



JUNE 12, 1907

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

893

The miners who appeared before the coal commission now sitting at Lethbridge urged that a compensation act as a protection to life and limb should be passed, that boys under eighteen should not be allowed to work in the mines except on the gangways, and that pay should be fortnightly instead of monthly.

* * *

Delegates from nearly all the towns in New Ontario met at Fort Frances to formulate plans "whereby the Rainy River country can be formed into a separate province in order that its resources can be applied to its development." The demand for properly constructed highways was one of the chief points brought forward.

* * *

The news of the opening of the Doukhobor lands in Saskatchewan to settlers spread rapidly and people came from all directions to attempt to secure the sections offered. At Yorkton accommodation was strained to find shelter for the crowds. On the first day of June twenty-eight homesteads were opened for entry, and the line began to form in front of the land office early in the afternoon on the day before, the men remaining in their places all night. A white-haired woman near the beginning of the line had her place saved for her by the men while she rested for a few hours in her room.

The second party then made ready for the opening on June 3rd, some of them remaining in position for over forty hours. A big tent was improvised to shield them over Sunday. On Monday the line was not allowed to form until five o'clock and then a great rush was made to secure the sixty sections available. The struggle was strenuous, but conducted fairly and without bitterness.

At Prince Albert the rush was not carried on in quite the same friendly spirit, and when the second lot of entries were opened the police had to look after the excited crowd. There were only ten homesteads and nearly two hundred people attempted to get them.

* * *

The Manitoba second-class Normal examination results are as follows:—Minnie L. Allan, Emily Anderson, J. W. Barteaux, Edward Batke, Mary E. Bodkin, Ruby L. Brown, Ethel Buckley, Maude W. Campbell, Lottie Chapman, Ida E. Corbett, W. T. Coulter, Gertrude Coxworth, Isabel Cranley, J. E. S. Dunlop, Edith H. Dunn, Charlotte Egan, Leah Embury, Dora Faryon, Jessie A. Graham, Edna M. Griffiths, Hettie Grime, E. Nora Hallen, Beatrice Halls, Harriet L. Hawthorne, Kate B. Henderson, Fanny A. Hitchcock, Mabel Johnson, Muriel Jordan, Irene E. Kane, Ruby Lamb, Nellis Laycock, Margaret A. Lundy, Helen Lynch, Ida Madill, Laura A. Manz, Mary E. Marsh, Ethel M. Moore, Jean Sara Myers, Emily Morris, Margaret McCarthy, Mabel McCreary, Blanche McDonald, Violet E. McDonald, Marjory McFarlane, Elizabeth McFetridge, Arch. Jas. McIntyre, Mary K. McRae, Mary Ellen McIvor, Annie McTavish, Thos. A. Neelin, Gertrude Noon, Sara A. Oliver, Mary V. Parker, Ada Parsons, Bessie Perfect, Helena Perfect, A. Edna Pope, Geo. R. R. Prowse, Bertha Reid, Lulu Robinson, Alice M. Ross, John F. Rowe, Velena Roxburgh, Ada Sharman, Sarah Sigvaldason, Cora E. Smith, Ella Somerville, Sarah F. Stanton, Minnie J. Stinson, Louis Sutherland, Bertha Swanson, Mabel A. Taylor, B. A. Tingley, W. J. McLaughlin, Louise Savade.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Hon.[™] Edward Blake's condition is somewhat improved.

* *

A Missouri oil company, the Waters-Price, was convicted and fined \$1,623,000 for violating the anti-trust law of Texas and entering that state by fraud.

* * *

The Irish bill brought into the House was formally dropped by the Government as a result of Ireland's decided hostility to the measure.

* * *

The two Mexicans who were found guilty of murdering General Barillas, former President of Guatemala, were sentenced to death.

* * *

Richard Croker, the former Tammany "boss," won the English Derby with "Orby," an American horse.

- * * *

A Hindoo fakir who claims to be the Messiah says that he predicted Dowie's death and the downfall of Zion City.

* * *

The International Independent Telephone Association, meeting in Chicago, recommends the amalgamation of all the independent companies of Canada and United States. These number about ten thousand.

