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EDITORIAL.

Crop and Stock Conditions in the West.

The excessive springs rains experienced in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories seriously delayed seeding in many sections, making the outlook for the harvest somewhat doubtful. Fortunately, the weather in those Provinces for the last six weeks has been ideal for the crops, being steadily bright and fine. With a sufficiency of moisture in the land to mature the crops, and with the long days prevailing there in the summer months, the sun shining clearly for nearly fifteen hours a day, the crops have made marvellous progress toward maturity and are now for the most part in a most prosperous condition, and promising an abundant yield at little later than the usual date of harvesting. Indeed, in some districts, wheat cutting will have commenced before the date of this paper, while barley, in a few cases, was harvested before the first of August. The earlier sown wheat, in every section where sown under reasonably favorable conditions, has made vigorous growth and gives every promise of first-class returns, and on the whole the crops are considered nearly if not quite as good as those of last year, when the yield was so great as to overtax the capacity of the storehouses and of the railway companies to move the grain in reasonable time. There is, of course, a considerable area of late-sown grain which cannot possibly be ready to harvest before September, but this is not an unusual circumstance, and the outcome will depend largely upon the character of the weather between the present and that date, but it is observed and admitted that as the country gets more generally under cultivation, the danger of early frosts becomes less apparent, and the hope is entertained that since the summer has been generally cool, the autumn may be more than usually fine.

The early summer rains ensured a bountiful crop of hay, which in the fine weeks following has been secured in large quantities and in excellent condition, while the pasture on the ranges has been better than for many years, and cattle have done exceptionally well, many large shipments of export cattle having been made in July, which is unusual, while the August shipments now going out are remarkably well finished for grass-fed cattle, and will surely make good money for shippers in the present state of the markets for beef. On a recent trip of some 400 miles west of Winnipeg, the writer was struck with the wonderful progress made in the settling up of the country, farm homesteads in all directions dotting the landscape where four or five years ago were bare prairies with no signs of settlement, while substantial new barns and houses on the older farms have, in numerous instances, replaced the humble structures improvised by the pioneers.

A striking feature of the situation in the West is the steady stream of immigration and of land seekers, some 40,000 Americans since the early spring having bought largely of the land on sale, a large proportion of whom are likely to become settlers and citizens at an early date and who will doubtless prove a valuable class of citizens, having, in most cases, had experience in the cultivation and management of prairie lands.

The Ontario Summer School for Teachers.

As announced in our columns some time ago, the Hon. Mr. Harcourt, Minister of Education for Ontario, made provision for a summer school at which teachers might devote part of their holidays in the study of the subjects which have not in the past received so full a measure of attention as grammar, history, mathematics, and the languages.

Mr. John Dearness, London, was appointed principal and teacher of nature study; Mr. Wilkinson, of the Macdonald Training Schools, was selected to direct manual training; Mr. A. T. Cringan, of Toronto, to teach music; Mr. A. C. Casselman, drawing; and Mrs. Jean Joy, domestic science.

The school opened on the 2nd of July with over 150 students, nearly a dozen of whom were university graduates, many were high-school teachers, and about 120 were normal school graduates. The attendance proved that the Minister's action of establishing the school met a felt need.

As it was in the holiday season, classes of children were not available to illustrate methods of teaching nature study, but these were described and it was shown how the senses and observing powers may be trained and made to contribute much more largely than they are doing at present to the public school education of the child. It was shown how the various fields of nature offer means for this kind of education, and not these alone, but also the duties and processes of the household, workshop and farm.

The subjects of some of the lectures in domestic science were: the proper use of the stove, and the economy of fuel; the nature of starch foods, and how to cook them; proteid foods, and how to cook eggs and meats; milk, testing and derivations of milk; breadmaking, and leavening agents; making of soups; cooking of fish; treatment of green vegetables, and preserving of fruit. In addition to the lectures, the students went to the stoves and, with materials supplied, put each lecture into practice.

Besides the class instruction, the students visited, in a systematic manner, about a dozen industrial establishments. For example, at Massey-Harris' they were shown the steps in the making of a reaper; at Murray's Carpet Factory they saw how wool and cotton are manufactured into an Axminster carpet; at Kemp's they saw the making and galvanizing of an iron pail, and a sheet of iron converted into an enameled preserving kettle.

A closing public meeting was held on the 24th of July, at which Mr. Millar, Deputy Minister of Education, replied, on behalf of the Hon. Mr. Harcourt, who was unavoidably absent, to a vote of thanks of the students for the establishment of the school and the selection of the staff of instructors, one and all of whom were spoken of as specialists in their respective subjects. Mr. Millar dwelt on the difference between real education and the storing of the mind with a mass of knowledge. The test of an education will yet be, not how many things a person knows, but the amount of power of doing good to himself and others which it confers.

Pointers.

Some people seem to be of the opinion that if you refuse to surrender absolutely and without condition to a scheme that does not commend itself to your judgment, you are at once set down as an enemy.

"American Breeds of Beef Cattle" is emblazoned on the title page of Bulletin No. 34, Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, by George M. Rommell, B. S. A., who designates himself an "expert in animal husbandry." In case any one be misled into searching this document for the only authentic record of the buffalo and the Texas steer, we hasten to explain that it is only an account of the good old British breeds—Shorthorns, Herefords, Galloways, Aberdeen-Angus, Devons and Red Polls. Like the New York Democratic editors on election night, Prof. Rommell is evidently disposed to "claim everything in sight" as "American."

When the fields are cleared of grain and the young clover appears in sight, do not be induced to allow the stock this new pasture. The tiny plants will require all their stem and leaf to aid in the production of a root that will stand the winter and bring forth a luxuriant crop next year.

Make up your mind to attend one of the provincial exhibitions. A few days spent at one of the great shows will more than repay any observant farmer for the time and money spent. Induce your neighbor to go along, and if you can convince yourself that the boys or other members of the family would be greatly benefited by the outing, so much the better. And when you return home do your share to support and improve your local township or county fair.

If you desire sample copies of the "Farmer's Advocate" to show to visitors at the fall fairs you will attend, thus inducing them to become subscribers, write this office, stating what fairs and dates and how many copies you can use. Our readers expect something valuable from the "Advocate" and we do not disappoint them. It is a good thing. Push it along.

Write President James Mills for a copy of the 1902-3 announcement circular, just issued, of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, Guelph, Ont. It is the most comprehensive and attractive programme ever sent out by this popular and widely-known institution. Farmers and farmers' sons everywhere should secure a copy—a post card will do that—and note the advantages offered students at terms so moderate as to be hardly more than nominal. Full particulars are given regarding the four and two year courses, and the special courses in dairying, the two weeks' courses in stock and grain judging, and the four weeks' course in poultry-raising. The next term begins on Sept. 15th. The "Farmer's Advocate" advises its readers to send for the circular. In addition to the previous equipment of buildings, students will now enjoy the benefits of two splendid new structures, the Massey Hall and Library and the Biological Building.