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EDITORIAL

Did you see the stallions at Brandon—now really, which horse, did you place first?

Live hog prices going up since Shrove Tuesday. What inconsistency!

The Grain Growers provided a pretty good imitation of the Chicago wheat pit at the Brandon convention.

The live stock matinees at Brandon were successful in attracting the male element largely, Elford and Grisdale being the idols.

Secretary Greig is not a retired farmer's man; instead of 'Oslerizing' him, he would have the wealthy agriculturist go to breeding purebreds.

Shepherd Jimmie Riddell stated that the Sheep Breeders' Association could show better results for the money spent than the weed inspector can.

In modern warfare, the successful army is the one that can change its base quickly. The Stockmen emulated the warriors, why not the Grain Growers.

"Managers of packing houses must work over time, pushing prices down to the farmers and up to the retailers."—Dr. Thompson to Sheep and Swine Men.

Overheard at a demonstration on poultry, Elford showing good and bad types of utility birds. Farmer's daughter 'He's a bird'. Query—Elford or the Rock?

It looks as if seed fairs were badly needed! At the first provincial seed fair at Brandon, only one sample of oats was eligible, all others being rejected for containing wild oats.

At Neepawa, many people were amazed to learn that there are 'white wild oats!' Every exhibit of oats were rendered ineligible on account of our lean, long tailed fuzzy-bodied enemy, the wild oat.

It looks a little funny for grown men to strike the "We made the cities and all that is therein" attitude and reminds one of children at play, 'each of whose father does bigger feats than the others'.

President E. N. Hopkins, Moosejaw, of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers is a firm believer in moving conventions around. The Territorial Grain Growers were at Regina in 1905, Moosejaw this year and go to Saskatoon next year.

The Salvation Army expects to land its party of fifty prospective brides in Canada, this month. There is to be inaugurated a series of lawn parties and other recreations conducive to matrimonial ventures. This March will have both Ides and Brides.

The Manitoba men can well afford to take a few leaves out of the book of the Territorial Grain Growers. Move around, gentlemen, let Portage la Prairie, Neepawa, Virden, Boissevain, Winnipeg and some other places get acquainted with you.

Oh, no, our friends Jno. A. Mooney (Valley River) T. Newton (West Selkirk) J. J. Ring (Crystal City) and Richard Storey (Franklin) did not win those solid silver F. A. medals for curling or foot racing, but for growing clover! As a public

man we know, would say, "D'you catch on" to the idea we had in encouraging the growth of legumes.

People came in hundreds of miles to hear grand opera at the Winnipeg recently; not only did they come long distances and spend valuable time, but they certainly paid for their seats. Who says we are not cultured? Our people will pay as high for a seat to hear grand opera, as to see championship hockey. Only the facilities for seeing the latter are better than for hearing the music.

Live Stock and Meat Prices.

The past few months have been prolific of much vigorous protest against the alleged manipulation of prices of live stock and dressed meats by the abattoir men operating in Western Canada. Prices of live cattle and hogs are now so comparatively out of accord with prices of other products that farmers are curtailing production to an alarming extent and this in face of the fact that export prices remain fairly uniform, and the price of dressed meat to the consumer maintains the high level reached about three years ago when the price of nearly all eatable commodities was advanced in sympathy with the increase of Western population.

In 1901 all classes of cattle were in active demand, stockers selling for from \$14 to \$22 depending upon age and quality while export cattle were quoted at Winnipeg in October of that year at from 3c to 3½c per lb. At the same time Canadian exporters in Liverpool were bringing from 10c to 11c per lb. In the same month butchers' cattle brought from 2½c to 3½c per lb. and dressed meats were sold to Winnipeg retailers at from 5c to 6½c per pound an average difference between producer and retailer of 2½c. During October of 1901 live hogs were quoted in Winnipeg at from 6½c to 7c per lb. with barley the staple feed for hogs, at from 34c to 36c per bushel. In February of 1902, hog prices ran from 6c to 6½c live weight while butchers' cattle were quoted at from 3c to 3½c per lb. and dressed beef at 6½c to 7½c per lb. In the fall of 1902 export cattle were quoted at 4c per lb. in Winnipeg and as high as 15c in Liverpool, a difference at a low calculation of from 9c to 10c between Winnipeg and Liverpool, butchers' from 2½c to 3½c and hogs were firm and scarce at from 6½c to 7c per lb. live weight. In February of 1903 abattoir men were paying from 3c to 4c for butchers' cattle and were supplying the meat dealers with dressed meat at from 6c to 7½c, a difference of from 3c to 3½c per pound between live and dressed weights. In the same month live hogs were worth 6c and dressed 7½c per lb.

