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FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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## EDITORIAL

### University Endowment

One item introduced before the Saskatchewan Legislature at the recent session dealing with provincial universities in the Canadian West is of vast importance to all interested in educational affairs. It was suggested that the Dominion Government be asked for a land endowment for the provincial universities of the prairie provinces along similar lines to that under which endowments are made by the Federal Government at Washington, under the Hatch and Morrill bills, for the various state colleges of agriculture and mechanic arts.

This proposition was urged by the FARMER'S ADVOCATE some time ago. It is a reasonable suggestion, and it is to be hoped the Dominion Government will take definite action in accord with the move made in Saskatchewan's Legislature.

### Grain Growers and Referendum

The Canadian navy proposition proved to be a vexed question at the annual convention of the Manitoba Grain Growers. A resolution asking that the Dominion government should submit the matter to vote before proceeding with the preparations incidental to a navy caused hot discussion, in which the purpose of the resolution was evaded and the details of reasonable support to the mother country were worked out *a la Laurier* and *a la Borden*. After judicious and careful explanations the delegates agreed that the question was of sufficient import to warrant them in demanding that the people should be requested to decide whether or not it was wise to undertake such a scheme.

Granting that such referendums are right and proper, would it not be well also to request the Manitoba government to submit the question of government ownership of grain elevators to

public vote before undertaking this admittedly ponderous proposition? True, the vast majority of convention delegates favor such step being taken; but there are some members of these organizations who realize the wisdom of going slowly. In addition there are many of the thousands of intelligent grain growers, not members of these associations, who stoutly oppose the outlay of the huge sum of money necessary to perfect a government line of elevators.

If weighty questions entailing large expenditures of public funds should be submitted to popular vote, why not the elevator question?

### Party Politics Not Forgotten

Organized farmers always take particular care to warn each other that in order to obtain the greatest good and to attain the greatest power, party politics must be forgotten. It is strange, however, the slight excuse that provokes a line up on the sides—grit and tory. Even at the greatest convention ever held in Western Canada by a body of farmers, when the force attained by forsaking party was asserting itself, there were a few who could not hide the fact that they were at heart solid supporters of one party or other. Intelligent reading of the resolutions under discussion shows that there was no intention to have anything savoring of party politics taken into consideration. Resolutions submitted at the various conventions show good judgment in this particular. However, a further safeguard worth considering is to avoid having politicians appear on the platform in any capacity.

### Independent Stock Yards

The live stock industry of Western Canada never will make satisfactory progress until the stock yards situation is improved. Past years have imposed too many hardships and losses on small shippers to allow them to forget that it is difficult to get fair treatment in the stock yards at Winnipeg as at present arranged and managed.

More and more farmers are being impressed with the fact that stock raising is an essential factor in prairie farming—but they refuse to raise stock until market conditions improve, and to make it possible to improve that feature they stoutly maintain that it is positively necessary to have yards and scales managed by an independent commission where no firm or firms have anything to do with unloading cars, weighing animals or yarding them.

These demands are only reasonable. Reliable buyers will have no objection to such changes. They should be anxious to do anything that will tend to increase the number of live stock produced on the farms of the Canadian West. Increased production gives increased gross profits from legitimate trade.

### Farm Ice Supply

Ice is not a necessity on all farms, but it is a summer luxury that may be so cheaply and easily secured that no farmer can excuse the lack of it on the ground that it costs too much or entails too much labor in the getting and storing.

Our climate lends itself peculiarly to the making of the farm ice supply and also renders storage most convenient and cheap. In Ontario the farmer labors with a single handled cross cut saw on the creek or pond, and drags out blocks of ice, which have to be hauled home and hoisted into the ice house. If the labor involved is any excuse for not putting up ice, the Eastern farmer has excuse sufficient. But here it doesn't hold.

On nearly any farm in the prairie provinces an ice pit can be constructed for next to nothing, the only cost being the digging, lining the sides to prevent cave-ins, placing poles in the bottom to facilitate drainage, and putting on some kind of roof to protect the ice from sun and wind. Nor is it necessary to saw the ice from slough or stream. In most cases the bottom and sides of the cellar are sprinkled until they are frozen water tight and pure well water pumped into the cellar and frozen solid. Not much cost or labor about that.

A correspondent suggests the convenient arrangement of having the ice cellar underneath a small building to be used as a dairy. Then, by having a box in the centre of the cellar, connected with the upper building by trap-door, one can have a cold storage in which in summer all manner of perishable products may be stored. Think about putting in an ice supply this season. It will repay cost and labor many times over before the end of next summer.

### Grain Growers and Legislation

Government advances made during the past couple of weeks in Saskatchewan and Manitoba show that the grain growers' associations of the Canadian West are being recognized as a force to be reckoned with in the making of legislation.

During the past few years these organized farmers have agitated for many changes in Dominion and provincial laws. Gradually sufficient force is being brought to bear to induce the granting of desired alterations and additions intended to benefit the great grain growing class. The Dominion government amended the grain act and the provincial government of Saskatchewan at its session just closed made proposals in keeping with the avowed feeling of the grain growing body of farmers.

But the climax came in Manitoba recently when a member of the provincial cabinet appeared before six hundred delegates assembled at Brandon in annual convention and an-