

The Peace River Country.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—As many of your readers are no doubt interested in this part of our fair Dominion, I will try, through your valuable paper, to give a fuller idea of its vast resources. The Peace Valley has this spring, for the first time, received its quota of settlers from Edmonton, and some fifty people have settled on the grand prairie south of the Peace and directly east of the Pine River Pass, one of the best passes through the Rockies, being only about 2,200 feet altitude. There have been two mills put in on the Peace this last year and two steamboats in course of building, which will make travelling from the lower settlements easier. This country has vast timber resources, large prairies, abundance of game, and no doubt will be opened up by a transcontinental railroad in the near future. In the meantime, to start ranching here could be no mistake, as there is bound to be a constant inflow of settlers, and the best ranching country will soon be filled. Range at present is unlimited. Hay is in abundance, and there is plenty of timber for building purposes, fencing and fuel.

Grain of all kinds has been raised for a time successfully in many parts of the country, and even was the best shown at the World's Fair in Chicago in '93, though I would not attempt to say it would be a success anywhere, any year, but it certainly is every bit as good a grain and stock country as Northern Alberta or Saskatchewan.

The outlet is at present to the north, as the demand for flour, bacon, lard and butter far exceeds the supply, and once a railroad comes anywhere nearer than two hundred miles of the upper Peace River, the whole of the northern traffic will go down the Peace, as there is only one mile of rapids on the Peace compared with eighty miles on the Athabasca River, the present route.

There is room for a large settlement on the Peace at Vermilion, where an up-to-date roller mill has been erected and where prices of wheat for milling purposes are from one dollar to one dollar and fifty cents per bushel. I would advise anyone going there to take a two years' supply of groceries, except flour, and enough clothes, boots, shoes and farm machinery to do him until he could get a good start. The best time to go through is in the latter part of the winter, leaving Edmonton about the first of March and coming through with sleighs in time to go through to the Grand Prairie on snow or to wait and float down in the spring to Vermilion on a raft.

There is a settlement of about two hundred people at Vermilion, of which about fifty are whites and the balance halfbreeds. There are two churches, two schools, three stores and three mills, including a grist, saw and shingle mill. Prices of lumber are about the same here as at Edmonton, while all other supplies are much higher. There is, indeed, a bright prospect for our fair land, and the Peace Valley will be second to none in importance. Come early and avoid the rush.

F. NORMAN LAWRENCE.

Fair Dates.

The dates at which a number of summer shows and exhibitions will be held is published herewith. Secretaries of fairs not included in this list are requested to forward the date of their exhibition to this office.

Winnipeg, Man.	.....	July 20 to 25
Edmonton, Alta.	.....	June 30 to July 2
Wetaskiwin, Alta.	.....	.....
Calgary, Alta.	.....	July 3 to 10
Yorkton, Assn.	.....	July 14 and 15
Shoak Lake, Man.	.....	July 16
Brandon, Man.	.....	July 28 to 31
Moosomin, Assn.	.....	.....
Melita, Man.	.....	August 4
Central Assn., Fort Qu'Appelle.	.....	August 5 and 6
Neepawa, Man.	.....	August 5 and 6
Wolseley, Assn.	.....	August 7
Regina, Assn.	.....	August 11 and 12
Broadview, Assn.	.....	August 13
Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.	.....	August 13 and 14
Wapella, Alta.	.....	August 14
Lacombe, Alta.	.....	August 20

C. P. R. Rolling Stock Increased.

W. F. McCreary (Selkirk) was informed that of \$9,000,000 the C.P.R. was allowed by the Government last session to expend in rolling stock the company had already paid for rolling stock, \$6,961,619. The company has additional rolling stock under contract which will make its expenditure on this item over \$11,000,000.

An Old Fued Baried.

That ancient fued between the farmer and the bicyclist has been settled pretty much in the same way those two Kentucky families settled theirs, when the son of the leader on one side married a daughter of the opposing host on the other side. The farmer has taken to riding the bicycle himself. When wheels first came into vogue, the farmer looked askance with a jealous eye at what he considered the eventual displacement of the horse. But he has learned that the bicycle has not displaced the horse—that it has merely enabled hundreds of thousands of quondam pedestrians to ride quickly instead of walking slowly. And to-day the farmer leaves his tired horses to rest after a long day's work while he wheels to the post office for his mail in the quiet of the evening.

The Chicago International Show.

