

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME

MAGAZINE

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## Editorial.

Did it ever strike you that the great bulk of students at the universities come from the farm?

Noxious weeds have no politics, and will yield to persistent cultivation, whether done by Grit or Tory.

If 2 northern wheat shipped from Winnipeg to Duluth in bond is sold there as 1 northern, should the grower of that wheat feel glad over the improvement?

With so many Davids to look after the farmers' interests at Hamiota, the Goliath who refuses cars to grain-growers ought easily to be vanquished.

Which is the better advertisement for the country—35 out of 350 cars of wheat grading No. 1 hard, as at Duluth; or, 3 out of 2,000 cars graded at Winnipeg?

The great handicap to a more general sowing of clover seed is the price of the seed. What a chance for the clover-seed-grower in Manitoba! Home-grown seeds are the best, as a rule.

Farmers who are into hog-raising do not care two buttons who starts a packing-house or who doesn't, provided they get five cents or better, live, weight, for their hogs at eight or nine months old.

The public denial in the press by Swift & Co. of an earlier establishment of a packing plant on account of lack of hogs, should stimulate the holding of fat-stock shows—not the reverse.

Are you going to the International or Guelph Fat-stock Shows next week and the week following—Guelph comes first. One of those Eastern winter-excursion tickets, round trip \$40, would let you do it all right.

An observing reader states, "That the majority of the competitors in the 'Farmer's Advocate' clover demonstration are members of the live-stock associations." True, clover and live stock will always get together if afforded an opportunity!

Several complaints are heard that Dominion and Provincial lands in Manitoba are weed factories with a large output, and the farmer nearby is—not strange, either—a high protectionist against these factories, and would have these infant industries wiped out.

Fat-stock shows are supposed to lead the way and point to the most desirable market types; therefore, no prizes should be awarded to pigs over nine months old, leave that to the breed shows in the summer or fall, and pregnant stock at a fat-stock show should be ineligible to any prize.

The annual cost to Canada and fearful risk to the Canadian bacon trade and swine industry from the introduction of hog cholera by an American railroad across the peninsula in Western Ontario, prompts the thought that shipments of live hogs over that road should be prohibited entirely.

J. J. Ring estimates the cost of sowing land to clover at about \$3.00 per acre, which is almost prohibitive for green-manuring purposes. He

believes it will pay to sow it on land intended for summer-fallow; let it get a good start by early sowing, pasture and plow down in the fall—late in September, say.

A Grain-growers' Association in Manitoba asks for the "Seed Train" to come and give demonstrations at the local town, while a country editor volunteers the opinion that the farmers of his locality are better posted than the lecturers that will be sent out, etc. Is he speaking by the book or for the farmers?

When at your agricultural society's annual meeting, as well as discussing noxious weeds, give some attention to the other noxious weeds—scrub bulls, stallions, etc. Possibly your society can do some good work by encouraging the importation of a first-class stallion; by dropping the fall or summer show for a combination fat-stock, dairy and seed-grain exhibition. It is not necessary for all agricultural societies to travel down the summer or fall show avenue.

Lord Onslow thinks that if farmers would but combine, they possess a propelling power which Parliament could not withstand. So long, however, as they choose to ignore what is obviously a first principle in the strengthening of an industry, so long will agriculture feed on the crumbs which Parliament from time to time is willing to throw to it.

If this is sauce for the goose, it should be for the gander; if for the British farmer, ditto for his Canadian son.

## The Weeds are a Heavy Handicap to the Farmers.

Thinking farmers, the transportation companies and others are alarmed—and quite properly so—on the effect of noxious weed growth on the grain output of the country.

By the middle of November 11½ per cent. of this year's crop of wheat had gone rejected for smut and weed seeds; the consequent loss estimated to the farmers at \$20,000,000.

