Work There are many other features of our work which I might mention, such as the splendid results achieved by our Boys and Girls clubs throughout the province. The younger generation is not being neglected and elementary agriculture in the schools is proving the right beginning. But I have said enough to illustrate that behind our advocacy of mixed farming are tangible results already achieved which point unwaveringly to the wisdom of our present course.

I can only add that I sincerely hope nothing will be allowed to interfere with the upward trend of our province. It would be the greatest of mistakes if our farmers lost their heads during the present unfortunate conditions of war, if in the scramble to take advantage of high prices for grain they became reckless enough to lose sight of the future in the excitement of the present. In so doing you would injure not only yourselves but your children and by no means patriotically be doing your part in your country's cause.

In speaking this warning I do not want to be considered pessimistic. Not in the least. I believe that the majority of our Manitoba farmers are shrewd and capable business men realizing that it is as necessary to furnish foodstuffs to the motherland as it is to supply men, money and equipment. But I would be derelict in my duty if I did not mention this matter to you.

The Battle of the Weeds

The noxious weed problem enters into this question of careless cultivation and seed selection, as you may well imagine. Long after the enemies of the Empire have been plowed, harrowed, rolled and packed and back-set to where they belong, vigorous warfare will still be necessary against our noxious weeds. This enemy to agriculture has already occupied the land, so to speak, robbing our granaries, choking the life out of our crops in certain sections and spreading its campaign with every wind that blows! It is intended to supplement the work of the department for weed control by the appointment this year of field representatives, men trained for their duties at our own agricultural college. These field men will keep in close touch with the spread of noxious weeds in the various districts of the province and it is expected that their services will prove of great assistance to the farmers and to the municipal weed inspectors, as well as to new settlers more or less unfamiliar with the local conditions.

Increase in Homesteaders You may be interested in knowing that the efforts of the Department in securing new settlers for Manitoba have been increasingly successful. For seven months of 1914, 3,360 newcomers have settled on homesteads as against 2,891 in 1913. I do not think there is a province in the Dominion which is securing a better class of settlers than Manitoba. It has been our policy to encourage British immigration particularly to make selection of the agricultural class rather than a hodge-podge from the cities. And in our literature, lectures and campaign generally we have endeavored to impress the fact that mixed farming is the proper system of farming for Manitoba.

Manitoba has made enviable progress in this direction. Within the past two years our dairy industry has climbed to top place and there has been a marked upward tendency in livestock pursuits. Manitoba can show an increase during the year of nearly a million pounds of creamery butter, of nearly 71,000 pounds of cheese and of 2,335,000 lbs. of milk, consumed as such.

Manitoba Leads in Dairy Products Comparing Manitoba's output in dairy products with those of the other provinces we find some interesting figures in total values:

Table with 2 columns: Province (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta) and Dairy Product Value (1913, 1914).

Manitoba. \$3,416,248.97 \$3,417,381.93 Saskatchewan. 395,000.00 1,114,000.00 Alberta. 1,100,375.00 1,426,881.24 If we add together the total value of dairy products in Saskatchewan and Alberta for 1914 we find that Manitoba is in the lead over both totals by a value of \$876,506.69.

Improved Marketing There is a strong tendency in Manitoba towards factory or cooperative dairying. Through the co-operation of the farmers themselves making their butter, the co-operation of the creameries with each other in the adoption of a uniform system of grading cream and paying for the same, and the co-operation of the creameries with the department of agriculture through the services of the creamery inspector and butter grader, a complete chain is formed which links up the work from raw material to finished product.

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The subject assigned me is one that interests every farmer, rancher, importer and user of horse power, for all are affected by the demand of the market. For a period of about eight years, preceding 1913, horse breeding was one of the most profitable branches of agriculture. During these years there was a good demand for grade horses from new settlers in the west for the farms and from the cities for dray and cartage purposes. This market grew from 1904, the prices reaching their highest in 1911-1912. Naturally, the great demand and ready sale of grade horses stimulated the importation and breeding of pure breeds with the result that importations of males and females were very heavy and the quality was high. Our farmers and breeders were not slow in taking advantage of this opportunity to improve their stock, so that today we find that Western Canada has so improved the quality of their breeding stock that we are in the proud position of being able to produce, in large numbers, horses of outstanding quality, fit for any market. The great improvement in the breeding, type and quality of our horses places us in a position to breed horses that will command the top market price. This being our position today, what about the future?