Unravelling the Tangled Skeins.

A pretty good indication that the Royal Insurance Commission touched something worth while, is found in the systematic attempts of some person or persons interested to discredit its findings and discount its methods. Scarcely a day passes that we do not receive a marked copy of some paper or other, in which articles or spiteful cartoons cast reflections on the Commission and its report. Some of the editorials are more or less pointed, but an organized effort must be responsible for this persistent attempt to instruct us, and, no doubt, the editors of many other publications as well.

Without entering upon a review of the personnel, the proceedings or the recommendations of the tribunal, we beg to express our belief that the appointment of such a body was a wise, timely and most fortunate action. That its inquiry revealed no such gross evils as had previously been discovered in the American Republic, is a matter for congratulation. The chief vindication of its appointment is the salutary corrective influence which the publicity given to its investigations will exert. Through it all the public has been much enlightened concerning the actuarial facts underlying life insurance, and many a man is in a better position because of this to choose intelligently the company, and more particularly the form of policy, in which to deposit his premiums.

One point brought out has been the perplexingly numerous forms of policies offered. The commission submits that four kinds of policies are ample to provide our needs, and recommends that all companies be required to conform by law to these four. This is a needed move in the direction of simplicity. The Commission also lays down the principle that insurance companies should not be interested either directly or indirectly in the promotion of other companies, and further submits certain lines of investment which it thinks they should be forbidden to touch. Whether the investments prescribed and those blacklisted are in all cases wisely named or not, the recognition of the principle that insurance companies are simply trustees, and should therefore confine themselves to safe lines of investment, is sound. The recommendations as to Government inspection and publicity are also in the right direction.

Much ado has been made because, in probing the investments of a certain fraternal insurance company, the unravelling disclosed some skilful manipulation of silken financial threads by certain gentlemen who fancied themselves secure under the cloak of "private business," and the attempt has been made to insinuate malign political motives in the appointment of the Commission. The men who are seeking to raise this cry at the eleventh or thirteenth hour, will not find it much to their advantage with the independent thinking public. A scrutiny of the Commission's report seems to show ample evidence of political impartiality in its strictures and reproofs. Men of both political parties are rebuked.

The plain truth is that the Insurance Commission, while perhaps not a perfect instrument—few human institutions are—has not only been a good thing for our insurance policyholders, but will in the end work only benefit to the deserving companies, while the fact that its appointment will have a deterrent influence on men in other business who may be disposed to chicanery and graft. This is the day when the people are asserting their rights, and the high-handed methods of the captains of finance are being regulated for the general good. The Insurance Commission is only an earnest of the rising spirit of the times. Incidentally we hope to see some of its recommendations crystallized into federal legislation at the next session of the Dominion Parliament.

Clydesdale Records.

A letter from the secretary of the Canadian Clydesdale Horse Association makes necessary an explanation.

In a recent issue we said that it would not be necessary when importing fillies to secure their Scotch numbers, that these numbers were not given until the annual Stud Book was being compiled; but the meeting of the directors on May 23rd decided otherwise. The letter says:

"You will note the results of Clydesdale meeting of May 23rd, that all Clydesdales imported after July 1st must be recorded and bear registration numbers in the Scottish Clydesdale Stud Book. This means that the Clydesdale Society of Great Britain and Ireland will have to change their rules in order to accord numbers to fillies and stallion at time of registration. At the present time fillies are not given numbers in the Scottish Stud Book until they have produced foals, nor stallions until two years of age. The argument which the directors made for this was, that importers buying Clydesdales in Scotland at the present time had simply to take the dealers stories for everything, and after the animal was bought and shipped to Glasgow, the pedigree was issued and it sometimes did not look much like the story they had heard. Now everything must be recorded, and the pedigree can be seen. The matter of two recorded dams is one easy of defence in this country, particularly as the U. S. has passed a similar one."

In addition to the above letter the following circular is being sent to all known breeders of Clydesdales and an advertisement in another column of this number calls further attention to the matter.

