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EDITORIAL

New Work of Societies

The agricultural society or other farmers' organization that persists in introducing some new feature into its annual round of work as a rule is found to be successful and to hold the good-will of the community—urban as well as rural. The members of any organization like a change; they like to see some new feature introduced, and it is well to give the members what they like if at all reasonable.

The Bladworth, Sask., society during the winter has held a series of meetings at which addresses were delivered by members. The speakers were requested to write out their discourses and hand them to the president. These papers in turn were to be judged on their merits as institute addresses and prizes were awarded. The editors of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE happened to be the judiciary entrusted with the task of selecting the winners of first and second prize. That the line of work followed by the Bladworth society has been a success is evident from the interesting and valuable details included in these papers as they appear on other pages of this issue.

Such features not only help to increase the general knowledge of the subjects treated, but also to develop competency on the public platform. If the farming element had as many clever speakers as it has clear thinkers there would be a greater percentage of agriculturists in our legislative halls.

Cattle \$6.00; Hogs \$10.25

With Winnipeg dealers paying 6 cents a pound for choice steers and 10½ cents a pound for hogs, and a meat commission endeavoring to remedy grievances in connection with the stockyards in Winnipeg, no one can be censured for arguing that agriculturists in Western Canada should pay more attention to raising live stock and placing them on the market

in prime condition. The conditions are most encouraging. These prices, of course, did not obtain for all grades of stock that reached Winnipeg lately. However, prices have been good and there has been brisk competitive bidding for well finished animals.

These conditions bear out what THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE long has maintained, namely, that profitable prices are paid when really choice stock comes along and that the arrival of inferior stock day after day is largely responsible for low figures quoted, especially for cattle. The cry of consumers is for better meat at any price; the cry of the buyers is for animals of quality and finish to meet that demand; the cry of the producer is for better prices. All who know the situation realize that in many regards producers for years past have not been treated fairly; however, they also agree that with superior stock the cause of complaint is minimized. The moral is: Finish the stock before shipping.

Our Problem—the Immigrant

Immigration officials state that every steamer leaving Liverpool for Canada in the next few months is booked ahead by immigrants and that the largest influx of British settlers in the history of the Dominion will be shown by the immigration figures of 1910. Settlers are reported to be pouring onto the Canadian prairies through the two gateways of the South literally in thousands. It is estimated that before the close of the present year the immigration returns will show one newcomer for every twenty-three of our population.

Canadians, evidently, have something of a problem in assimilation before them. It is said that the United States when they were receiving the number of immigrants per year that Canada is now receiving, had a population more than six times as large as ours, and the United States had serious difficulties in transforming into American citizens the vast number of those from other lands who sought their shores. There is one fact, however, that alters the force of the comparison: Canada is receiving a better class of immigrants as a whole, than the United States received when the flood-tide of immigration to the Republic was on. We are getting more immigrants of Anglo-Saxon stock and fewer continental Europeans. But the problem of taking them in and making Canadians of them is large enough despite this, and this country at the present in proportion to the number of her people is undertaking a task of larger magnitude of its kind than has ever been undertaken before. And there can be no let-up. The people will come here, for there is no other place to go. It is for us to make the best we can of them. That will be this country's largest contribution this century to uplifting the masses and the civilization of the world.

What Is School?

There are few places in the civilized world where schools are not discussed from time to time. Not many people, however, consider schooling from the broader viewpoint. The tendency is when thinking of school to limit that glorious institution to the four walls within which a salaried individual spends a part of five days or so out of every seven for at least part of the calendar year. The duties of this salaried individual—the teacher—are to teach those who are sent to school.

A moment's thought will lead any person of ordinary intelligence to conclude that schooling simply means increasing the fund of knowledge. Why, then, not consider the farm or the workshop a school? Why limit your idea of school to the building in which a paid teacher endeavors to instruct your children?

The individuals who have progressed and who are recognized as the leaders in all walks of life, are those who constantly considered themselves in school—they took advantage of every opportunity to increase their fund of knowledge. In no line of work is the range of subjects so wide as on the farm; in other words the farm is the greatest school in existence. The regrettable feature is that few take advantage of the opportunities at hand. Perhaps it is because the subjects on the curriculum of the *farm school* are too numerous.

At this season of the year those in charge of rural homes can take steps to make the farm the educational centre it should be. Throughout the year the grown folk can serve as unsalaried teachers for the children and perhaps for some of more mature years. No detail is so insignificant as not to merit attention. It is this early training of the boys and girls on the farm, in the garden and in the house as well as in the business life of town and city, coupled with information and instruction gained from the salaried teacher that develops observant and successful men and women.

One of Our Pains of Growth

More steam and gasoline tractors are being purchased this season for use on the farms of Western Canada than in any previous year. Manufacturers of these engines state that demand has been so unexpectedly great that they will have difficulty in supplying it. Farmers everywhere want these labor-saving, horse-saving tractors, and American and Canadian engine-makers are working overtime to supply them. Eastern Canadian papers comment on the fact that the demand for horses for shipment West this season has been unprecedented; so large in fact, that doubts are expressed as to whether Ontario farmers have not sold