Mr. Wm. Martin, Winnipeg, and Mr. Richard Gibson, Delaware, Ont., have been elected among the directors of the reorganized International Live Stock Exposition Association at Chicago. The following officers were chosen at the organization meeting held recently in Chicago: President, John A. Spoor, Chicago; First Vice-President, A. H. Sanders, Chicago; Second Vice-President, A. J. Lovejoy, Roscoe, Ill.; Secretary, Mortimer Levering, Indianapolis, Ind.; Treasurer, S. R. Flynn, Chicago; General Manager, W. E. Skinner, Chicago.

In reviewing the classification for the show, a class was added in the fat stock section for group of three steers or spayed heifers under three years old, the get of one sire. Classes were added to the horse section for French Coachers, German Coachers, Hackneys, and trotting-bred Coachers.

In the sheep section, the class for two-year-old ram was restored in all breeds. In view of the fact that the show of Cheviots, Dorsets, Leicesters and Lincolns has been largely confined to one exhibitor in each breed, it was decided to offer only first prizes in all rings for these breeds, these prizes to be the same in amount as offered for other breeds.

Inquiries have been made as to whether the International will be abandoned next year on account of the St. Louis World's Fair. A resolution was adopted by the directors declaring that the International will be held in 1904.

Prof. Carlyle Goes to Colorado.

The Governing Board of the College of Agriculture of Colorado recently decided to make a marked advance in its animal husbandry department, and to take charge of this work they have secured the services of Prof. W. L. Carlyle, who is now Professor of Animal Husbandry at the State College of Wisconsin. Prof. Carlyle is a Canadian by birth, and a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College. After graduation, he was engaged for some time in Farmers' Institute work in Ontario. Leaving this, he superintended the field instruction work in cheese factories and creameries in Minnesota for four years. In the fall of '97, he took up the work at Madison, Wis., where he has made a fine record, both in investigative and instructive work. Colorado has secured a good man, and her animal husbandry interests may be expected to advance at a steady rate in the future.

B. C. Farm Labor.

Mr. R. E. Gosnell, Secretary of the Immigration Department, Victoria, B. C., reports that there is an active demand for farm labor in British Columbia. The wages for expert milkers are from \$20 to \$25 a month, the year round, with board and lodging, and during the summer months even as high as \$40 is being paid. There is, however, a demand for all-round good men.

Cheese and Butter Standards.

Sir,—A joint meeting of Cheese and Butter Salesmen, members of the Montreal Produce Merchants' Association, and officials of the Dominion Dairying Service, will be held in Montreal on Tuesday, June 2nd, in the Council Chamber of the Board of Trade, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon. The main object of the meeting is to consider the question of standards of quality and descriptive terms of the different grades of cheese and butter. The lack of authoritative finding on these points sometimes results in misunderstanding and disputes. It is hoped that a representative gathering, as indicated above, may arrive at some definite conclusions which will be beneficial to the trade as a whole. Other matters will be discussed, as time will permit. Every cheese and butter board in Canada is asked to send a salesman as a delegate to this important meeting, and when one is selected by your board you are requested to kindly forward his name and address to the undersigned as soon as possible.

J. A. RUDDICK.

Chief of Dairy Division.

Ontario Agricultural Estimates.

In the estimates submitted to the Ontario Legislature at the present session, \$282,920 was asked for agriculture, being an increase of \$15,004 over last year. For special instructions in butter and cheese dairying there is an increase of from \$4,000 to \$6,000, and \$2,000 is asked for women's institutes. For supplying expert judges for agricultural exhibitions, \$3,000 is named, and \$68,309 for the Ontario Agricultural College. Acknowledgment is made of the munificent gift of \$175,000 by Sir Wm. Macdonald for the purpose of establishing the Domestic Science and Nature Study Departments at this institution.

Argentine Embargo Reimposed.

A cablegram from London, Eng., under date of May 8th, states that the British Government has decided to reimpose prohibition against the importation of cattle from the Argentine Republic, the removal of which was not long ago secured in the belief that foot-and-mouth disease had been stamped out. The reason for the present action is that the disease has reappeared in several districts of the country. The shutting out of Argentine cattle at this juncture will no doubt tend to greatly strengthen prices for Canadian export beeves.

Markets.

Winnipeg Markets.

Cattle.—There has been some improvement in the movement of live stock during the week, but little change in prices. Best steers sell at 4½c.; butchers' ordinary, 3½c. to 4c.; two-year-olds, \$22 each; stockers, \$17; milch cows, \$30 to \$50 each.

Horses.—There is a good demand for horses, and they are picked up by farmers and railroad contractors as soon as they are put on the market. Good prices are realized. Teams are selling at from \$300 to \$450. There is a good demand for drivers.

