

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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AND N.-W. T.

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Gasoline Engines for Threshing.

There has been a great deal of complaint throughout the country this year regarding the steam engines used with threshing outfits, and we are in receipt of many inquiries regarding the use of gasoline engines for this purpose. So far as we have been able to learn there are very few threshing outfits run by gasoline engines in this country, and in order to obtain some reliable, unbiased information as to their suitability for this purpose, we opened correspondence with Mr. Andrew Boss, Assistant in Agriculture at the Minnesota Agricultural College, who has given considerable study to the question of farm powers. His views are herewith appended. We shall be pleased to publish information on this important question from any who have experience with steam or gasoline threshing engines. We fancy that one of the greatest troubles with the steam engines is the lack of sufficiently skilled engineers and the use of engines of too low power for the separators used, especially when unfavorable weather calls for extra power in threshing.

Experience in Minnesota during the past few years with gasoline threshing engines has not been favorable to their use for running threshing rigs. Most firms who manufacture gasoline engines have attempted to solve the problem of gasoline traction engines, but so far with little success. There are some engines made that are now being used for that purpose, but with varying degrees of success. The general experience is that portable gasoline engines of from 12 to 20 horse power have given better results than the traction engine, or, at least, they are more in use at the present time. There is very little doubt but that a traction engine run by gasoline will be placed on the market ultimately; how soon, though, it is hard to say. The chief use of even a portable engine seems to be with individual farmers, or where three or four farmers combine to do their own threshing. The machinery driven is usually the lighter built and smaller threshing separators.

The advantage of the gasoline over the steam engine is that an engineer is not required, nor is a fireman needed, as in running a steam engine. For the most economical work and for a reliable rig, steam has yet to be proven inferior. Where the gasoline engines can be kept under cover and used for light work, such as cutting feed, sawing wood, or pumping water, they are a very desirable addition to the farm machinery. If allowed to stand out of doors, or if kept in poor condition, they are very likely to give a great deal of bother. This is the main reason why they have not been successful in handling threshing rigs.

The Farmer Members of the Manitoba Agricultural College Commission.

J. S. MILLER.

J. S. Miller, ex-M. P. P., Manitou, has been in Manitoba about ten years, to which country he came from Napanee, Ont. He is of U. E. Loyalist stock, born 1817, and was educated in the Belleville College. Has farmed since 1871, and was elected to the Ontario Legislature for the County of Addington; is prominent in Masonic



JOHN S. MILLER, MANITOU.

and Orange circles, and held a commission in the volunteers. Since coming to Manitoba he has farmed extensively and has identified himself with all movements looking to the furtherance of agricultural knowledge; is a director of the local Agricultural Society and president of the Farmers' Co-operative Association of Manitou. He is strongly in favor of giving farmers' sons an opportunity of obtaining as good a technical education as is afforded to students in medicine and the other professions.

HARVIE C. SIMPSON.

The owner of several farms in the Virden district, with an average under crop this past year of about 1,500 acres, Mr. Simpson is in a position to appreciate the importance of the profession of agriculture. He came to the Province in 1878, from Carleton Place, Ont., where he was born. He has held many positions of trust in the municipal and political organizations of the district.

HON. THOS. GREENWAY.

The occupancy of a seat on the Agricultural College Commission by the Hon. Thos. Greenway is an evidence of the non-partisan character of that body and a tribute to the prominent position held by Mr. Greenway as an agriculturist and breeder of pure-bred live stock. From his long residence in the Province, and his experience in political and educational matters, his services on the Commission should be invaluable.

J. HARRY IRWIN.

J. Harry Irwin, Neepawa, a Canadian by birth, hails from near Cookstown, Ont. In connection with his large farm, a dairy is managed, which supplies the neighboring town with milk and cream. He has been always to the fore in the breeding of high-class live stock and in advanced methods of farming, and as a live member of the local Farmers' Institute is well known in Beautiful Plains. His ability and energy has been recognized by his brother farmers, who have continuously elected him as director on the Board of the Agricultural Society. Mr. Irwin has steadily thrown his weight in favor of good stock, even when such a stand has aroused bitter opposition. He has had Clydesdales and Holsteins on his farm, some of which were imported stock. He is a strenuous advocate of an Agricultural College for Manitoba, provided one is established along practical lines.

GEO. H. BAKER.

