

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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of the annual meeting. Unpaid taxes are a special lien upon the land and have priority over all other claims. Taxes may be recovered by suit in the name of the overseer. Levy may be made for unpaid taxes after two months on the goods of the defaulter, and nothing stands between the levy. The overseer is required to make certain returns, under penalties. All overseers are ex-officio fire guardians.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION.

We have seen that the Territories started on the basis of the conventional municipal system; that the people as a whole would not have that system, and the Government did nothing to enforce it; that the system of providing for public improvements by Federal grant, expended by Assembly members, has been succeeded by a system under which the whole of the grant is expended by the Government; that this grant has been supplemented by taxation under what is now known as the Local Improvement Ordinance; and that with these two in connection it is intended not to revert to a municipal system, but to work out a system as simple and inexpensive as possible in accordance with the needs and conditions of the Territories; and that up to the present the experiment has been in the main successful. But in order to give a just impression of the situation it is necessary to state that the scheme is just now being subjected to a severe strain. There has been a large increase of population, necessarily calling for increased expenditure all round, for schools, public improvements and administration. The grant from Ottawa has been practically stationary. This increased expenditure was provided for by the liquor revenue derived from the Yukon before the Yukon District was severed from the Territories. Nothing further can be hoped for on this line. The Government claims that additional money for the public services must come from somewhere, or improvements and the extension of education must be more or less abandoned. The Premier and Commissioner of Public Works, with the Deputy Commissioner of Works, are now in Ottawa to urge the Territorial claims, and it is reported that there is a fair probability of the Federal Government giving a substantial increase. Should this be so, the Territories will probably pursue their way under present auspices for some time longer. Failing any increase in the Federal grant, it is expected (rightly or wrongly, we know not) that to avoid a period of stagnation or of

actual going back Ministers will appeal to the country on a provincial autonomy scheme. The present idea, which, of course, may be falsified by events, is that when provincial status is attained the whole of the public works of the country will continue to be directed from Regina, with such local assistance as we have indicated.

The present writer has not attempted to criticize so much as to fairly state the position; but it may be added that the experiment is not without its dangers. Centralization, beyond a given point not easy to define, is a danger in any free and self-governing community. To rely on the primitive leverage of a labor tax (for after all, that, and that only, is what it amounts to) as the sole means of avoiding municipal organization in the future is, as it appears to the writer, to lean upon a somewhat frail support. It may be sufficient for to-day. Nothing but the future can reveal the future, and we expect to see this primitive staff eventually bend and break beneath the weight of population and the all-round pressure that will come with progress. At the same time the experiment is praiseworthy and instructive, and even if it fails to hold its ground in the long run, it will be useful in its day and generation.

The attempt of a young community to work out an old problem on a new line—not working up to municipalities, but working away from them—will at any rate be a valuable contribution to the data of self-government. One thing is certain, just now the Northwest Government is not in a position to help itself, for the simple reason that in their present frame of mind nothing could induce the people of the Territories to touch municipalities except in the most gingerly way. A compulsory labor tax was the only available way in which the mass of the people of the Territories could be reached in the way desired. Only time can show whether this plan is an expedient or a solution.

Homemaking.

I have been thinking for some time that I would like to say a few words to my brother farmers on this all-important subject, "Homemaking," and I do not know a better way of reaching the people than through the columns of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. It has been my privilege to visit a great many of the rural homes in Manitoba. Some are well-ordered, comfortable homes. Others, again, and I am sorry to say, a great many, are run in a very slipshod sort of a way.

Let it be understood that I am not finding fault with the houses or surroundings. Nothing of the kind, for one can find a real home, in the true sense of the term, in very small, uncomfortable-looking quarters. There is a great difference between a home and a residence. In too many homes I have seen the father and grown-up boys lie around on the Sabbath day in their working clothes without tidying up a bit. They would be far better fitted to engage in the labors of the coming week if they would dress up and attend the church of their choice and take their children to the Sabbath School.

Moral and spiritual matters are as necessary considerations in Homemaking as those of a social nature. These qualities cannot be purchased, nor are they inherited, but are the gift of a kind Heavenly Father meted out freely to all, upon conditions which in this Christian land are known, or should be known, by all. Of course these graces do not flourish if they are neglected. Our Father has given us a guide-book, a careful study of which will help greatly in this important work of Homemaking. When these steps have been made, comes the important work of character building. But you say, what has that to do with the subject? A great deal. Character is essential to the true home. It is the best thing we can possess on this world and the only thing we can take with us to the next.

A Few Hints on the Home Surroundings.—If you have not already begun to beautify your home, begin now. There is no time like the present. First calculate on and lay out the piece of land that you think you can handle and keep neat and clean. A good plan is to make a diagram of your farm and buildings, mark the places in which you want to plant trees for ornament and for shelter belts, also reserve a place for a lawn and several small flower plots. Just now, before spring opens, is a good time to draw your plans and maps. Do not wait until you have fine residences and barns. If you have them, all the better; if not, mark the places on your diagram where you would like to have your buildings located. First, fence, then plant the trees. The buildings will likely come in due time. Make home the pleasantest place possible for your family; provide them with all the legitimate games, such as football, hand ball, croquet and the like; let the parents take part in the amusements with the children occasionally, and see how the young people will enjoy the sports. Far better furnish them with amusement at home than let them go to questionable places to get it. Do not make classes of your family or servants. Expect fair, honest work, pay fair wages, and all will be well.