In 1903 a depression of cattle prices set in. Export cattle were quoted in Winnipeg at 3½c and butchers' 2c to 3c while at the same time retailers were paying from 5½c to 6½c for dressed meat, an average difference between live and dressed weight of a little over three cents per lb. At the same time Liverpool quotations were 10c to 14c per lb. The difference between Winnipeg and Liverpool prices this year being 6½c to 7½c per lb., practically the same difference as in 1901, but much lower than in 1902.

In the fall of 1904 the difference between Winnipeg and Liverpool cattle prices ranged from 5½c to 9½c per lb. live weight. This difference was fairly uniform, all season export cattle being quoted here at 3c to 3½c and in Liverpool at from 8c to 12½c per lb. with butchers' in Winnipeg at from 2c to 3c and dressed meat from 4½ to 5½c per lb. Hogs this fall were around 5c live weight and 7½c dressed. During the fall of 1905 exporters were quoted in Winnipeg at from 3c to 3½c while in Liverpool they were at from 9c to 10½c, a difference of about 6c to 7c per lb. Hogs during the past fall have fluctuated considerably between 5c and 7c per pound.

From this review it is seen that the difference

between prices paid producers, and those received from butchers and in British markets has not varied a very great deal during the past five years, especially when it is remembered that during the last two seasons a large number of Mexicans and dairy "dogies" have been marketed which tended to depress the price to the producers. The real trouble in the live stock market is not alone the low market prices for export and butchers' cattle and hogs but is due to several causes. The market for stockers has gone, the system of buying has practically ceased to be competitive, and prices of all other commodities have risen, including the prices charged by retail meat dealers. Some of these changes are due to natural and some to artificial causes. One would naturally think, that within the past five years the packers would have so improved their facilities, as to be able to pay higher prices for live stock, even if the price to the consumer remained stationary, and with constant increase and improvement in transportation facilities, the difference between Winnipeg and Liverpool prices should gradually decrease.

The Manitoba Grain Growers Met; but Did They Deliberate?

This year's convention of Manitoba Grain Growers was the least satisfactory of any yet held, for which several reasons may be given, and for which several remedies may be suggested. The organization is a most valuable one and properly directed and administered can be of great assistance to the farmers and the country as a whole. Time, that valuable and almost unpurchasable commodity was wasted immoderately and the deliberations lacked the dignity that should characterize the Grain Growers parliament. No association can afford to allow valuable sessions to be wasted in buffoonery or verbosity, or to gratify the inordinate vanity of a few cranks. The president was lenient in the extreme and permitted the meeting to get clean out of hand at times. Comparisons are odious, but we might point out with perfect propriety, that no injustice will be done the farmers' cause, if the few who monopolised the floor were squelched a little more promptly; we have yet to see the Territorial Grain Growers' convention degenerate into a sort of wheat pit or bear garden. Many of the brightest, soundest and sanest of the delegates were debarred from giving good advice by the insatiable desire of one or two to do all the talking, which would not have been so bad, if what had been said, was sensible. If an individual or organization asks for unreasonable things, he or they become the laughing stock of everybody and their influence is gone; not only so but the fact that an individual or organization has become powerful is no reason why it should be autocratic. If a fight has to be made it should be for, or in defense of a principle. The Manitoba organization can well afford to take a few leaves from the book of the Saskatchewan men; there among other things, all resolutions are sent in from the subordinate associations two weeks previous to the convention, and the resolutions committee which meets two days ahead, fixes such up for presentation to the convention; not only so but the resolutions, put into proper shape, should be printed and in the hands of the delegates at the first session, so that such might be thoroughly understood before going to work on weighty subjects and matters of importance. Then again the representation from each local branch might be cut down so as to make the organization less unwieldy. Some of the G. G.'s need to divest themselves of taking narrow views of things, the following is a sample of what we refer to—during the nominations for directors, one delegate asked for information, as to who were also stockmen, among those nominated, as it was only a little time after the little hitch over arrangements, the question was evidently asked with a view to put every live stock breeder,