

# Farmer's Advocate

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### EDITORIAL

#### The R. N. W. M. P. Must Not Be Disbanded.

If there is any one thing that demonstrates how essential the above force is to maintenance of law and order and the speedy bringing of criminals to justice it is the recent capture and sentencing of the train robbers, who recently operated near Kamloops, B. C.

We again assert that the force should be used to patrol the international boundary from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Coast, in addition to patrolling the shores of Hudson's Bay and the outlying districts where the settlement is very sparse. The rapid increase in population of the West, some of the units of which are not as mindful of our laws as they must be made to be, renders it necessary that a force such as the Royal North West Mounted Police should be maintained; the cost is a mere bagatelle, especially when compared with the loss of good name and prestige to Canada that would arise from criminals going undetected and crime unpunished. Horse thieving and rustling of cattle along the boundary can be practically stamped out by the presence of the Police and a judge, who gives the maximum and not the minimum sentence. With such a great ingress of population, some tough characters are bound to be included and any attempts to break away from the legal code of civilization in force in Canada needs to be sternly suppressed, and the red-coated riders of the plains are the best men, judged by their record, to do the work. Politics does not interfere with the efficiency of this force as it too often does with the appointments to a provincial constabulary.

#### Encouraging An Agricultural Trust.

In another column is published a letter from an Alberta correspondent lamenting the fact that the agricultural press does not encourage or assist the Society of Equity.

Our correspondent has given voice to the opinions of a large class. The other agricultural papers may speak for themselves, as for us we have not approved of the Society of Equity for two reasons, first, we do not believe that trusts and combinations in restraint of trade should be allowed to exist, and we know every farmer, especially the members of the Society of Equity, would like to see every commercial and industrial trust which operates a monopoly come within the powers of the law. This being our attitude towards trusts, we cannot conscientiously endorse identical methods on the part of our readers. Two wrongs do not make a right, but people too wronged soon make things right. The injustice of the whole thing is that people must suffer before things are righted. Our second reason for not endorsing the Society of Equity is because we do not believe its tenets practicable. The ideals of the society and of all socialistic organizations we admire immensely, as we believe every well-wisher of the commonwealth does, but we fail to see how they are to be operated successfully, and we have given the subject some study. Has anyone ever noticed how universally the creed of the socialists (and that word must not be associated with anarchists) appeals to the young men, and men who have more of the poetical than the practical in their characters? In our very limited observation of men we have seen the young and inexperienced pledge themselves to the advancement of commercial interests and insist that only by intensive combination and co-operation among producers could their interest be advanced, but these same men when riper experience overtook them have always forsaken their creeds or become less ardent supporters of them. By this we do not wish to be understood as being opposed to co-operation in production

and marketing, we believe that by this process an improvement can be effected in quality of product and an enhancement in market price, but we do not believe that any system can be devised and perfected that will enable producers of agricultural products who sell in the open market of the world to set an arbitrary price upon the same. We would like to see the Alberta farmers and all others succeed in their efforts, and to this end reiterate the advice we have offered before, namely, that a complete system of co-operation should proceed the establishment of commercial combination among farmers if this latter step is considered just and right and feasible, which we doubt. To illustrate, if farmers are to be able to dictate prices of wheat by combining to hold it until the demand increases, they should first co-operate to establish farmers' elevator companies, commission houses and the whole chain of what is called middle men. The same applies in connection with dairy products, meats, eggs, fruit, etc. In other words there must be a thorough system of co-operation before there can be successful combination and if the first is established we feel certain that its educative influence will teach the impracticability of the latter.

#### The Law Must be Enforced at all Hazards.

One of the heritages we have as Britons is the reverence for the law and administration of justice, which generally speaking is well looked after in Canada.

That such is the case is well evidenced by the quick capture and speedy sentencing of the train robbers, who will now be incarcerated long enough for them to reflect, that while such law-breaking may go unpunished in the U. S., not so in Canada. Fortunately also, most of our judges and justices are men of sense and judgement who when handing out sentence keep in mind the proportion and enormity of the crime and the injury to the community. A prominent Eastern man is quoted in the daily press recently as stating that in certain cities, it was unsafe for young girls or children to walk after dark on the streets; lynching does not go in Canada, but the reproach referred to must be done away, either by flogging or emasculation of the offender or both. Either sentence would be a most wholesome deterrent for this species of crime, for which, we believe any man is justified in taking the life of the perpetrator; although we believe that the methods suggested are better, and would have a more permanent deterrent effect against this crime than any other devised.