Hogs.—There is a fairly active demand, and although the open price remains unchanged at 6c., considerable business is being done at 6½c., which is the price quoted as we go to press. The market inclined to be weak.

Sheep.—Choice stock is worth 5c., off cars, here. Spring lambs are beginning to come in, but the quality is poor.

DRESSED MEATS.

Beef.—The market continues unchanged at 6c. to 7½c. per pound.

Mutton.—Limited supply, with firm prices; 10c. to 11c. for mutton and 12c. for prime lamb are the ruling prices.

Pork.—The market is moderately brisk, at 7½c. to 8½c. per pound.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Butter.—City makers are obtaining 23c. per pound for choice fresh butter in boxes.

Cheese.—Ontario September cheese is bringing 14c., and Manitoba 13½c. per pound.

Eggs.—The supply has increased sharply, and the price has consequently declined rapidly. Dealers are now offering 12c. per dozen.

GRAIN MARKETS.

Wheat.—A sharp decline and as sharp a recovery is the history of our wheat market since our last quotations. Supplies in the Northwest elevators are almost wiped out; 808,000 bushels is the aggregate in Northwest elevators, while Duluth and Minneapolis hold between them 6,182,000 bushels. Only a limited number of sales taking place. Holders confident of a rise. Prices at present on the local markets are: No. 1 hard, 77½c.; No. 1 northern, 76c.; No. 2 northern, 73½c.; No. 3 northern, 70½c.; June delivery, 7½c. less.

Oats.—The market is quiet and entirely local. A brisk movement may be looked for now that farmers have more time to dispose of their stores. Prices range from 22c. to 28c. for feed grades; 30c. to 31½c. for No. 1 white, and 35c. per bushel for good seed.

Barley.—Very little offered for sale, and prices unchanged, viz., 30c. to 32c. for feed and 36c. to 38c. for choice shipping grades.

Flax.—Practically no market. Holders asking \$1.25 per bushel.

Mill Feed.—A brisk demand continues well abreast of the supply. Prices are: oat chop, \$21 per ton; barley, \$16.50; mixed, barley and oats, \$18; spelt, \$16; screenings, \$12; oilcake, \$27 per ton.

Hay.—Prices have advanced 50c. per load. Fresh baled, in cars, \$6.50 to \$7 per ton, and loose, \$6 to \$6.50 per ton.

Flour.—There is some talk of a rise in price, but prices remain at present at: No. 1, \$2.05 per sack of 98 pounds; No. 2, \$1.90; No. 3, \$1.70; No. 4, \$1.40.

Chicago Markets.

Chicago, May 15.—Cattle—Receipts, 2,000; market steady; good to prime steers, \$5 to \$5.50; poor to medium, \$4 to \$5; stockers and feeders, \$3 to \$5; cows and heifers, \$1.60 to \$4.85; canners, \$1.60 to \$2.75; bulls, \$2.50 to \$4.25; calves, \$2.50 to \$6.25.

Hogs.—Receipts, 16,000; market steady to 5c. higher; mixed and butchers, \$6.30 to \$6.55; good to choice heavy, \$6.65 to \$6.95; rough heavy, \$6.85 to \$6.00; light, \$6.10 to \$6.40; bulk of sales, \$6.40 to \$6.60.

Sheep.—Receipts, 4,000; sheep and lambs steady; good to choice wethers, \$4.90 to \$5.50; fair to choice mixed, \$3.75 to \$4.75; native lambs, \$4.50 to \$7.15.

Toronto Live Stock Markets.

Toronto, May 16.—Exporters, although not appreciably lower in price, were much more carefully looked over by local dealers. Quotations were slightly lower in some instances. The best animals, weighing 1,300 lbs., sold to-day at \$5.20 per cwt., and cattle 1,290 lbs. at \$5.15. Light shippers, 1,125 to 1,185 lbs., at \$4.85; good butchers, \$4.50 to \$4.80 per cwt.; fair to good, \$4.40 to \$4.60; mixed loads, \$4.15 to \$4.50; cows, best, \$50 to \$60 each.

Hogs.—Selects are quoted at \$6.10 per cwt., and lights and fats, \$5.85.

British Cattle Markets.

London, May 14.—Live cattle steady, at 12½c. to 12¾c. per lb. for American steers, dressed weight; Canadian steers, 11½c. to 12½c. per lb.; refrigerator beef, 9c. to 9½c. per lb. Sheep 14c. to 15c., dressed weight.