A Canadian by birth, born in Toronto, received education at Model School in that city, and

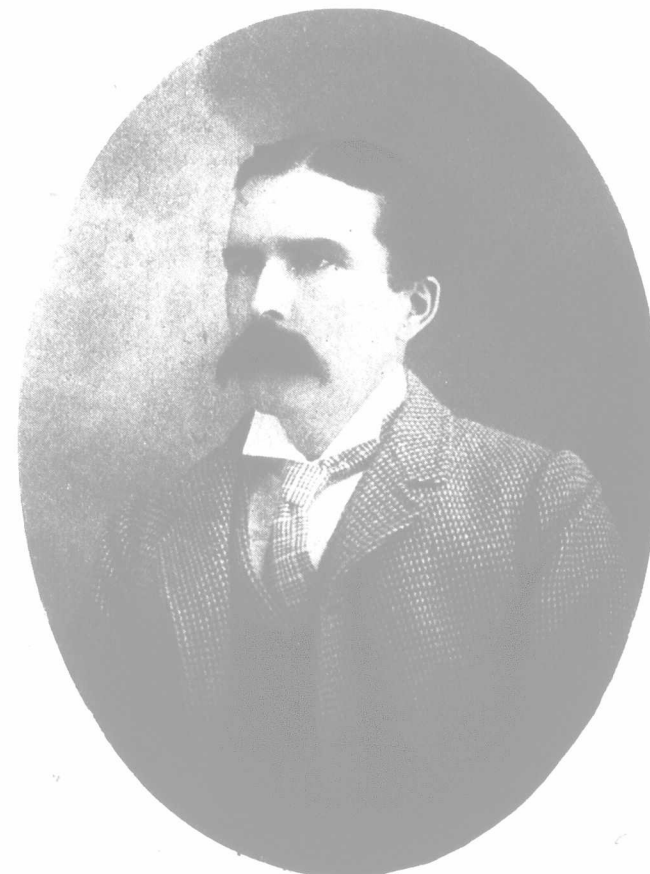
at Upper Canada College, afterwards attending the Ontario School of Agriculture at Guelph. He came to Manitoba in the spring of '80, and located near Rossburn, but, on the change of location of the Canadian Pacific Railway, homesteaded on the farm he has since occupied, in the spring of 1881. He has been intimately connected with municipal affairs, holding the position of secretary-treasurer of the Municipality of Cornwallis from '84 to 1892; was elected reeve of same for 1894, by acclamation, and has acted continuously since without any opposition. He is well known as a municipal auditor, and was appointed by the bondholders to make a special report on the finances of the City of Brandon; was also a member of the Royal Commission appointed in January, 1900, to investigate and report on the finances of the Province.

Let the Commission Visit the Colleges.

The labors of the members of the Agricultural College Commission will not be complete until some of the farmer members of it are given an opportunity to visit a few of the leading Agricultural Colleges. It would be a sensible idea to send the farmer members via the United States, having the itinerary embrace a visit to the North Dakota College, thence to the Minnesota School, and from there to the Fat Stock Show at Chicago. A few days at that show, and then a visit to the Guelph Fat Stock Show and Agricultural College would be a valuable and instructive lesson to the delegates, from which the Province and themselves would undoubtedly reap much benefit. Returning, a call could be made at the Michigan Agricultural College, at Lansing, and also a visit be made to the Wisconsin College, at Madison, the short course of that institution being in full blast the third week in December. Such a visit would enable the commission to return a well-rounded report to the Legislature, to be acted upon the coming session. The dates of the Fat Stock Show at Chicago (Dec. 2nd to 7th) and the Guelph Show the week following would allow of a trip as outlined. After December 7th, the Colleges mentioned will be doing work, thus affording visitors to see for themselves how the teaching is done in up-to-date Agricultural Colleges, and allowing them to pick out a system most suited to Manitoba's needs, which cannot be done from a mere study of college catalogues.

Manitoba Dairy School.

The Manitoba Dairy School will open on January 6th. This year there will only be one class in home dairy work, but in the professional cheese and butter makers' classes the courses will be similar to last year. A lady instructor is to be employed this year to give instruction to the female students, a large number of whom are expected to attend this winter. Superintendent Murray says he will have the equipment up to



HARVIE C. SIMPSON, VIRDEN.

date in every particular, and a staff of competent instructors.

Applications should be made to the Superintendent, Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg, for bulletins giving full particulars of the course.

William H. Stokes, Olds, Alta., Oct. 26th, 1901. "I have found your paper to be most useful and interesting."