

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Journal

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### EDITORIAL

There is a full "meaty" programme for the convention at Brandon.

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The ground hog and the bear must have taken a good look at their shadows.

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There will be some strenuous curling matches won and lost around the village stores these days.

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Hard lumps on shoulders should be dissected out now so that the wound will be healed before seeding.

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Now boys you have all heard the seed selection gospel from some one or another, let's see you lay off your tweeds, expectorate upon your palms, and do something.

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Well what's to hinder a man getting to the Pole in a balloon? There is nothing in the way and the terminal facilities are not yet expropriated by the big trunk lines.

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The ice was broken even though the thermometer was at twenty below, when the Saskatchewan grain growers resolved that the standards of the grades had better be lowered.

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Good cultivation and productive soil are essentials in the growing of the best seed. Set apart a few acres of the cleanest and best land every year on which to grow seed. Sow as early as the land is fit. Allow it to mature perfectly. Thresh and store when thoroughly dry.

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Prof. Kennedy urges 'continuance in livestock breeding,' urging that the son should take up the work of the father, the grandson to follow on to keep the good work going. The Prof. omitted to figure on the fact that race suicide means—no grandson.

His advice is all right but would be more useful and pertinent if he kept the American father to his knitting throughout his life—the grandsons can be trusted to look after the grandsons.

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The wreck of the Valencia on the rough coast of Vancouver Island points several lessons, some of which have been shown before, but not heeded. Wrecks such as this the public seems to get hardened to, such furnish scareheads for newspapers and are promptly forgotten in a week. The callousness to the preventable wholesale sacrifice of human life is awful!

The Clallam disaster is barely forgotten before the Valencia goes ashore, life preservers prove false to their name, as a result of official carelessness, both in Canada and the United States, which may be due either to incompetency or graft in officials. Whether the Dominion or British Columbia governments should provide life saving stations we do not know, but the situation at the south of Vancouver Island is a disgrace and opprobrium on the name 'British.' The United States boat crews are frequently lacking in discipline, and the boats carry rotten appliances in place of life saving appliances, but it is no excuse for life saving apparatus and telegraphic or telephonic communication from a point at which danger is always known to be present.

If the legislators were discussing a railroad charter there would be the keenest interest, but practically no effort has been made to improve things since the loss of the Clallam (not at the same spot as the Valencia) to save life on the British Columbia coast line.

### The Sample Market Rejected.

The grain growers in convention at Moose Jaw last week after discussing the question of making Winnipeg an order point and establishing a sample market appear to have thought the step too radical to recommend. There is a fear among the members of the association that by making Winnipeg an order point the movement of the crop would be seriously delayed, that mixing would result, and that the reputation of Canadian wheat would be deleteriously affected. The further objection is also raised that the extra cost of six-tenths of a cent a bushel which the railway companies would charge, on cars destined to Fort William, were an order point established, would largely offset the advantages gained.

The first objection is quite valid as the equipment for handling the crop at present exists but with the establishment of a sample market would come more mills which would take wheat from the cars at Winnipeg, Keewatin or some other points and allow the rolling stock to be rushed back to the country. The impression that mixing will eventually mean a loss to the producer does not stand under close scrutiny as evidenced by the market reports of Duluth, Fort William, and Old Country prices for American and Canadian wheat. The facts in connection with this situation have been stated over and over again and while our inspection system is pronounced most satisfactory by British millers there is a strong suspicion that the partiality of the Old Country man for our system is gained at too great an expense to the producer.

The objection of the extra charge by the railway companies might also vanish were the true merits of the case laid before the railway commission.

Canadian farmers should at least obtain as good service from the transportation companies as do the wheat producers in the northwestern States where the order point is recognized and no extra charge made when reshipping out of Minneapolis.

