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VOL. XXXIX.

WINNIPEG, MAN., AND LONDON, ONT., JUNE 1, 1904.

No. 610

Editorial.

The Inspection of Grain.

Sir Richard Cartwright has introduced a bill into the House of Commons to amend the Grain Inspection Act. The object of the bill is to consolidate in one measure a large number of amendments that have been introduced from time to time to the law regulating the inspection of grain, and to modify some of the differences that at present exist between the Eastern and Western Grain Inspection divisions. The bill is expected to come before a special committee for consideration, when the modifications contemplated may be more intelligently discussed.

The Marketing of Western Beef Cattle.

When travelling recently towards the setting sun, to rendezvous with the cattle kings, the purebred stock-breeders and farmers of the western part of the Territories, we were queried as to the outlook for prices when beef shipping began. Later, while at Calgary, we heard frequent complaints of the effects of monopoly in the buying of the rancher's produce, and were forced to the conclusion that the time has arrived for the rancher to get a look-in at reasonable prices for his stuff. Interested parties, such as the abattoir men or the Old Country buyer, have been busy latterly endeavoring to discourage a more careful inspection of the markets by the producers of the beef stuff.

A few days since Canadian cattle were listed equal in price with American stuff, a noteworthy because an infrequent occurrence; in fact, we do not remember a similar incident previously. The rancher has in the past bargained with the abattoir men to sell his stuff "fat and fit for export," by which method the buyer has cut as he liked, and in many cases turned the bulk of the stuff back until he got it at his own figures.

It is often stated that range beef dresses out a low per cent. (52); that, however, varies with the season pretty largely—58 per cent. has been obtained from range stuff in many seasons.

The buyers made good money in 1902, and look pretty thrifty after last year's experience. What is badly needed is more firms in the abattoir business, and a well-organized system of union stockyards, all of which will take time to get. In the meantime, the rancher having cattle to market would do well to make an experiment in shipping his own stock to a reliable commission man (consult our advertising columns), a method so much employed in the U. S.

As the C. P. R. has cut off the transportation for the cattle-buyers, the rancher by shipping himself stands to save the expenses of the buyers coming to see him.

Many grain-growers found it necessary to ship their grain in order to get their own out of the produce they grew, and it looks to us as if the beef-grower needs to take a leaf out of the book of the prairie farmer. A point of peculiarity about the Western markets as compared with the Eastern, is that stock here, cattle and hogs, are sold off cars, whereas in the East they are fed and watered previous to weighing.

We are not prophets, but would say that the combination of circumstances in the U. S. controlling their cattle supply makes it appear that good prices should be had this fall for cattle. The Old Country quotation for Canadian beef just recently was 6½d. (12½ cents).

Slandering the Dogie.

A short time ago the Medicine Hat Stock-growers' Association passed a resolution which practically laid the blame on the Manitoba and Ontario stocker, or dogie, for the existence of mange in the Territories.

At the meeting of the Western Stock-growers in Calgary, May 12th and 13th, a similar statement was made, and effectually refuted by Veterinary Director-General Rutherford, who stated that there was no mange in cattle in either Manitoba or Ontario. The Western Stock-growers were informed by Dr. McEachren that mange had existed in the Territories for fifteen years back.

It is easy to understand how cars and yards used for shipping cattle east would become infected, and would thus be a means of infecting the dogie on its way west. Such is, undoubtedly, the way the dogie got mange, if the disease was present before it (the dogie) was placed on the range.

