

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

\* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, \* HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. \*

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## Manitoba's Live Stock Statistics for '98 and '99.

A comparison of the December live stock reports for 1898 and 1899 of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, shows that this industry is only barely holding its own. The number of horses in the Province, according to the 1898 estimate, was 101,836, while the hundreds of carloads imported during the year from Ontario and the States, the bands driven in from the west, and the foals bred in the country, only increase the total to 102,635. Manitoba is said to be a hard country on horses, but surely the death-rate does not equal the unprecedented importation of 1899. As these figures given are doubtless approximately correct, how can this slight increase be accounted for? In cattle: 1898 showed 227,097; 1899, 220,248; but it is estimated that 12,000 head were exported, 25,000 yearling stockers shipped to the ranches of the Territories, and 10,000 stockers shipped to the United States, and in addition to this must be recorded the number required for local consumption, which is an ever-increasing quantity. It is worthy of note in connection with the trade in stockers, that in 1898 20,000 went to the States, and 9,500 to the Territories, whereas this past year only 10,000 go to the States, while 25,000 were sent to our own ranches. This may be accounted for by the big freight reductions made on stockers to the west, the railway company seeing it was to their benefit to retain these latter in their own territory, so as to get the long haul on the finished exports, and the discovery on the part of rancher and dealer that a profitable business could be done in finishing these young cattle on the unlimited grass area of the west.

In sheep a slight increase is shown, from 32,053 in 1898 to 33,002 in 1899. A falling off is shown in swine, 66,011 in 1899 against 69,648 in 1898, and the statement is given that over 5,000 had to be imported by the packers from Ontario, in addition to heavy importations of hog products, in order to supply local demand. The months of November and December, however, show a big increase in receipts of hogs, and a more regular supply is now looked for.

The statistics regarding poultry show a most encouraging increase, although we are still obliged to import largely from Ontario for our Christmas supply; the figures given are interesting. The number of poultry disposed of by farmers is given as:

	Turkeys.	Geese.	Chickens.
1898.....	31,455	13,019	127,660
1899.....	65,845	25,155	146,205

If this percentage of increase is kept up for a year or two, Manitoba will not only be able to supply her own market, but have some fowl to send to the great mining districts of British Columbia.

## Tree Planting.

The most sensible scheme yet proposed for aiding in the more general introduction of tree culture throughout the prairie farms of the west, is that outlined by Jas. A. Smart, Deputy Minister of the Interior. His proposition, as we understand it, is to have a staff of two or three trained men connected with each of the experimental farms, whose special duty it would be to instruct and assist farmers to properly plant and care for trees. Of course only those expressing a desire for such assistance, and undertaking to give the required protection, would be aided. The tree experts would make annual visits to inspect the plantations, advise as to further cultivation, pruning etc., etc.

No word is needed as to the desirability of the more general planting of trees for the shelter of the homesteadings and the beautifying of the home surroundings, but although the fact that trees *will* grow almost anywhere throughout the whole Northwest with proper cultivation has been demonstrated beyond question, still a large percentage of the settlers' homes are treeless, and bare of any attempt at sheltering or beautifying. Every year thousands of trees of the hardiest kinds are dis-

tributed from the Experimental Farms, and have been annually for years, yet nine-tenths of these are stuck in the ground and then left to fight for their lives with grass and weeds, and of course the latter gain the victory. To grow trees of any kind, *thorough and persistent cultivation* is a first essential, and of course there is also great importance in setting them out properly and pruning them the first year, so that when they have grown they serve a useful purpose, and present an attractive appearance.