"It has been a custom among a number of Canadian importers, to import, stand for service or sell, Clydesdales stallions and mares, on their Scottish export certificates only, without recording them in the Clydesdale Stud Book of Canada. Buyers and patrons very often believed, sometimes were led to believe, that this was all they required, and that the progeny from such animals, if equally well bred and certified for on the other side, were eligible for registration and could be recorded any time at the cost of one or two dollars. By far the majority of fillies imported during the past three years have been sold in this way. To record the offspring of one of these fillies it will be necessary to record the dam, and all her recorded ancestors not already recorded in Canada. Sometimes this will not cost more than two dollars, but often the cost will be five or six dollars. Then, too, should the sire be an imported stallion, also not recorded in Canada, the expense of recording him will duplicate that of the dam, making in all a cost of perhaps ten to fourteen dollars. But most important of all is the fact that a very large number of animals not yet recorded in Canada, if the matter is not attended to at once, will under the new regulations regarding the recording of imported Clydesdales, be ineligible after July 1st, 1907. Canadian breeders and buyers should always ask "to be showed" the Canadian Clydesdale Pedigree.

J. W. SANGSTER,
Sec'y."

[In this connection we have suggested to the Clydesdale Horse Association and also to the National Record's Board the advisability of providing all who apply for them with blank forms on good strong paper, for keeping account of the breeding of their animals when grading up, so that when the necessary number of crosses had been reached there would be no trouble or delay in registering the animal.

Canadians have been breeding Clydesdales for well up to fifty years now, yet it is a comparatively rare occurrence for a "graded up" animal to be recorded with absolute authenticity of breeding records. This is a phase of horse breeding that should receive the assistance of the Clydesdale Associations and of the Live Stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture. We should like to see Clydesdale breeders agitate for this provision through these columns, which are always open and the use of which will do much for the breed in stimulating the interest in grading up to stock eligible for registration.—Ed.]

Telephones in Manitoba.

The rural telephone movement in Manitoba is taking on considerable activity, as are also the plans of the provincial Government to establish long distance lines. A site has been purchased in Winnipeg for the central offices of the long distance system and several municipalities are ready to build to connect with the Government's line. Last week when the reeves of the different municipalities were in Winnipeg, many of them conferred with the Hon. J. H. Howden, Commissioner of Railways and Telephones, upon the working out of the scheme. The municipalities which have decided to instal their own systems are Woodsworth, where there will be three exchanges throughout the district to handle the local work; Brenda, with three exchanges; Victoria, with one exchange; Wallace, with three exchanges; Hamiota and Blanchard, each with one exchange. Several other municipalities are taking the matter up and it is expected that they will also instal their own systems. The rural systems, where built by the municipality, will be under the control of the municipality. The Government will furnish the material for the construction of the lines and the work will be undertaken at once so that the rural systems will no doubt be working by next winter. The rural systems which have been decided upon will aggregate nearly 3,000 miles, which will be built this summer.

The exact routes of the long distance lines, which the Government will build throughout the province this year, have not yet been finally decided upon, but they will include three trunk lines. A line will be built to the southwestern portion of the province to connect with the rural municipality lines; another trunk line will run to the northwestern part of the province. In all there will be several thousand miles constructed in addition to the municipal lines.

A Successful Meeting at Erskine.

A report of the proceedings at the convention and picnic under the auspices of the Central Alberta Stock Grower's Association held at Erskine on the 5th and 6th will be given in our next issue, June 19th. The convention was a pronounced success, inasmuch as the producing and marketing end of stock raising was well ventilated and a fuller understanding of the difficulties of different interests will result to all concerned. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Geo. F. Root, hon. president; Frank Whiteside, president; James Dew, first vice-president; W. E. Tees, second vice-president; G. C. Bergman, secretary-treasurer. Executive committee: R. E. Fiske, Hillsdown; J. Barbison, Stettler; P. A. Crockett, Pine Lake; A. L. Powde, Ewing; C. A. Sherman, Red Deer; Ed. Barnett, Stettler; Frank Taylor, Lamerton; P. Simpson, Stettler; Robt. Shaw, Gleichen.