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EDITORIAL

It would seem that the job of managing a railroad, a few electric tramways in various cities, not to mention being a director of this and that company, is just a bit beyond the capabilities of most men, even railroad magnates so-called.

The blame for the coal famine and suffering engendered thereby has been nicely shifted, temporarily, by the Federal Government to the shoulders of the transportation companies and undoubtedly the blame for the present conditions is rightly placed, but the Government should reserve all the coal areas now owned by it, for the public.

Some people would insist that commissions are evidences of a sense of humor on the part of governments, that a practical joke has been played upon the public when a commission is appointed, which is rather too sweeping an assertion to our mind.

It is not reasonable to expect that a person who had demonstrated his inability to manage men would make a success of the job of keeping railroads in place.

Consider the corn doctrine preached in our issue of February 13th. It is a profitable one for Western farmers to give heed to.

A new weed in Western Canada is the publicity agent, as many towns will find out to their cost. Some people will inhale a hot blast with varying effects; others believe, it would seem, in paying a stiff price to manufacturers of hot air, but would likely balk at a solid contribution to the cause of education. Townsmen so easily gulled should not in the future point the finger at the unsophisticated farmer.

By the way, is it not a fact that townsmen form the majority of the patrons of the bucket shops?

A good road to take to success in agriculture is the C. C. C. R.—cow, clover, corn rotation.

The publicity man and the trading stamp are children of the same parent.

How failure is dreaded! What tremendous chances some men will take with honesty in the gamble for fame and lucre! The failure gets the execration of his fellows and of those on whose behalf he plotted. Five years will Bank Manager McGill languish in a Canadian prison because he failed. The associates of the scapegoat who would have participated in the profits had he won out in his speculations for the bank, may, if possessed of any living moral fibre, feel regrets at his incarceration, accompanied by feelings of exultation that they just missed being caught red-handed.

The pessimist would be inclined to say in the light of recent events there is only one safe place in which to put money; viz: in a good farm. Our big men so-called are now-a-days untrustworthy; they think no more of despoiling the widow and the orphan than of eating a meal.

If one subtracts the value of the horses bought in a town in the spring from the value of the wheat sold in the fall, he will find a strong argument for more extensive breeding operations.

Prices for Cattle are Likely to Soar.

That is the opinion of many well-informed men on this question so important to farmers and ranchers of the West. Butchers in the larger towns and cities are even now fearing a shortage of beef, and are finding difficulty in getting their orders filled by the wholesale men. The situation can be expected to become more acute as the season goes along—consumption is bound to increase and will by leaps and bounds, if the railroad contractors are able to get the number of men they require, over fifty thousand, for railroad building in the West. It's an ill wind that blows nobody good, but while the consumer will undoubtedly have to pay heavily for meats, the producer should stand to benefit materially thereby. The losses on the ranges will preclude any expectation of relief in beef supplies from that quarter, and as prices go up, an event which all signs point to, the demands for purebreds of the beef breeds will also increase. In Manitoba and the other Western provinces the demand for purebreds has been at a low ebb owing to the farmers being disgusted with the prices obtained for beef cattle; with enhanced prices interest in cattle breeding will be re-awakened. The lands of the province need a recrudescence of the cattle breeding and feeding industry. Declining fertility has called long and loud for the revival. With the additional prospect of good prices the much needed awakening should not now be long delayed.

The Travelling Dairy Essential to Agricultural Education.

For years this paper has advocated sending out a travelling dairy through the province, but the powers that be were lukewarm and could not see eye to eye with us on this question. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE was convinced of the necessity for an active campaign of education along agricultural lines, particularly dairying.