Heretofore, the warnings by lecturers have been more of the nature, "Goblins'll get you if you don't watch out." This year the goblin of a dirty crop has the farmer by the pocket. It may be preached the loss of fertility and moisture that weeds entail, the extra work necessary to get rid of these pests; but the great logic of diminished cash returns cannot be overlooked or ignored. "You cannot clean farms by legislation," was the gist of a remark by Supt. Bedford to the Portage farmers recently, and it is well to remember it. The tendency is among all people to shirk responsibility when such can be shifted on to the shoulders of a Government.

The responsibility for the eradication of noxious weeds on prairie farms rests primarily with the individual farmer; and for the weeds on the roads, the farmer, the municipal council and the Provincial Government must shoulder the responsibility and work together.

In Manitoba the Noxious Weeds Act has attracted a lot of attention, and suggestions have already been made looking to its alteration. Amendments to that Act must not stop at dropping out clauses; some constructive work must be done, and the time to do that work by the farmers' organizations, institutes and grain-growers is before the end of the year, so that reasonable and practical amendments may be made to the Act at the next meeting of the Legislature to render it not only workable, but a real help in the direction it was intended to be, viz., in the eradication of weeds.

## The Distribution of Cars.

One may travel afar and hear mutterings among the farmers re distribution of cars, and if the statements were taken seriously in all cases, the only conclusion would be that great injustice is being done. No doubt there may be shortage of cars at some points, but if cars are to be had at all, and the farmer does not get his share, he may blame himself! In making such a plain statement, we are keeping in mind that grumbling in a country barber shop or store, or feed stable, does not reach the ears of the railroad officials. Just recently, a farmer with whom we are acquainted wished a car, and applied to the local agent for one at a nearby siding where a loading platform was located. The agent attempted to put him off with various excuses—"The trainmen didn't like to stop at the sidings, etc.; no cars available; orders for more than there were cars, etc., etc." In this case the farmer did not go away and kick to a few other farmers, but just asked for a telegraph blank to wire to headquarters re the car supply. He had a car promised him (which he afterwards got) before the wire had time to be answered.

The Moral.—If it suits the local agent to do it and you can be bluffed, he will do it. The further application of the moral is, "Do not grumble among your fellows, but take your complaint to headquarters, and join your local association of grain-growers." In many districts farmers are benefiting every day by the above organization, and yet, through carelessness, or meanness, or doubt, withhold their membership fee and moral and active support. This is not as it should be.

## Better Blood, not Protection, Will Improve the Live Stock.

Some time ago, as the result of the work of the National Live-stock Association, prompted by Western associations of horse-breeders, the minimum valuation on horses imported from the United States was made \$50, with a view to keeping out inferior stock, which might be bred from and produce stuff of no value to its owner or the country. A similar movement is needed—in fact, is more pressing—in the cattle industry, the country having been flooded with inferior Mexican females, the stock from which it will take a generation (about 30 years) to breed up to what they should be. People ignorant of the merits or demerits of live stock might be tempted to use such trash, but should not be given the opportunity. If the minimum valuation on cattle of any age was made \$25, it would have a deterrent effect on the inferior, but not on the better classes of cattle, in the way of which no barrier should be placed. We believe the present Finance Minister, Mr. Fielding, who has shown a ready sympathy and keen interest in the presentment of the farmers' case before the Tariff Commission, will see the reasonableness of the suggestion as a means of improvement of the bovine stock of the country. Keeping in mind this idea, and also his utterance to the effect that if we expect to continue to sell to Great Britain we must buy from her, the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association might show some patriotism and less littleness by opening up their herdbook to admit any cattle registered in Coates' (the British) Herdbook, or at least make a move in that direction by moving forward ten volumes, and remove the stigma of being men of narrow vision and little patriotism, which at present, by their actions, belongs to them. Just recently the Alberta Horse-breeders' Association, if reported correctly, would put a duty on the mares brought in by new settlers. As each settler is limited to the number he can bring in as settler's stock