

Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

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EDITORIAL

A sheep breeder reports good business, all his rams are taken annually for the range.

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Purebred stock is within the reach of any successful farmer nowadays.

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The "Whiteface" men sent forward a lot of nice stuff, in pretty fair fit.

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The relegation of the drag (midway) to a less conspicuous position at the Industrial than formerly, was a decided improvement.

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If Western Canadians are not readers, it is not for the lack of opportunity or encouragement offered by the daily and agricultural press.

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Rust scares and weed abundance should help stiffen live stock prices, particularly those for swine.

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The symptoms of another attack from the rust fungus are too marked to make the prospect at all pleasant.

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A Shorthorn breeder after noting the steady wins of one herd remarked that the smaller fairs would be a sufficiently large orbit for some herds in future.

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Suggestions are not forthcoming yet as to how to prevent the best cattle from winning. Why not a class for milking Shorthorns?

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The prosperous condition of the pig business was reflected in the number and quality of entries in purebred swine.

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An Industrial director waxed wroth on seeing so much beer carted away by the law enforcers. It is just such silly sentimentalism that renders so many laws inoperative nowadays.

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The East continues to comment on the migration Westward, but if the B. C. chaps will send such cherries and currants here the crowd is likely to go on across the Rockies.

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There should be an exit gate near where the homeward-bound cars are taken; at present if a big crowd is at the car gates and persons decide to walk home, such have to come back to the main gate at the offices.

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Last year's wave of moral reform seems to be bearing good fruit at this year's fairs, even if a little inconvenient to those accustomed to break the law, or those who encourage others to do it.

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Violation of many of the laws of the country would not occur but for the winking at such infractions by those higher up, or in authority, who should know better. Criminal instincts are not monopolized by the unfortunates caught in law breaking.

The More Successful Farmers' Elevators the Better.

The success of three or four farmers' elevators in Manitoba the past season is most gratifying and encouraging, and is proof positive that under good business management and with assistance of a local esprit de corps such businesses conducted by farmers are both feasible and profitable. It should not, we think, be impossible to multiply the number of successful farmers' elevators in the country, which could then co-operate or combine (the term is offensive to some people we know, but as it would not be in restraint of, but rather furtherance of trade, no valid objection can be made,) and secure better transportation conditions, or marketing arrangements. An increase in successful local farmers' elevators should have the same effect as the loading platform, viz. to secure the farmer better terms and straight weights and fair dockage when selling locally.

We consider the multiplication of farmers' elevators, run successfully, as the ideal way for the farmers to keep the marketing of grain more or less under their control from the starting point of the shipment. And it should not be a very hard matter to get the elevators to co-operate, both in the selling or handling of grain and in the purchase of necessary supplies for such elevators.

Any person will remember the start of some commercial enterprise or another on a very small scale at first, gradually gaining in financial strength until a big concern materialized. The majority of successful commercial enterprises were started in a small way and grew larger and stronger, and the example is a good one to follow, even with farmers' elevators.

Weeds.

Wordsworth says:

"To me the meanest flower that grows can give Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears."

How expressive of the feelings of the average farmer as he yearly does battle with the plague of weeds! The old saying is that "Nature abhors a vacuum". It seems to be true for no void and desert place is seen which does not harbor a weed of some sort. The lawn is covered with dandelions, the garden is full of pig-weed, and over the fields the yellow heads of mustard spell trouble without end. Would the seed train in July be of any avail? Would a summer's campaign of the Farmers' Institute not prove useful? And lastly, should not our teachers in the public schools teach something of the common weeds of farm and field? Not long ago a farmer was found cultivating ball mustard and preserving it in his garden patch because he thought it a valuable food for cattle. It is actual knowledge that is needed. Every man, woman or child living in a country district should know the common weeds and until they do we shall continue to be cursed by the plague of weeds.

Crops and Prosperity.

From east to west we hear one long continuous story of good crops, bright prospects, and prosperity. The generous rains and warm sunshine of the past few weeks have worked marvels and we stand at the threshold of a season of great things for Canada and things Canadian. Now is the time to go steady. In years of exceptional prosperity, banks increase reserves and make preparation for a time in the future when things may go dead wrong. The farmer should do likewise. There is no time like the present to decrease obligations, improve buildings and secure better live stock. These are the solid articles of worth that make the nation prosperous. They will count for something of real value when the lean years come. They add to the happiness of the home, the prosperity of the people, and for these we should strive rather than for blatant wealth which brings so little of true value in its train.

Ready for the Meat Trade.

Since the exposures in connection with the meat packing business in the States, numerous speculations have been rife as to the probable effect upon the Canadian stock and cattle business. Some have urged that it would have been to the advantage of the British public, in general, and the Canadian producers, if the embargo had been removed last spring, when the question was so fully discussed. Others claim that the Canadian packers will at once feel the benefit of the nausea created in the British sense by the American revelations while others clamor for more capital to improve our packing facilities in order that we may take advantage of the situation. After all it is not too much to expect that our meat trade will be improved and now that the question is uppermost in our minds, it might be well to analyse our position with relation to our meat producing possibilities and facilities.

We must recognize the fact that we are trying to develop a market which, although within our own empire, is entirely without sentiment of the blood-kin kind and which claims the right to decide what its own tastes are in the matter of meats. The Britisher wants clean, wholesome meats, whether canned or fresh. We supply him with some fresh beef and considerable bacon, but, as every one knows, our methods of doing business with him do not leave sufficient remuneration to induce a sufficiently large production to cut much of a figure in his markets. We can never expect to put meat down in England on the hoof as cheaply as the Americans, Argentinas and Australians put it down in cans and refrigerators and until we go in for these methods we simply cannot "count" in the British meat bill.

What Canada wants at the present time is a system of canning and freezing beef and mutton, of keeping it frozen in transit and plenty of beef to can and freeze.

In England there is a goodly sized market for well finished fresh killed beef which is supplied by home fed stuff and by American and Canadian export steers, but there is also an infinitely greater but less discriminating market which is not particular whose meat is killed or fed and this is supplied by the countries which have gone in for canning and refrigeration. It should not require much study to decide in which of these markets western Canada can best compete. We do not produce large numbers of early maturing, grain finished cattle which make the best quality of beef and consequently we cannot expect to cater to the most fastidious tastes. Ontario will always find that market ready for the class of cattle she produces for export, and it will also take the pick of western cattle, but such a small percentage of the cattle produced on the range are really fit for first class exporters that it brings down the average price to the producer and too much of the second rate stuff is unloaded upon the local market. With refrigeration and canning processes, practically all our cattle would go to the British market and would go much younger than those which now go on foot.

But it may be argued that this is the field of the capitalist that the producer is powerless to effect such conditions and in this there is considerable truth. At the present time there seems to be in the minds of those who might invest their capital in the packing business a doubt as to the supply of cattle that would be available. The apathy in the buying of first class bulls by Canadian ranchers has been compared with the fabulous prices the Argentine cattle men pay in England, for bulls, and the result does not inspire confidence in the Canadian herds. The nature of our operations also tends to develop over hesitancy. It is feared the supply would be too intermittent, that there would be a long period during which it would be practically nil. It is realized that there is no corn belt here where cattle would be furnished every day of the year. Yet despite all these apparent disadvantages we feel confident that the time has come