

In the Trade.

The prospects are for higher prices for both beef cattle and hogs. Chicago reports say exporters are tumbling over themselves to get cattle and that the buyers consider Alberta grass steers worth 6 cents per pound fed and watered in Chicago. Alberta ranchers offer the inducement of 2½ to 3 cents competition, which the Americans do not appear to be afraid of in spite of the almost prohibitory duty and long freight haul. That Canadian cattle should move across the line to a 6 cent market in Chicago when such a thing is rarely thought of in Winnipeg even with weighing off cars, is not surprising, and the prospects of losing some of the best cattle, for it will be the best that will go across, will probably have the desired effect upon our buyers here.

The hog trade is even more promising than the staunchest advocates of swine raising could have hoped to have realized. Cattle are high priced and the unfortunate mortality among spring litters which was discussed in these columns last spring was quite general all over the country and far south. Added to this fact there is the certain prospect that wheat will not be cheap and with the increasing consuming population in Canada hog raising should continue to be a most profitable branch of farming.

The Sheep Trade Looking Up.

We are glad to learn from sheep exhibitors at our recent fairs that there is an increasing demand for their stock. Manitoba farmers also intimate to us that they have concluded that a few sheep on their farms will help to fight weeds, pack the summer-fallows, and return a welcome income when wheat is not moving. The wolf nuisance is not so formidable now as formerly in the older settled parts and fences are becoming more common. All this augurs well for the condition of our farms and the financial condition of our farmers, for in spite of the fact that there are plenty of thoroughly practical, close-estimating men, who can figure that it is an expense to raise sheep and other stock for the meat market, the opposite is true; namely, that there are men who are making good returns from their stock right along. With feeding stock it seems that a lot of the feed and labor expended upon them and counted as part of the cost of production is really nothing more than a good investment and proves a modern adaptation of the affirmative side of the old saw "eating your cake and having it."

This awakening demand for sheep is felt all over America and as is usual the Americans are most anxious about it. For the first time in history sheep are higher west of the Mississippi valley than they are east of it. In the West the severe winter, the demand on the Pacific coast, the good markets for mutton and wool the past two years and the consequent close selling of lambs, the general desire to feed, etc., all give impetus to a trade that is proving quite profitable. Canadian farmers can well afford to investigate the sheep raising industry. Just recently an Alberta sheep raiser informed us that his flock made him over 80 per cent. upon his investment the first year and most of them were young, and since then the per cent. profit upon his capital and labor expended has not fallen below 100 per cent. The industry is inviting enough for a man with the grasping nature of a Rockefeller.

FARM

(Comments upon farming operations invited.)

Winnipeg "Industrial" Exhibition.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In concluding your remarks upon the present-day fairs, you say, "Let us not forget that live stock and the products of the soil are the significant features in these institutions." What about the machinery which enables the tiller of the soil or the stock breeder to raise these products? Is it not deserving of more prominence than 100 peep shows?

Directors of fairs and others interested therein would appear to overlook the important part agricultural machinery plays in the production of live stock, grain, cheese, butter, etc., and the expense manufacturers entail by exhibiting at these fairs.

If the public are desirous of cheap and noisy amusement, provided it is of an innocent nature, by all means let them have it, but not to the detriment of industrial exhibits. If the fair is to consist of horse-racing, sports, cheap and vulgar amusements, then why not call it the "Winnipeg Pleasure Exhibition" and drop the present appellation; viz., "The Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition." If, however, the directors desire to continue the combination, surely that which is conducive to the sustenance of man and beast should receive greater publicity than what is merely a luxury, which without the former could not be indulged in! Why should not the machinery for instance, be brought up to the position now occupied by the peep shows, and let the latter be installed out in the wilderness, as many of the machines have been in the past?