INTERESTING PAPER ON THE FUTURE OF HORSE BREEDING IN CANADA

Breeders Never So Well Prepared to Meet War Demands Says Mr. A. O. McPhail.

"Canada was never so well prepared as at the present time to meet the demands being made on her for horses for war purposes," said Mr. A. O. McPhail, the well-known horse breeder of Forrest, in his paper before the annual meeting of the Horse Breeders' Association here on Wednesday. The title of the paper was "The Future of Horse Breeding in Manitoba," and it read as follows:

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The Horse's Competitor Motor power is now a competitor of the horse. For a time many predicted that the motor would, to a large extent, supplant the horse, but after eight years of experience, bought at a tremendous cost, thousands of our western farmers can bear indisputable testimony that the horse is indispensable on the farm and is the cheapest, motive power that can be used. The motor truck and the automobile have replaced the horse to a certain extent. The growing popularity of the automobile and the certainty that its use by the farmers, will become more general justifies that conclusion that the market for light horses will necessarily be limited. But for the heavier breeds the outlook is very bright. Motor power will cease to be a serious competitor. The practical certainty that grain prices will range higher for the next five or ten years than for the previous decade will attract men to the land. There will be increase acreage under crop, improved methods of cultivation, which means that an increased demand for horses will inevitably result.

Never So Well Prepared The purchase of large numbers of horses for war purposes will also

What is a fair price for a good horse? What does it cost a farmer to raise a colt to the age of four or five years? This question is often asked, and different answers are given. A good horse at that age weighing from 1,400 to 1,550 should be worth \$150 to \$225, and I believe that there is money for the breeder at this price. Horses that weigh from 1,600 lbs. to 1,800 lbs. will command a higher price and cost little more to produce. These I submit are fair prices. I would also point out that our economic conditions ought to be such that we should be able to breed and sell teams of 1,400 lbs. to 1,550 lbs. at from \$350 to \$450. In my opinion, these prices are all that a farmer can afford to pay for work horses for the farms. At this price he can afford to buy them, and we can afford to raise them. Heavier horses will always command the highest price but they are less plentiful. I do not look for a return of the high notch price obtained in 1910-1911 such prices. A four-horse team costing \$1,000 and upward is expensive power to haul the seeder, plow or binder.

Outlook Very Encouraging For the breeders of pure bred stock the outlook is exceedingly encouraging. The conditions produced by the war are bound to bring about a curtailment in importations. It is doubtful if it will be possible to import purebreds in anything like the numbers we have been doing. In Great Britain the war has already had the effect of advancing the prices of breeding stock and imports from France, Belgium, Scotland and England will naturally be very light and prices will reach such a point as to limit importations to very small proportions. This will undoubtedly increase the demand for Canadian bred animals, and with the demand will come higher prices. The phenomenal improvement in Canadian breeds, as reflected at our great exhibition is evidence that we can, right here in Canada, breed and produce a Canadian bred that compares favorably with imported horses. We are fortunate to be in this position. The breeders of registered stock stand to profit more even than the breeders of grades. Equipped as we are with breeding stock equal in breeding and quality to any to be found on the continent and of a type and quality capable of producing the horses the market demands, with the practical certainty of a profitable market for years to come, the outlook, in my opinion, is very encouraging. And the farmer who plans his faith to breeding more horses, and is careful in his selection of sires and dams, stands to profit by his enterprise.

PATRIOTIC CONCERT A patriotic concert will be given by the ladies and young people of the Gorrie district, in the Gorrie school house on Friday, Jan. 2nd. The program will consist of songs, and dialogues, finishing with a splendid tableau of a patriotic nature. An admission fee of 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children will be charged. Following the program, refreshments will be served.

Heavy Casualty List Among "Princess Rats," Says Private Information Received at Toronto Toronto, Jan. 18—A special cable to the Mail and Empire from London says that their correspondent learns from a private source that about two hundred of the Princess Rats were in the charge described in despatches and that the enemy made a violent onslaught on them, with the result that only eighty-three returned from the charge, while Major Hamilton Gault had a very narrow escape. A World special cable says that during a visit to the sergeants' mess of the 48th Toronto Highlanders at Salisbury on Saturday, Gen. Alderson announced that he expected the regiment would leave for France within three weeks.