It has been stated that one reason why the Mexican was superior to the dogie was because the Southerner would not get the mange. The real reason is that, unlike the dogie, he will not hang around infected corrals or buildings, and thus contract the disease. The dogie, as every cattleman knows, is very tame, used to farm buildings, and when first brought West shows a tendency to hang around corrals, etc. As one prominent cattleman, discoursing on the subject, says, "The dogie seems to be homesick at first." From specimens seen of the Manitoba and Ontario dogie and the Mexican, the average Manitoba yearling or two-year-old easily ranks over the dairy-bred stocker from Ontario and the Mexican. Of the two latter, it is hard to say which is the worst or will do the greatest harm to the export cattle trade of Canada. Mexicans are being brought in in numbers, for two reasons: First, they are cheap, being landed in the West for \$7, \$8 to \$10 a head; and, second, they afford the abattoir men, the beef buyers, a chance to bear down the market and still further reduce the profits of the ranchers. Mange is very prevalent in the West, and is, we are glad to see, to be grappled with by the stockmen, under the guidance of the Government, the cost being defrayed by the individual, the right and proper way. If there is one thing more than another that impressed us at the Calgary meeting, it was the sturdy independence of the stockmen, and their abhorrence of anything that savored of spoon-feeding.

The mange parasite is no respecter of hides, whether that hide be stretched over the angular, bony framework of a Mexican, the dairy form of the whey-fed Ontario dogie, or the spreading ribs of the Manitoba stocker, and it is the height of ingratitude to charge the Manitoba stocker with imparting disease, especially in view of the fact also that Manitoba was annually seeded with glanders from the Territories.

Provincial Autonomy for the N.-W. T.

We make no apology for expressing our opinion on this question, which some would have us believe is a political one. The granting or withholding of provincial autonomy to the Territories has no more reason to be considered a political question or shuttlecock for the politicians than has the great question of temperance. We believe that the early granting of the full measure of self-government to the Territories is essential to progress in the West, and in this matter the people of the Territories are better judges than outsiders. We find that Westerners who think and act for themselves are a unit in favor of the exercise of what

is their undoubted right. It is notorious in this country (Canada) of immense distances, that those distant from us are not always as familiar with our needs as is desirable. Nothing tends to destroy individuality or retard progress in an individual as the withholding of responsibility, and what holds good in the individual holds equally good in the citizen body. Great Britain's success as a colonizer is due to the fact that her children were early granted and expected to exercise self-government, and to shoulder the responsibilities attendant thereon. The more equitable distribution of the burden of taxation, the improvement of roads, policing of the towns and country (so far well attended to by that superb body of men, the N.-W. M. P.), and the handling of that great asset, the vacant lands, are all pressing needs, and ones which should be under control of the people at Regina. The able administration of the Department of Agriculture stands out luminously, and is a reliable indication of the ability of the Territorial men to handle their own problems by themselves. An agricultural college will be a need ere long in the country 'twixt Manitoba's western boundary and the Rockies, and the Government at Regina should have absolute control of the lands in their territories, so as to be enabled to set aside a good reserve as an endowment for an agricultural college (as has been done in the United States). As the country cannot be developed or the vacant lands peopled without the aid of the farmer and stockman, such lands should contribute of their wealth a complete permanent endowment for a farmers' college.

The hostility of a contemporary to granting the Territories their undoubted right, namely, provincial autonomy, is hard to understand, and we regret exceedingly the existence of a political bigotry which dictates such an attitude. We, therefore, state unreservedly that no political affiliations should be permitted to stand in the way of the granting to the glorious young manhood of the Territories the full measure of self-government, which is the inalienable right of every British subject.

South Dakota Agricultural College Will Henceforth Be for Farmers.

During the past three years the "Advocate" has frequently pointed out that if Manitoba Agricultural College would educate farmers' sons who would go back to the farm, it should have a course of not more than two years, which would be strictly agricultural in character. The experience of the South Dakota Agricultural College, as summed up in a recent article of the Dakota Farmer, comes as a reminder to Manitoba that a long-course institution is of little practical value to the farmers of any State or Province. It reads as follows:

"Nothing has occurred at the South Dakota Agricultural College for years of more vital importance to the agricultural interests of the State than the recent decision to have a two years' course in pure agriculture at that school.

"For years this splendid institution has been sending its graduates out over the country to fill important places along educational and professional lines. But from this, as from many other so-called agricultural colleges, but few have found their way back to the farm. In other words, nearly all who have entered have been educated away from the farm rather than back onto it. This, laudable as it may seem, and praiseworthy as it may be, from some standpoints, is anything but encouraging to those who would like to see