The convention was apparently largely influenced by the report of Mr. Partridge who is a staunch advocate of cooperative marketing by producers and who after an exhaustive study is convinced that the scheme is quite practicable and that if our wheat is marketed in the Old Country without the assistance of the commission men here, the producer would get its full value in a market open to the world. This is the fundamental idea that has given rise to most of the farmers organizations such as the grange, etc., and is one of the most cherished hopes of a large faction in every country. Unqualified success has not been vouchsafed to such organizations in the past but as in all business transactions it all depends upon the management of such a concern. At best it can but save something of the cost of distribution, it can never remove the real difficulty before the grain grower especially in the marketing of the lower grades of wheat.

### More Thorough Veterinary Training.

A measure is expected to be introduced into the Ontario Legislature this winter, to provide for the taking over of the Ontario Veterinary College by the Provincial Government and affiliating it with the University of Toronto. The above institution, under Dr. Andrew Smith, has long held a high place among veterinary colleges on this continent, but some changes in the curriculum have become necessary to make it thoroughly efficient and up-to-date. Among the improvements demanded are extension of the course from two to three years, the teaching of more bacteriology, efficient training of students in milk and meat inspection, and more time for clinics (treatment of patients whose symptoms and progress are observed by the class). With this we should like to see ample time devoted to pathology of farm animals other than the horse. In times past too many veterinarians have deserved the epithet "horse doctor." Horses should, perhaps, engage first attention in a school of this

kind, but where general stock interests are so important as in Canada, every town should have a veterinarian fairly competent in the treatment of all classes of farm animals. Another subject that should not be neglected is English. Nothing, perhaps, more quickly discounts a professional man than inability to use good language in speaking and writing. The deficiency of some veterinary practitioners in this respect indicates that training in English is as necessary in a veterinary as in an agricultural college. The above improvements, together with a reasonable entrance standard, should place the Canadian veterinary profession in the front rank throughout the British Empire. The burden of the Act will be to take over the College as a Provincial institution and affiliate it with Toronto University, somewhat as the Ontario Agricultural College now is. The course will be extended to cover three years, and later on it may be made four. "The Farmer's Advocate" has long urged this step, and there is no question but that it will be heartily welcomed by veterinarians, farmers and stockmen.

### Seed Fairs are both Popular and Useful.

Reports from the various points at which Seed Fairs have been held, all agree that the interest evinced was keen, some farmers coming considerable distances in rather inclement weather to attend the same. The winning wheat sample at Dauphin was grown from the product of a three pound sample originally from Ottawa, from which the grower, during the first growing season, culled out (rogued) all varieties not true, and discarded the small heads, thus getting for his careful work a practically pure sample. This year he has about 1000 bushels for seed.

The Swan River Seed Fair was very well attended. The actual work of grain judging exciting the keenest interest. Features of that fair were the evidences of wild oats, out of 16 entries 13 were 'out of it' due to the Avena fatua that great comrade of continual wheat growing; and also of the results of the three pound sample distribution, there being to use the language of one of the grain judges, "a large number of varieties of the new varieties, Percy, Stanley, Preston and Durham (a goose wheat), the three first are progeny of the experimental farms."

Right here is one of the advantages of the Seed Fairs, as such will aid in culling out the products of the small samples, which have mixed and bred promiscuously. At some of the Seed Fairs are exhibits of fanning mills and picklers, two implements that can be employed with great benefit to their employer.

The Seed Fairs deserve encouragement, to the extent of more money for prizes from the societies holding local shows, many of which now give very little encouragement to grain growing, either for seed or market purposes. The summer fairs would do better to eliminate entirely from their lists, prizes for grain except in the straw, and give aid by money and other means towards a Seed Fair in the district.

### The Agricultural Society and the Horse Breeders' Act.

It has been stated by some, that the above Act will be of little use to anyone because difficult to enforce. The Act may not be enforced in its entirety, especially in districts where a sort of good natured tolerance seems to exist towards grade stallions, but in districts where money has been invested in first class pedigreed horses, it is one of the duties of the modern agricultural society to see that the Act is enforced. In fact, every society should be in a measure responsible to its Provincial Department of Agriculture for the carrying out of this and several Acts relating to agriculture.

As has been pointed out time and again in these columns, the idea has unfortunately gained