An unfortunate exception from the usual exemplification of law is the weakness shown recently by the Department of Justice which has just released one of the most despicable criminals, in the person of Desire Brothier, a procurer, that ever infested Canada. It is just such stupid effeminacy that brings law into disrepute, the only explanation being that he has been let off because he is a Frenchman, it is inexplicable in any other way. Never have the Ottawa authorities so outraged Western feeling of decency as in this particular case; it is fortunate that a new minister of justice is to be provided.

The law must protect the women and children, or it has no place in our civilization, and to effectually do so it must be rigidly enforced. We must include under the list of laws, which non-enforced injure the youth of the community, a rigid enforcement of the liquor laws, against cigarette selling, child labor, compulsory attendance at school, gambling at fairs.

#### Land Speculation

The madcap gambling in western farm lands has countless adventurous devotees. The small farmer running with profit his quarter section dreams of profits which multiply as his acres and eventually lead to vast wealth. The fact is that nowhere on earth does this prove true.

The writer well remembers a gambler of this style. He made a profit on a small flock of fifty hens; then multiplied that profit by twenty to figure out the result from a thousand, but alas, disease, misfortune and death overtook his hopes and his flock and he was left lamenting. On another occasion, from a small field of fall wheat he made a phenomenal profit and straightway he sowed the major portion of his farm to that cereal, but winter killing blasted his prospects and again he found the folly of building castles from imaginary profits computed from previous small trials.

This process is going on all over the west today. Men who are doing well on a half section are attempting to handle four times as much. It may be done but ruin is apt to follow, especially where land is bought on a small margin and where the owner trusts to good fortune to meet his future obligations. The west will never come to its own until production and not speculation becomes the ruling passion of the people.

#### The Value of Reputation.

For months the press of the United States has been teeming with tales of deep dishonesty and base brutality, on the part of the large packers toward their men, and as a fitting climax to this campaign of malignment a book called "The Jungle" is written describing in vivid detail the lives and work of the men and women engaged in the large slaughter houses. Those of us who have visited the large packing plants in various cities have seen something of the nature of the work the people engaged in killing the stock, cutting the meat, canning the product, making up the by-products, etc., have to do. We have seen men standing in seas of blood, working over steaming vats of scalding hogs, cutting and slashing meat day after day and have reflected upon the brutalizing effect upon character of such labor. We have also seen these same people when off duty, as happy and sympathetic with their families or fellowmen as are the people of the same social caste engaged in other lines of work.

But the impression has gone abroad that all the horrors of brutality, characteristic of slavery days are being enacted at the large packing plants, and orders for meats amounting to thousands of dollars are being cancelled by Europeans. Evidence of various kinds has also been produced with regard to the meat in tins, one prominent military authority being reported as saying that canned meats were responsible for the deaths of three thousand soldiers in the Philippines.

So much publicity of the methods and practices of packers, whether or not it eventually does good, is terribly demoralizing to the stock business across the line. The circumstance offers a splendid opportunity to colonial packers and meat producers since it is from Britain that the greater number of cancellations of meat orders come.

If the packers could only be heard, the revelations they could make in the condition of trade as a result of having an established reputation snatched away, would be one of the most effective sermons on the value of a good name. The situation gives point to the resolution of the grain growers associations asking for a change in the grades of wheat, for it shows the advantage of putting forward the highest grade of product and since we cannot attain to the high grade we set for ourselves the best thing for us to do is to lower the standard of quality and let it be known that we produce the high grades, then leave it to the consumer, who has assured us often that if our arbitrary standards were identical with our competitors we would still have the advantage of inherent quality.

I cannot speak too highly of the ADVOCATE; it is the very thing I need. I wish to thank you one and all for your work as represented by your paper.

Didsbury, Alta.

JNO. CATHRO.