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EDITORIAL

The pre-emption bill we opine should not render it possible for those who already had two quarter sections from the Government to get a third, even at three dollars per acre; otherwise we fail to see why the bill should be so strenuously opposed. Better to let actual settlers get the land than for it to go in the form of big grants for this or that purpose.

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It is to be hoped that there will be a good turn-out of rural trustees to Brandon to the provincial educational meeting. Lots of misunderstanding will be removed by the coming together of teachers, inspectors and school-trustees, on a business-like basis and with open minds.

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Some of the newly arrived immigrants from the Old Land will think they might have deferred their trip with profit for a few weeks.

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The Irish Shorthorn breeders are suggesting that an annual meeting of the British society be held on the Green Isle (and one of the London journals supports the idea. Some have hinted that it would be a good idea to have the Dominion Shorthorn Association hold an annual meeting once in a while west of the Great Lakes.

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The man with some cattle being stall fed which he intends marketing this spring, will be wise if he does not accept too readily the offers made for his beef stuff. Some people who claimed to be informed prophesy a big advance in beef stuff, due to the clearing up of the ranges last fall and the heavy losses this winter.

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The Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association made the transportation companies admit before the Iowa Railroad Commission that a railroad rate is determined by what a railroad can get.

Alberta Will Ask Federal Endowment for a University.

In January 9th and 23rd issues of this paper, pages 42 and 114 respectively, it was suggested editorially that it would be the right and proper thing to do for the Dominion Government to set aside a sufficient area of land out of the public domain in Western Canada for the purpose of endowing universities, to include colleges of agriculture and mechanic arts and experiment stations, for the three provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. We are glad to note that the leader in the Alberta Legislature endorses our idea in the form of a resolution which he moved in the house at Edmonton on March 13th resolving "that whereas it was incumbent on the province of Alberta to establish a university, and that whereas a large part of the revenue for such a university must necessarily come from a land endowment, that therefore the Alberta Government do hereby prefer a request to the federal authorities for a land endowment for the university."

Whether the resolution will have the effect desired we are unable to say, although the press reports hint that the Premier has an assurance to the effect that his request will be granted.

We trust that patriotic and statesmanlike ideas will permeate the Cabinet and members of the federal House when dealing with this important question. The land is there and it can be put to no better use than the purpose suggested; namely, the education and improvement of generations to come. The day of little mindedness and parochialism in legislation is passing, and it is to be hoped that there will be no evidence

ences of it when the Premier Rutherford's resolution comes before the Dominion House. It augurs well for the future of the Foothills Province that she has at the head of her affairs a man who recognizes so fully and firmly the needs of his country and one who is fully determined to make, as far as may lie in his power, adequate provision for the future in the matter of higher education for Albertans. It would be well for the people of that province to write urging their several members in the Parliament at Ottawa to press the matter home, so that a favorable reply may be had and the endowment of land made.

Cancelling Homesteads.

A subscriber draws our attention to the length of time permitted a man cancelling a homestead before settling on the land. The person cancelling is allowed according to our informant an equal time to that allowed when first entry is made. As a result homesteads he claims may be held and cancelled and thus passed from one to the other and settlement be retarded. It appears to us that when a man cancels a homestead he is ready to go on; if not we see little use in him exercising the privilege. In any event the Department would not be guilty of enforcing hardship on the second person, if cancellations made previous to July 1st of each year had to be entered upon within ninety days. It would have a good effect and tend to hustle those in settlement in some parts and thus aid them in residence to organize school districts, etc. The rush for homesteads is now so great that it is hardly necessary to be so lenient now as formerly with the regulations.

The Man for the Place.

A short time ago mention was made of the resignation of E. Stewart from the position of Superintendent of Forestry for the Department of the Interior to go into some line of commercial endeavor. The logical successor to this position is in the opinion of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE the present Assistant Superintendent, N. M. Ross, B.S.A., in charge at the Indian Head forestry station. Mr. Ross is a graduate of the University of Toronto in agriculture and did special work abroad in forestry. He is a thoroughly practical man and takes well with the people. This appointment is one having a peculiar interest for Westerners. It belongs to the Department of the Interior which deals solely with Western matters; further, the bulk of the work is being done for the three great prairie provinces. Should the Minister pass over the man we suggest and appoint a clerical favorite or whatnot, it may be taken as a direct slap in the face to agricultural education; something the Minister would be loth to give were he apprized of the real facts. The advantage of the appointment of Mr. Ross to the position would be that a thoroughly Western man would be in the saddle at Ottawa, one understanding completely the needs of the West, of which at present there are none too many.

Looking Around.

Farming is each year becoming a little more complicated, whether we wish it or not. Just at present every newspaper has accounts of the movement of population toward the Canadian West and these people are not all going to be customers of our friends in the real estate business. They are here to work and are not all adapted for the same class of work. If their services are to be made profitable to the farmers they must be given a variety of things to do, and upon the ability of a farmer to make profitable use of such service as our immigrants can give depends the success of all. The farmer who takes more land than he can work himself

assumes some responsibility for the furnishing of work to others at all seasons of the year.

Ideals of farming are undergoing somewhat of a change the past few years. Everyone has noticed that many of the largest land owners are selling off some of their holdings. They have found that their efforts have been spread too thinly over their soil, and that as a consequence the land has become foul and is decreasing in fertility. We mention this here because the large farmers in nearly every community are regarded, often unconsciously, as examples, and their methods have been frequently too closely imitated by those of more limited means. It has too often been the case that whatever the big fellow does every one else thinks he must do regardless of his own adaptability for that work or the suitability of his farm for those particular practices.

Whether a man takes an inventory in his mind or upon paper, we hope it will show that this spring he has more cattle, hogs, poultry and other farm stock than he had last spring. It should be the fixed policy, so long as population keeps on increasing at the rapid rate it is at present, to keep on gradually increasing the amount of stock on the farms and of produce such as butter, potatoes, vegetables, etc., raised. This especially applies to the older settled districts. Prices have ruled well up for practically all kinds of marketable stock if we except cattle, and even where these have been raised on cheap land without much care they have been money makers, and it is but the rational thing to do to keep gradually increasing the supplies of stock when the market is good. It is probably good for our conscience that we do not know how much we are paying for imported meats, poultry, eggs, butter, cheese and horses, but if we had the figures placed before us it would set us thinking more seriously than we do at present on the subject.

The Educational Convention and School Trustees.

So far as we are aware the attempts to get the views of the lay public on matters affecting the administration of our schools have been few and far between. Heretofore a Department of Education has been founded with a head, a member of the Cabinet, who is really the official who presents large bills and ideas on textbooks, etc., to the taxpayers through the Legislature. The peculiar thing about it was that, though the taxpayers are informed in a general way, likely by means of the newspaper they take in, they have really no opportunity of properly discussing the matters at issue, but have to accept the dictum of the Department, which is really the opinion of a few professional heads of the existing educational system. If this method is allowed to go on our educational system will gradually deteriorate; and in addition, there is great likelihood of duplication of work and thereby waste of public money.

Iowa furnishes a case in point at the present time and is struggling to get away from the difficulty. In that state in 1904 the Normal School received an income of \$178,000, the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts \$513,500 and the University \$544,686. In all that state pays from one million to a million and a half dollars out for education for the three institutions, and unfortunately there is duplication of work. Each institution has its own board of trustees, and lobbies the Legislature for big grants. A system has grown up almost beyond the control of the citizens and our educational system has been pointing the same way for some time, and bids fair to become top-heavy. Some of the broader minds and wiser heads, becoming awake to the conditions and noticing the trend of things, have launched a new section, a department of school administration in the Education.