Municipality of Louise, Man.

Farm-yard manure or feeding highly concentrated foods on a pasture, supply appropriate fertilizing elements for permanent pasture.

The Handling of Wheat at Fort William.

To a wheat-grower of the western plains a trip through the large terminal elevators at Fort William is full of interest. The human mind is so constructed that it can readily picture the accomplishment of great things, but rarely does it take into account the contributing elaboration of details which has led up to the final climax or height of accomplishment in a given direction. For example, the settlers of Manitoba who came in the early '80's, if they had been told they would live to see the country exporting 30,000,000 bushels of wheat annually would have probably acquiesced, believing as all did that they had found a veritable "Land of Promise"; but if told that in order to the accomplishment of such an agricultural feat it was necessary to have 30,000 farmers bring 2,000,000 acres of virgin soil under cultivation, not to speak of the 3,500 miles of railway and the elevator system required to handle that amount of produce, and the flourishing towns and cities and the population of a quarter of a million supported by the industry, it is probable the most sanguine would have demurred. So, when the western wheat-grower is told that the Fort William elevators have appliance for unloading 400 cars of wheat daily and can load into boats a million and a half bushels of grain in a day, he is doubtless struck with the idea that it is pretty big business, but he doesn't recognize the stages by which this business has grown nor the aggregation of ideas, plans and experiments gathered from the four corners of the earth required to bring forth such results.

A representative of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE was recently given an opportunity of carefully looking into the method of handling grain in the four large C. P. R. elevators at Fort William and of the cleaning, drying and scouring in King's elevator at Port Arthur.

CAPACITY.

The storage capacity of the elevators is as follows: Elevator A—1,100,000 bushels; size 308x90 feet. Elevator B—1,100,000 bushels; size 308x90 feet. Elevator C—1,500,000 bushels; size 308x90 feet. Elevator D—1,500,000 bushels; steel, with tank bins. Or a total storage capacity of over 5,000,000 bushels.

INSPECTING.

All wheat is re-inspected here upon arrival, after which it is run to the A, B or D elevators, C not being a receiving elevator, but only for storage as an annex to A. At A and B 9 cars can be unloaded at each elevator at one time, and at D 4 cars. At the three elevators 400 cars can be unloaded in the day. A, B and C elevators are immense wooden structures, with over 200 bins each, mostly holding 5,000 bushels, though each elevator has a few 10,000-bushel bins. For each car being unloaded, there is an elevator, cleaner and scales. If a car of wheat requires cleaning, it is done on the spot and never mixed until cleaned. The shipping out is done on the opposite side of the elevator, and has a full complement of shipping scales and bins and special weighman. Each of the three wooden elevators can load a vessel carrying a quarter of a million bushels in five hours.

But it is in looking over elevator D that one is impressed with the idea that here are appliances and system hard to improve upon. This is a steel structure throughout, frame of steel, walls of steel, floor of steel, and cribbing of steel. Indeed, you wouldn't find enough wood in the building to make a decent kitchen fire. The working portion is 68x90 feet and 150 feet high, which has four receiving and two shipping compartments. The storage portion consists of circular steel tanks 65 feet deep, with cone tops and sitting flat on the ground. Eight of these tanks are 65 feet in diameter and 16 are 35 feet. The larger ones hold 125,000 bushels each and the smaller 35,000. These tanks are arranged in two double rows, between which, above and below, runs the large conveyor belts to carry the grain from the working portion to any tank in which it is to be stored and dropping into the top, or for emptying the tanks at the bottom, conveying it back to the working portion and shipping scales, from which it may be carried nearly 1,000 feet by conveyor belt and delivered into the vessel at the rate of 15,000 bushels per hour.

The screenings aggregate in the neighborhood of 700 tons per year, and are this year sold to a farmer near by at \$4.50 per ton, who is feeding them to sheep with good results.

Artistic and Educational.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Allow me to congratulate you upon your artistic effort styled "Canada's Ideal." It is the best group of cattle I've yet seen, and your artist is entitled to great praise for the manner in which he has done his work. "Canada's Ideal" sounds well, inspiring, and may our young farmers carry the outline of the animals illustrated in their mind's eye as something they should aspire to own, a something that will bring them wealth besides gratification—the pleasure of owning good stock. It is not everyone that can buy thoroughbred cows sufficient to start a herd, but no man need go without a good bull. I am sure your effort cannot but be appreciated, and, for one, allow me to tender my thanks for the engraving, and I would like to suggest to the Educational Department that every school in the Province should be provided with one as an educational chart.

Truly,
RICHARD GIBSON.