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FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL

Whatever anyone can do for the advancement of the Selkirk Centennial Exposition in 1912 will be a stroke for the whole West.

Gauging the Public's Property

From the prospectus of the promoters of an elevator company we learn that in the Canadian Northwest, farmers dump their grain on the ground at threshing time waiting for elevators to handle it, that the average 30,000-bushel elevator costs about \$5,000 to build, and it is the usual thing to make \$5,000 a year out of it over all expenses; that the farmers are willing to pay this charge so long as they have a place to store their wheat until cars arrive; that the government has been asked to build elevators to take care of the grain but had refused. Then, "the stock of this company shall consist of cumulative preference and common stock at \$100 a share," but with every share of the preference stock purchased will go one share of the common stock. In other words, for every hundred dollars' worth of money the public puts into the company an equal amount of water will go with it.

The mystifying part of this whole floatation is to tell just what the promoters think of the intelligence of the public, not what the public will think of the scheme. And yet the history of public exploiting is singularly replete with illustrations of the partiality of people for misrepresentations of this kind.

If there is any one more sure sign of the safety of an investment than another, it is the modesty of the claims made for it. The elevator business is one of the most profitable in this country, but one would have good grounds to doubt the business ability of the man or company that makes such extravagant statements of profits and then offers to give away half the stock.

Is Brome a Friend or Foe?

Reports and opinions upon the virtues or vices, whichever it happens to be of brome grass are so contradictory that the time seems opportune to take further evidence. Accordingly we have set the subject down for discussion in our June 30th number. There are a great many men who have raised brome hay that would not begrudge a good deal to be entirely free from it now while others have raised it and have always been able to keep it under control and consequently do not hesitate to recommend it to others. We expect to get further reports of this contradictory nature, but what we would like also is details as to the nature of the soil where it is grown, especially with respect to its moisture content, the length of time a sod is left down, the manner and time of breaking and whether or not the grass has been allowed to seed to any extent.

It seems reasonable to suppose that there must be some local reason why brome is such a

This is to remind amateur photographers that they may find a market for their pictures with this paper. We buy well taken, clear photos of rural scenery, natural beauties, of progressive farming, of gardens, and of any object that makes country life pleasant and is of general interest. Photos should be sent for examination; those suitable will be selected and the others returned.

bane on some farms and such a boon on others. It seems reasonable that there may be peculiar conditions favorable to propagation by root stalks on some farms which are not present on others with a less moist subsoil. And it would be interesting to know what the peculiar condition is that divides the one class of farms from the others.

While upon this subject is it not singular that so little work of an experimental and investigative nature upon farm purchases has been conducted under observation in this country. We are not of that class who put their trust entirely in the results of experiment station work, rather we have unbounded confidence in the combined experiences of a large number of intelligent progressive farmers, whose practises determine what to a large extent shall be the products of our farms and it is these experiences with brome grass that we hope to get for the benefit of many others.

Rough Treatment and Tender Age

It is an acknowledged fact of medical science that mortality among children exceeds the total mortality of the race at all other ages. To a great extent this rule can be made operative in the destruction of weeds. There is no period in the life of weeds when they are so

non-resistant to the adversities of life as in their early stages of growth. Emphasis has been laid upon this fact time and time again, so that in the management of many farms the knowledge has been incorporated into actual practise and work is so arranged that harrows and cultivators get in their destructive work.

A seedling weed is a tiny thing, an insignificant, unstable plantlet, which may be uprooted or destroyed, along with dozens of its kind, by the mere loosening or pulverizing of the soil. A weed at this stage will be dislodged and killed by the kick of a boot or the shuffling of a hoe or cultivator tooth through the loose earth.

Wait a week, until the plant has gathered strength, spread out its seedling leaves and struck root downward and outward through the soil, and it will be found to have made astonishing progress towards establishing itself in the land. Another week or two, and the root will have toughened and lengthened, requiring, perchance, a clip with the hoe, or a direct clean cut with the cultivator to root it out of the mellow earth. Henceforth, if unmolested, it will increase its hold decidedly with every passing week, finally necessitating a sharp, deep stroke of hoe or spud to sever its root, and turn the top upside down, to wilt and shrivel in the sun. Quite often, the hoe is not used until the weed has gone to seed, after which we shall have to reckon with the few hundred seedlings, more or less, which may result from three or four thousand seeds, besides the numerous shoots sent up from the running root stock underground. Thus troubles multiply.

The Extension of the Barb Wire Fence

The barb wire fence has been one of the revolutionizing factors in Western agriculture, either that or one of the outward, tangible manifestations of the revolution in methods and pursuits that has occurred in urban affairs in the West during the past decade or two. The barbed strand has been extended so far into the domain of the cattlemen, that ranching, as we knew it once, has well nigh disappeared. It has cut up the cattle runs and sheep pastures into grain farms, and by its continued extension will ultimately enclose all that vast hinterland to the north now included in the meaning of that euphonious phrase "The Last West." Its existence proclaims that the first step has been taken in the transformation of prairie, bleak, raw and uninviting, into farms and homes. Its gradual disappearance from the fields of its first use is one indication of that progressive evolution in agriculture, that begins when the earliest settler set first his plow shear 'neath the virgin sod, of that evolution upward that must continue so long as men derive their sustenance

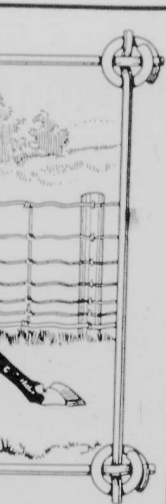
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