

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Journal

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### EDITORIAL

The incubator should now be warmed up and if necessary puttied and painted.

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The local fairs came in for a round of abuse at the Convention of Agricultural Societies.

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That is getting to be something of a chestnut telling about shipping that car that was all good hard wheat. Premier Roblin even had a try at it.

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There was a turkey at the Winnipeg Poultry Show which weighed 35 lbs. That at 16 cents per pound would net about as much as a good sized hog.

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In spite of the fact that dairying saved many communities during the years of small yields and low prices, several of the creameries in Manitoba are to be closed up the coming season.

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The rumblings of the public, who after all really pay the shot for the Winnipeg fair, have penetrated to the inner circle, who rather than go further in the hole will probably hunt for a manager.

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The Seed Fair has pretty conclusively demonstrated one feature in which the average agricultural society falls short. The Seed Division saw the need, and supplied it and deserves the thanks of all for its promptitude.

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The agitation for investigation of Canadian Life Insurance companies is said to be prompted by jealous rivals from across the line. It would do no harm anyhow if the Canadian Government did make an investigation of all companies doing life insurance business—and the fraternal organizations need such investigation as much as any life insurance concern. In these days of big reserves and published surpluses, pretty scaly investments are liable to be made. The government should, seeing that it grants the charters to do business, safeguard the poor fellow who puts in his weekly, monthly or quarterly assessments. Canada cannot afford to have her hard working, thrifty citizens plucked, to feather the nests of a few land speculators. A prominent city business man expressed himself recently, that too many in their haste to get rich, are cutting the corners, and are not quite as scrupulous in their methods as they should be.

#### Our Attitude Re the Embargo.

Several people who do not think as we do on the embargo question, would assume that we are not in sympathy with the live stock industry of Western Canada, an entirely erroneous assumption, and one which cannot be removed in the minds of some people; as they would prefer the public to think, as they profess to do; others are more fair and hint that our ideas on the subject are impracticable, or are dreams, which is a gentle and polite way of saying that the Farmer's Advocate is in advance of its time.

We presume that this impression has got abroad because our utterances have not been in entire accord with the opinions of those agitating for the removal of the embargo; to impute that we are not anxious to see the Canadian stockmen get better prices, is neither fair nor just. Then again, we do not believe in futile effort, "crying for the moon," which we believe the anti-embargo agitation really is; if circumstances prove us to be in error, none will more cheerfully or more quickly own to an error of judgment; we live, not alone for to-day or for ourselves, but for to-morrow, our children and our country.

The agitation in Scotland by the anti-embargoists was conducted with such evident maligning of Western Canada from a grain growing and mixed farming standpoint as to require a vigorous protest from Canadians, in which it was necessary to point out that the real motive for the agitation was not "affection for colonials" (a term, the world is old enough to drop as far as Canada, Australia and New Zealand are concerned) but purely self interest. No exception could be taken to the latter, if those Scotch agitators would avoid deliberate misrepresentation of Canada and its possibilities.

With the example of the United States and Argentina continually before us, we may be pardoned for suggesting that the goal to aim at, is the one already reached by the two countries mentioned; but on the other hand, believing that half a loaf is better than no bread, we have no objection to the embargo coming off; that is for the folks at home to decide according to the information they possess—it is not a question to be thrown into the crucible of international or intercolonial politics.

The Old Country farmers take a different view, of the question, to what Canadians do, although none of the latter will question that a temporary clearing of Western Canada of feeding cattle, and temporary improvement of prices might follow if the embargo was removed, that permanent improvement would result, is open to question. If the British Government is willing to try the experiment, we could not and would not object! We do object to the idea that for that bond of sentiment, filial affection, which binds us so firmly to the Mother Country, must be substituted, in order to retain our loyalty, a commercial arrangement! Our position is this, while the removal of the embargo might temporarily improve prices and, therefore, stimulate greater production, the goal to aim at is that, of establishing a big chilled meat industry, similar to that which has profited the United States and Argentina so much, enabling the former to pay better prices for cattle, especially purebreds, all the year round, than our Canadian farmers, East or West, ever are paid, and also maintain our soil fertility; truly high ideals—dreams if you wish, but as Canadians and enthusiastic as to our destiny—we must aim high.