The lack of such educational work is evidenced by the poor quality of the raw material dished up to the buttermakers of the province. All seem to be agreed that more accurate knowledge of the principles underlying dairying is needed by those engaged in the production of cream, butter and cheese. Dairy schools have been provided and indifferently patronized, although the province has spent a considerable amount of money that way. It probably is well within the mark to say that every dairy student in Manitoba has cost the province some hundreds of dollars. Instruction of this kind needs to be carried to the farmers, their wives and daughters, the rank and file of whom are forced by the exigencies of their particular avocation to stay close beside it every day, and who cannot leave their homes for any great length of time. The Dairymen's Association of the province of Manitoba passed unanimously a resolution to the effect that travelling dairies should be sent throughout the province. The gospel of dairying must be preached and its teachings practiced in Manitoba if the agriculture of that province is to be arrested in its backward steps.

The Scarcity of Farm Labor.

In the Western provinces one of the hindrances to the successful working of land is the high price that has to be paid for labor and its products. The incoming of settlers financially and executively able to work land tends rather to increase than decrease the difficulty, yet no government would care to hint at any move calculated to discourage immigration. The side of the problem to tackle, therefore, is that of increasing the supply of cheap labor. Heretofore cheap labor has been considered as furnished by the men from the Orient, more or less undesirable or Europeans other than British. Some of these emigrants, the Norwegians, Swedes, Germans, Northern Europeans, in fact are most desirable

settlers and are welcomed; but the federal governments of the last two decades have not given equal attention or financial aid to secure the home bred and grown Britishers. Practically assisted passages for Europeans have been given, even if the money has ostensibly been paid for the usual immigration campaign work. We submit that this is a British country, and as there is any amount of cheap labor to be had in Great Britain, but without sufficient money to transport itself to the country needing it, that assisted passages should be offered in the agricultural districts of Great Britain. Australia and New Zealand have followed this plan for years and are yet offering such inducements to laborers and domestic servants. *Why should not Canada do the same?* Further, we believe that for one province to conduct an immigration campaign in a neighboring province where labor conditions are acute owing to a shortage is unfriendly and unfair. Let the money now used for such purposes be given in the form of assisted passages to the particular province from Great Britain and permanent benefit would result. We need population, and it must be of workers—men and women not afraid of manual toil.

Canada's Experimental Postmasters.

Press reports have it that Monsieur Lemieux, P. M. G. has as a result of protests dropped his C. O. D. parcel idea. He has another scheme which the *News* of Toronto draws attention to as retrograde legislation; namely, the order that papers shall be quarter folded in place of folded in half as now; further, he has issued an order to the effect that papers such as the FARMER'S ADVOCATE shall be reduced in size, shape or form. It appears the P. M. G. is getting outside his province, and leads to surmises as to what is the real reason for such radical and unreasonable demands, and in what way he hopes to profit himself in the Department thereby.

It is acknowledged by all men and women that an enlightened press is a powerful aid to the cause of education and good government; then why make it harder for the publishers to get out their publications? What good reason is there for hampering the diffusion of knowledge by heaping expense on the publishers, who will in turn be forced to charge more for their papers in order to meet the cost of installing more machinery. The P. O. Department has been a surplus-making Department, in spite of its several lapses from strict business principles. It pays the local postmasters scandalously low salaries and does not keep up with the needs of the country, and until recently never bothered whether railroads delivered mails on time or not. It savors of unwarranted interference with business, this order of the P. M. G. to change the size, shape or form of journals such as this, which cannot be done unless at a big expense, running into thousands of dollars to the publishers. The Canadian Press Association protested against this matter, and they are practical men. It would seem therefore that the P. M. G. is not fully seized of the facts; probably he is being made a tool of by some underling who may have an axe to grind. There are many opportunities for the P. M. G. to do effective work in improving the postal facilities, without instituting such unwelcome and impracticable legislation. He cannot force U. S. publications to make the change, neither can he interfere with papers, magazines, etc. The Postal Union agreement will protect the outsiders. Then for what reason should he seek to put the Canadian publishers to more expense. Let him increase the efficiency of his own Department before intruding upon others better qualified to decide upon such matters. Complaints of the postal service have been numerous the past two years. Possibly people do get a little impatient; but there is good reason for it when they hear of the P. M. G.'s experiments.