

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

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## Brandon Experimental Farm.

The Experimental Farm is always one of the leading attractions to Brandon, and very many of the visitors to the "Big Western Fair" take the opportunity of paying a visit to the farm. The high water of the Assiniboine this spring flooded the bottom lands of the farm and ruined many of the test plots. The cloudburst that swept over this section of the country early in June did considerable damage on the sidehill by washing out plots and roadways. However, by the time of the fair the waters had subsided and things were rapidly assuming a shipshape appearance, and Superintendent Pelford was able to show the thousands of visitors who flocked over to the farm during fair week many interesting test plots of grains, grasses, etc., as well as the ever-interesting tree and shrub and small-fruit plantations. A much larger area than usual is under fallow owing to the floods, and Mr. Bedford said that on some of the heavy, stiff clay land near the river, where the soil had become baked hard since the water had gone off of it, the only plow that would go into it was a disk; it left the land rough, but was doing the work.

Several large plots of Bromo grass are this year being satisfactorily eradicated in spite of the wet season, and at time of our visit were being disked over for probably the last time for the season. Bromo grass and native rye have given good yields this year, and some fine hay had been secured from a mixture of these grasses, which ripen well together. A plot of Bromo and alfalfa had also given good results, but the Bromo was rapidly crowding the alfalfa out. Corn is very late. An interesting plot is one of fall rye, ready to cut about August fifth. It stood six feet high, with good heads, but was slightly lodged. A small patch of fall wheat was also showing. The variety known as New Ontario was sown, but was very mixed. Mr. Bedford having found at least six distinct varieties in the plot. It was pretty badly rusted, but, being in a closely-hedged plot, that was to be expected. Mr. Bedford intended harvesting and threshing it as early as possible in order to sow it again. In the spring grains some very heavy yields are promised. An interesting series of tests is also being carried out with flax. Plots of four sizes, etc., were sown, with 15, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 pounds to the acre. The two latter are decidedly too thick. The 30-pound plot seemed just right for ordinary land, while on the extra clean, carefully-tilled land of the farm, the 20-pound lot made remarkably favorable showings. A number of imported varieties are also being tested, some Russian, Indian and Argentine samples having been secured for this purpose. Final results will tell most plainly the generalities of any of these being suitable for us. All these seeds, although supposedly clean, were almost every known variety of mis-herb and many other weeds, and required frequent weeding and picking. In the vegetable garden a large variety of peas, onions and cucumbers are being tested. A fine collection of perennial flowering plants occupy a bed on the higher land. The "Parata" (C) hybrids from the Siberian variety is showing abundant fruit this year, and it is hoped will be useful for present use. The variety is showing abundant fruit this year, and it is hoped will be useful for present use.

The poultry branch of the Department of Agriculture has a number of fine plots of seedling wheat, under charge of Thos. Robertson, who has been on the staff of the farm

## Once More the Hedge Fence!

The publication of articles, in recent issues of the "Farmer's Advocate," relating to the culture of hedge fences as a stock-barrier and farm fence for Manitoba and the Territories, has evidently touched a very tender spot in the make-up of stockholders in one Ontario hedge-fence concern, as we are in receipt of a lengthy effusion, signed by a score of persons said to live about Chatham, Ont., protesting against the course this paper has taken on this subject, and claiming that their hedges have been a "grand success." Now, it so happens that just as this "pull" comes to hand, a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, who a short time ago passed through that very favored district (Kent County) of the Province of Ontario, informs us that he took particular notice of a good many hedges as he went along, and they were in anything but a creditable condition. Fences they could not be called, he said, as the poor shape in which they were would simply be an encouragement to live stock to tramp through them. What he tells us simply confirms the view expressed in the recent letter we published of Mr. R. S. Stevenson, an observant and successful farmer of long experience in that Province, who grew hedge himself and saw others try it. As a farm fence he condemned it as costly and inefficient. Now, even though some hedges had succeeded down in one corner of Ontario, as these stockholders or patrons assure us, we fail to see what earthly value their testimony would be to the farmers of Manitoba, the climatic and other conditions being entirely different. We have no doubt whatever about the correctness of our position on this question, and we are well assured that it commends itself to the good judgment of our farmers. It is rather late in the day for parties interested in Ontario hedges to attempt to tell our Western farmers, through the "Advocate," that hedges are the proper thing for stock-barriers and field fences. From the very outset the "Advocate" has been ever on the alert to place before its readers trustworthy information regarding the usefulness of trees for ornament or windbreak, or for fruit-growing purposes, and we do not propose to take instructions on this subject from eastern hedge-fence promoters.

## 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.

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 fair 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.

"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."

## Crop and Stock Conditions in the West.

The excessive spring 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 these 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 has already commenced. 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 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. At this writing, indications point to a better and more profitable crop than last year.

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 land.

The variety of meat produced by the beef breed is very well indicated in the following illustration. Shorthorn sired at 11 months, 200 lbs., 200 lbs., and 220 lbs.; two third of these are of the breed, which sold for \$24-\$20. It is well to have the rapidly increasing number of the breed, 200 lbs., 200 lbs., and 220 lbs.