#### The National Records Board.

It is given to few organisations to demonstrate as quickly as has the National Records Board, the benefits to be derived from its birth.

The scheme was masterly in conception, and has been well worked out, considering the more or less imperfect instruments that had to be used, the warring factions that had to be placated or reconciled, the provincialisms to be overcome and the jockeyings for place.

Arduous and strenuous labor is always the precursor of great works, and if at times the great idea was obscured by criticism of some of the instruments used, the idea was bound to survive and eventually take shape.

The live stock interests of Canada have been all down the years, subject to the great law of evolution, and the societies charged with the care of those interests, especially those of the pure breeds, have more or less slowly undergone change in the direction of efficiency, economy, advancement of particular breeds and the widening of spheres of influence. The stage of one man power gave way to county control in some, in others to provincial control, and again in others to national control. All have not gone the same pace, but all are heading in the same direction, and the birth of the National Records idea undoubtedly hastened the desired consummation. While the Records Board has done a lot of hard work, and has yet considerable to do, some of its recommendations will not, and should not meet with the approval of the Breed Societies, notably the two following, the first in practice being almost certain to defeat the objects of the second.

"Each affiliated Record Association shall pay

out of its annual surplus to any kindred affiliated Provincial Live Stock Association, such sum as in the judgment of the Record Committee is proportionate to the amount received from said Province.

"The amount so paid shall be used in defraying any expenditure incurred in promoting the interests of the breed in the said Province."

The Clydesdale men swallowed these recommendations holus bolus, the D. S. H. B. A. were more wary, and fortunately so, as any breed society would be foolish to let any of its funds fall under the control of 'Uitlanders'.

A perusal of the list of economies made and the names of the men making such, causes one to wonder at the masterly inactivity and lack of observance of business principles that evidently have obtained for years. Two Westerners, Messrs. Greig and Peterson, were pretty largely responsible with the L. S. C. and others in authorizing and bringing to a successful conclusion what is already accomplished; and while willing to admit the part played by the Eastern men, it is fair to assume that, but for the force and virility given to the movement by the Western workers, the other men would have been unable to overcome the well nigh fatal inertia of years, and reform would have been stayed.

#### Retail Meat Prices High.

Another element has entered into the live-stock and meat industry. The retail meat dealers of Winnipeg have risen in indignation at the prices charged them by the wholesale butchers. The price of meat to the consumer is high beyond any justification, by the price paid to the producer and the price the producer is offered, is out of all proportion to the retail price of meats. The situation indicates that there are either too many meat dealers both wholesale and retail to handle the meat trade in the western markets, or the abattoir men are making too large a margin on the slaughter of livestock.

The honest discussion of the meat trade by producers, drovers, exporters, wholesalers, retailers and consumers, with the object of arriving at the true cause of the very evident dissatisfaction openly expressed in different quarters is what is required at the present time, if the live-stock industry is to remain as one of the staple industries of western development. The producer can scarcely realize that large quantities of the best cuts of beef are imported into the West from the States where best cattle are quoted from two and a half to four cents higher than on our best Western Canadian markets and it would require the investigative genius of a Sherlock Holmes to discover where all the trouble lies. Some things, however, are plainly obvious and one of them is that buyers should pay a better premium upon really first class stuff, whether it is porcine or bovine, and thus furnish the needed encouragement to the best breeders and feeders.

#### The Brandon Farm Superintendent.

Progressive agriculture suffers a distinct loss in the resignation of Mr. Bedford from the superintendency of the Experimental Farm at Brandon Man. For eighteen years Mr. Bedford has managed and conducted the investigation work of the Dominion farm in Manitoba and in that time has rendered invaluable service, not alone to the Province but to the whole agricultural world and to the West in particular. Himself a practical farmer, he has applied with a rare degree of success, the results of the experimental work of the farm to the every day problems of the average farmer and has by his valuable services placed the rural communities of the West under a debt of gratitude, which every one is free to acknowledge and equally willing to discharge.

But the policy of the Minister of Agriculture and director of experimental farms is progressive and a competent successor to Mr. Bedford is required. Such a man must have an enquiring mind, be an indefatigable worker, able to adapt