Again, why cannot the machinery be classified, and so arranged that visitors interested in that class of exhibit can more readily compare the various makes of the same type of machine and not as now be compelled to wander through several different buildings to find the machine they may wish to inspect. A catalog with the name of the exhibitor, and the number of his stand would also be a great convenience, the expense of which should not be difficult to defray from advertisements appearing therein. Prizes are given for horses, cattle, dairy produce, racing, etc. Why should not some be offered for machinery? Say, for instance, for the best grain cleaning machine, a machine that would assist in eradication of weeds of which there are now numberless acres and yearly increasing, or any other appliance that would tend to reduce the cost, improve the quality and increase the yield from the soil.

We are over and over again, through the medium of the press, reminded of the educational value these institutions possess for the public. Surely it cannot be considered necessary to educate the rising generation in the art of vulgarity, profanity or gambling! Rather a prize should be offered for the best implement that would destroy the art.

AGRICULTURIST.

Special Work with Oats and Wheat.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

With this and a few figures, showing the results of our work during the last four years, in the selection of seed, under the regulations of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, of which we are members. These regulations call for the growing of a plot of at least one-quarter acre each year, on specially prepared land, of seed selected by hand from a similar plot the year before. The produce of this plot, after enough large heads from the largest and best developed plants are selected to sow the plot in the following year, is sown on what is called the "Improved Seed Plot," producing general crop seed. When this system has been carried on for three successive seasons the seed from these plots is entitled to be registered in the records of the Association as "Purebred Registered Seed." The accompanying figures show an increased yield per acre, which, while it may not be entirely the result of this system, goes to prove the benefits to be derived from some such system as this.

There has been an increase in the yield of oats from 27.5 bushels per acre in 1903, to 74 bushels in 1906. This is for the improved seed. In the general crop seed there is a gain of the difference between 49.67 bushels in 1905 and 77.4 bushels in 1906, although there was very little difference in the ordinary crops in these two seasons, and conditions were much the same. There has also been a great increase in the strength and vigor of the growing crop, the blades being of great breadth, very dark in color, and the straw being tall and standing up well.

Our land, being a sandy loam, is well adapted for the growing of seed, and we are able to sow less seed per acre, without danger of damage by frost, in order to give the individual plants plenty of room for development. This is one of the main things to be considered in this system of seed selection. We sow about one bushel of wheat and two of oats per acre, and on the hand selected seed plots, we stop up every third spout of the drill, so as to have plenty of room for the work of selection, as well as for the better development of the plants.

We have done much of our work so far with oats, but are taking up the selection of wheat as well, and expect to have as good results as from the oats. The great difficulty will be to keep this seed absolutely free from the seeds of noxious weeds, which up till now we have not been greatly troubled with.

While we are having good results in increased yields and vigorous seed, there is of course more work and expense, in connection with this than with ordinary crops, but so far we have been able to dispose of all the seed we have had to spare, at prices which more than make up the difference. As the regulations demand that it shall be grown on specially prepared land the quantity which can be raised will always be limited, to a certain extent.

We have every prospect of a continuance of these results for this year, our crop being in fine condition, although later than usual, in common with the others in this district.

TABLE SHOWING RATE OF INCREASE.

OATS, IMPORTED REGISTERED SEED.					OATS, GENERAL CROP REGISTERED SEED.				
Year.	Variety.	Acres.	Average Yield.	Quality.	Kind of soil.	Gen. character of harvest in this dist.	Year.	Variety.	Acres.
1903	Banner	1	27.5 bu.	First class	Light sandy loam	Fair	1905	Banner	3
1904	do.	do.	*24.7 bu.	do.	do.	do.	1906	do.	5
1905	do.	do.	53.4 bu.	do.	do.	Good	1905	Red Fyfe	1
1906	do.	do.	74 bu.	do.	do.	Very good	1906	do.	1
*Partly destroyed.					WHEAT, RED FYFE.				
					First class	Good			
					do.	Very good			
					First class	Good			
					do.	Very good			



C. W. THURN'S STEAM PLOWING OUTFIT, BREAKING PRAIRIE WITH A COCKSHUTT POWER GANG AT HIGH RIVER, ALTA.

Gilbert Plains, Man.

DOW BROS.