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patterns—designed  
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**LIGHT-DURABLE, CLEAN**  
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**GUARANTEED**  
**WATERPROOF**  
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BEHOLD THE SPAN OF THE AGE  
  
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**CULTIVATION**  
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ready and recom-  
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developed trees  
and severe cold.  
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**TORONTO, ONT.**

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Journal

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March 3, 1909

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## EDITORIAL

### Making the Agricultural Fair a Success

At the convention of the agricultural society delegates at the agricultural college last week, the managers of certain of the most successful fairs held in the province last year, explained the methods employed in making these fairs the success they were. There were some little differences in the minor details by which success was worked out but in a large way, the results attained were traceable to one or two primary reasons. First, an energetic directorate, second, a manager who was a thinker and a worker and third a community warmly enthusiastic for the success of its local agricultural institution.

An energetic directorate, in some districts, is a little hard to secure. Men are required on the board who will serve to the best of their ability the interests they are elected to serve. It is to advance the interests of the society, not to gain a little empty honor from being in an official capacity, that should be the motive in accepting office in an organization having the aims of an agricultural society. The getting of a manager is not so difficult a task if a society has selected first of all a directorate that may be depended upon to do its work. But a secretary or manager or superintendent or whatever the managing official is called, cannot spread himself out sufficiently to be the whole institution, however enthusiastically willing he may be to assume the maximum amount of work for the minimum remuneration. He needs support, assistance and a salary commensurate with the work he performs, or if not that, then as much as the financial condition of the organization will permit of his being paid.

Working up enthusiasm and interest locally in the fair is, in most cases, easy enough. A well-carried on publicity campaign before the event, and an honest effort to make the function advertised equal to the expectations suggested to the public mind, enlists promptly the support of the community. To retain and increase that support, a fair must offer some attraction to visitors other than a side show or two and a few no class racing events. The majority of a fair's

visitors attend, perhaps, to be amused, but they are quite as willing to be instructed, providing the facilities on hand for instructing are properly employed and the educational features of the fair emphasized as much as the other features are. There may be some foundation for the charge made against some fairs in this country that the controlling element in them is more concerned in securing for itself the largest share of the prize money offered, than in putting up for the public an educational event that will be worth the public's while, or is convenient for them to take an interest in. This matter of making the agricultural part of the fair—the educational features—convenient for inspection, is one that is frequently overlooked. The fair's visitors have rights too large to be disregarded. No fair can exist without public patronage, and its success, other things considered, will depend upon the degree to which it merits public support.

Delegates to the Agricultural Societies' Convention, held recently at the Manitoba Agricultural College, should lose no opportunity to put advanced ideas acquired into practice.

### Public Opinion and the Elevators

After a year of stiff campaigning and constant work by the executives of the Grain Growers' Associations of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, they have had the satisfaction of seeing their proposal of government ownership of elevators accepted almost unanimously by their members and entertained by provincial premiers as a matter of practical politics. This is a large accomplishment for one year. It takes a long time to get a new idea to stick with any class of people and the success of the propaganda referred to must be due in a great measure to the demand for an improvement in the trade.

Having made such substantial progress with the propaganda, we may be assured that during the next few months the country will hear a great deal more about the grain growers' proposal. The assumption is that just as soon as the majority of the people decide in favor of government ownership the governments will find a way of financing the scheme. Everything is staked on the power of public opinion and English history furnishes many an illuminating example of that power.

Upon this question, each man should form some opinion. It is the duty of everyone whose product it is proposed to affect to give an intelligent voice when it comes to a final decision. We have a representative government in our provinces, but there is generally too much left to a few leaders in certain lines of thought and afterwards, if certain schemes are not successful, censure is meted out to the few, whereas responsibility should fall upon the majority.

### A Tribute to a Good Man

Western farmers who contributed to the Richard Waugh memorial fund paid a splendid tribute to a man who devoted a large part of his life to public service in behalf of agriculture.

The memorial which this fund purchased (but which is, as yet, not wholly paid for) consists of a portrait in oils of Western Canada's grand old man of agriculture. Upon the walls of the agricultural college this portrait will hang as in the dual capacity, a tribute of those who appreciated his work and an inspiration to those who have greater opportunity.

The imputation is often made that the public does not appreciate what its servants do for it, and, to a certain extent, this is true, especially if the servant is looking for appreciation; and here is the secret of the public regard for Richard Waugh—he did not look for appreciation. His first object was to get at the truth of a matter. If the public approved, well and good, if not, well, the public could have its own way, but a truth preached would carry its own reward. This is a truism that is not given as much prominence today as it deserves. We are too anxious to say and do the thing that will meet with the most applause, irrespective of the inherent good in it. Place and prominence are not securely attained by appeals to the superficial senses, but by an earnest zeal for whatever is true, pure, and that finds a response in the inner consciousness of our fellows.

This is the lesson that the portrait of Richard Waugh will continually teach to the students and visitors of the Manitoba Agricultural College.

### The Peevish Spirit

One of our contemporaries in Alberta displays a peevish spirit because the FARMER'S ADVOCATE was able to discuss the substance of the Pork Commissioner's report before other papers realized that the report was in the hands of the Alberta government. Our zeal in the interests of our readers is resented and this raises the question as to what a paper is for. We are not content to simply fill so many pages each week in exchange for \$1.50 per annum. We believe that the editor of a farmers' paper should be alert and know what is going on, that we should understand the significance of certain events and should endeavor to attach just the proper amount of importance to them. We realized that quite a large number of our readers were interested in the report of the Pork Commission, and we made an effort to place before them the substance of that report at as early a date as we were able. That that date was anterior to the publication of the report by other papers should not annoy our readers, whose interests we are most particular to serve. The moral of all of which is: Take the paper that can be depended upon to be always on the alert.