

HERD LAW IS AN OBSTRUCTION TO SCHOOL ADVANCEMENT.

Although not one of the most important questions to be dealt with in some districts, and perhaps one of the most important in other sections, is the obstructive influence of the well known herd law to the advancement of our prairie school—an important subject, yet very little has been said or done to modify or to encourage a reformation and as its influence is most noticeable at this time of the year we should criticise accordingly.

In all farming districts, a certain amount of ranching is carried on in connection with grain growing, but not extensively enough to profitably employ a herder. So "Johnnie" is kept out of school to wander all day after a drove of cattle, like a true shepherd of old. This continues summer after summer until the boy who has only gone to school a few months in the winter has reached the age of twelve or thirteen, when he is old enough to plow and his younger brother then takes his place. Not only is he losing his education but for twelve hours a day and seven days a week, in all kinds of weather, the poor little fellow leads a lonely life. Thus the child's best interest is sacrificed for the sake of the "almighty dollar."

The effect of this on the school is equally noticeable to that on the young herder. The attendance lowers; some attend regularly, but the majority either attend very irregularly or not at all. In some families where two are able to herd, one herds one week and the other the next, so each one is to school one-half of his time. The effect that this will have on a school every teacher will realize. To rectify this great evil, teachers, Educational Journals and Agricultural papers should unanimously encourage the fence law.

J. L. G.

A MESSAGE FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

The following extracts from a letter from Miss Murray—one of the Western teachers, serving in the Concentration Camps in South Africa—will be of interest to our readers.

KROONSTAD REFUGEE CAMP,
ORANGE RIVER COLONY,

August 15th, 1902.

The work here is certainly interesting enough to attract a great deal of attention. Everything is *very very* much better than we ever dared hope for.

Miss Younghusband and I, together with Miss Crandall, a Nova Scotia girl, are here at Kroonstad. This is the station farthest north in the O. R. C. of any assigned to the Canadian girls. All the girls in our party of twenty are stationed in the O. R. C.

This camp is splendidly conducted and every arrangement possible has been made for our comfort. We British teachers—two Scotch, two English and three Canadians—live in a block of six rooms, built of corrugated iron. We have a sleeping apartment between two. These are most comfortably fitted out, iron beds, good warm bedding, toilet tables with all accessories for each of us, etc., etc.

The centre room is the general mess room. Each girl in turn is Mess President for the week, and is responsible for the menu. We have a cook, a maid, and a boy to bring water and cut wood. Linen table cloths, serviettes, plated ware, glasses