

## WHAT NOT TO DO IN PIONEERING.

No. 2. By W. D. ALBRIGHT.

[The views expressed in this article are the views of the writer, and the Editor accepts no responsibility for them.—ED.]

I have been asked to discuss how the settler should apply his loan. If I were in his place I would hesitate to accept it at all. Certainly I would be in no hurry about doing so. There has been considerable dissatisfaction because plans were not maturing faster so the boys could get on the land in time to make a good start this summer. We have all felt that it ch to swing out and make rapid headway from the start. Once we have been through the mill we realize it is better to make haste slowly for awhile. This applies especially to those thinking of taking up raw land. Take plenty of time to get squared away. The land will not run off. If it does it is not worth much. After getting located, with a house erected and a well dug, work out as much as possible for neighbours for a few months or a year, gaining experience and knowledge, whilst gradually resolving your plans according to the special circumstances in which you are placed. A year's experience working for a neighbour would be better than reams of printed directions in all such matters as building houses and digging wells, fencing, grubbing, breaking and the like. My heart sinks at the thought of trying to offer useful advice on such matters to men who lack experience to make the discussion real. This applies not only to city men, but even to those who have farmed under Eastern or old world conditions; for pioneering is a craft in itself, and they will find in undertaking to homestead on the new lands of the North and West there will be much to forget and learn all over again in the light of the new conditions. Leave behind all fixed ideas and prejudices.

There is no profit in farming a homestead, i.e., on the start. A few acres of breaking in a new country, where frost threatens the initial clearings, where facilities are crude, transportation imperfect, and markets uncertain, will make nobody rich. Few homesteaders make a living without working out or drawing upon capital. Better to count on no returns for the first two or three years. If some are realized so much to the good. There will be a large place waiting to receive them. The profit from homesteading comes not from producing crops, but from earning title to the land. Do it by the easiest, simplest and most economical way. A full equipment on a raw piece of land represents a big over-head expense that can seldom be justified by early revenue.

### A Team and a Cow.

Hire the first year's breaking done if need be. After one has acquired experience and gradually brought a field or two under the plow, it is time enough in many cases to be looking around for working stock and equipment. It is both cruel and unprofitable to surround oneself with much live-stock before he has shelter, water and feed. One team and a cow may do for two or three neighbouring settlers on the start. They can take turns looking after the animals while the others are working out. By the way, it is by all means advisable for several congenial parties to locate close together. Besides the advantage of sociability, they can co-operate in purchase and use of implements, and especially such costly ones as tractor outfits

for breaking up scrub land. I do not mean that such should be purchased at once. But when the time comes co-operation in such an investment is a great help to all.

This brings us to another important point—where to locate. Steps have been taken to reserve for soldier settlement all the Crown Lands closest to railways. The motive is good and the principle fair, but whether results will justify the course without any modification is open to some doubt.

### In Bush or Scrub.

Veterans who have had pre-war experience of homesteading unhesitatingly agree that the boys would be much better off distributed through existing settlements than they would be if segregated in groups, even on the open prairie, and very much better off indeed than they would be if similarly bunched in bush or scrub land, where progress in clearing must necessarily be slow. In a partially developed neighbourhood there is convenient opportunity for employment, working for neighbors. There is a chance to learn from those who have had experience and to hire breaking, seeding or harvesting done if need be. There are mail and business facilities, schools, churches, some social life and numerous advantages of that kind. Consider the condition of a bunch of veterans, many of them single men, few of them experienced in pioneering, and all starting in together at the heavy task of creating a settled community out of the wilderness. Single men, especially, think well before you thus discount your chances of marriage and home life.

I am a farmer and proud of my occupation—a pioneer and inspired with the zest of it. Love of the farm is bred in my bone. I desire no other occupation. But I know only too well that the majority of men find their enthusiasm waning when confronted day after day with the stern realities of the occupation: the frugality and industry required, the set-backs that come, the disappointments met with, the privations endured in the early years. Add to all this the loneliness of "backing" in an undeveloped community, plus the costly lessons of adversity, borne of inexperience, and you have a set of conditions well calculated to produce a ferment of discontent.

I wish, for many reasons, to see a large proportion of our soldiers go upon the land, but some would do well to dismiss the idea entirely. Let the remainder choose well their steps, curbing their ambition to cut a wide swath on the start, declining opportunities to load up with debt, securing valuable experience profitably by working for others the first year or two. Plan like a good general, minutely and prudently. Establish liaison with neighbors. Then go to your job with a bull-dog perseverance that nothing can daunt. If frost comes, smile. It won't come every year. Don't put all the eggs in one basket. Diversity. Don't plunge. Play safe and hold fast. The rewards of pioneering are ultimate. Do not forego them by throwing up the sponge after the initial sacrifices have been made. No surrender!

"It's sticking to it will carry you through it. Roll up your sleeves again."

### HORSE BREEDING IN ALBERTA.

Alberta-bred horses are gaining a high place in the estimation of breeders on the North American continent, several remarkable sales being recently recorded. The latest is "Sir Ovan," sold for £7,000 (\$35,000). This is an Alberta-bred horse. Other big sales are being reported from different parts of the country with Alberta thoroughbreds leading.

### \$243,000 WORTH OF BUTTER.

Ninety-seven cars of butter, valued at \$243,000, were exported from Saskatchewan last year. This is an increase of 18 cars over the number sent out of the province in 1917, and an increase of £66,000 in value. Part of the increase in value is due to higher prices that were ruling in 1918 over those of the previous year. This year's working shows satisfactory progress.

### AXLE NOISES.

When noises issue from the axle housing they may be ascribed to one of the following causes: Maladjustment of the driving gears, gears that have worn out of round or become warped, differential bearings that are worn or broken, a broken tooth or teeth in the gear, or metal chips in the mechanism.

### MINERAL WEALTH OF B.C.

In an address given to the Chamber of Mines, Vancouver, British Columbia, Dr. Edwin T. Hodge, Professor of Geology at the University of British Columbia, stated that there are about 50 minerals, each essential to industry, to be found in the province. He mentioned that the iron and steel industry required, not so much iron as coal, to make it a success. Canada, he said, has 1,200,000 million tons of coal known to present estimates.

### CALGARY'S CIVIC ENTERPRISE.

The City Council of Calgary, Alberta, has decided upon an extensive programme of municipal undertakings costing over £12,000, in order to provide work for returned soldiers, of whom there are 300 in that city.

### FARMS AND FARMING.

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addresses, statement of receipts and expenditures, service record for the previous year, and a renewal agreement if the association wants an animal for another year. It is also required by the Department that a regular agreement must be drawn up between the association and the caretaker of the bull, by which the latter agrees to take care of the bull and to keep a record of all service fees.

Occasionally a bull does not make good in a community for various reasons and sometimes, too, a bull loaned by the Association is not given the proper care. Every effort is made to provide a satisfactory bull for the Association; if it is finally determined that a bull is no good he is slaughtered, but this is not done unless necessary. Similarly, unless a bull is treated reasonably well the association is not allowed to keep him, because other groups of farmers can easily be found who will appreciate the opportunity to improve their herds.

—"The Farmer's Advocate."