## Grain Competition for Paris Exposition in N.-W. T.

As announced in the July 5th issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, the Territorial Government offered at each of the fall shows of 30 cash prizes for the best exhibits of wheat, oats and barley, grown in the season of 1899. Prizewinning samples to be shipped to Regina, where gold, silver and bronze medals would be awarded to the best samples forwarded. For this latter competition agricultural societies, having held summer fairs during this year, could also contribute exhibits. Samples winning prizes to become the property of the Government, from which to prepare a grain exhibit for the Paris Exposition. Nineteen agricultural societies sent in exhibits, namely: Grenfell, Qu'Appelle, Moosomin, S. Edmonton, Broadview, Maple Creek, Central Saskatchewan, Stirling, Lorne, Whitewood, Moose Jaw, Alameda, East Moose Mountain, Moose Mountain, N. E. Assiniboia, Lt. Cut Arm and Qu'Appelle, S. Saskatchewan, Gainsboro, Pheasant Forks. Following is a list of the prizewinners: 1st, Red Fife wheat, T. Cunningham, Broadview, Broadview Agricultural Society; 2nd, Red Fife wheat, Alexander Donaldson, Fort Qu'Appelle Agricultural Society; 3rd, Red Fife wheat, Wm. McMillan, High View, Assa., Moosomin Agricultural Society; 1st, oats, P. Grimsby, Churchbridge, Assa., N. E. Assiniboia Agricultural Society; 2nd, oats, Thos. Daly, Clover Bar, Alta., S. Edmonton Agricultural Society; 3rd, oats, R. Kells, Maple Creek, Assa., Maple Creek Agricultural Society; 1st, barley, P. Grimsby, Churchbridge, Assa., N. E. Assiniboia Agricultural Society; 2nd, barley, W. Clements, Cannington Manor, Assa., East Moose Mountain Agricultural Society; 3rd, barley, L. W. Griffin, Moosomin, Assa., Moosomin Agricultural Society. Grain Inspector Horne judged the wheat, and Experimental Farm Superintendent Angus McKay the oats and barley.

## Fraudulent Packing of Apples.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I am induced from long experience of the fraud imposed on Manitobans and others of the Northwest Territories in the shipment of apples from Ontario, this past season has been the worst I have witnessed. All the best apples are picked and put on top of the barrel and the inferior ones below; and very inferior they are. No doubt many of them are picked off the ground, as many are rotten and very worm-eaten. The average price for winter apples has been \$1.50 per barrel retail, and when a quarter of them are rotten it makes them almost prohibitory to the farmers. I am writing this in hopes some action will be taken to prevent this fraud. What would be said of a farmer who topped off his bags of wheat, putting inferior in the bottom? This has been done by unscrupulous persons, still few would stoop to that practice. I believe much of the produce of Canada sent to England is treated in the same way, and is the cause of the bad name given to Canadian produce. The British public will not submit to such fraud, but we have to or go without apples, as they cannot be grown here, and so many of us know well the luxury of an apple.

A MANITOBA VICTIM.

[This fraud above referred to has been all too common, and from personal experience we know the west has long enough been made a dumping ground for the wind falls and wormy apples of the east, made to sell by placing a layer or two of good fruit on top of the barrels. It has been particularly noticeable this year, perhaps, on account of the inferior quality of the apple crop. A severe lesson has at last, however, been taught to many shippers by the trade buying on Winnipeg inspection, and many carloads have been rejected; these have been disposed of by public auction in the city at prices only a little more than sufficient to pay the freight charges. This should, and doubtless will, prove a wholesome lesson, and put a stop in some measure at least to this wholesale fraud.]

## Small Samples or Large Lots for Test Purposes.

The following letter from Superintendent McKay, of the Indian Head Experimental Farm, was received too late for publication in our last issue. The extract which misrepresents what Mr. McKay said, was taken from the report of a special correspondent, and there was not the slightest intention on our part to draw wrong inferences. As stated in the article of Dec. 5th issue, the distribution of small one-pound packages of cereal grains seems of little practical benefit in Western Canada, where seasons are short, and time and conveniences for looking after small trial lots of grain unlimited. The plan suggested by Mr. McKay seems much more likely to prove practically beneficial:

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Your article in last issue on "Distribution of Small Packages of Seed Grain from Experimental Farms" is misleading, in so far as your report of what I said at an Institute meeting in Alberta is concerned.

Your report is as follows:

"The plan of sending round to farmers a few pounds of seeds of different varieties of grains, etc., grown on the Experimental Farm, had not worked very well. The quantities were too small for the recipients to devote attention to the growth, etc. It had therefore been decided to adopt a different plan. Sufficient seeds of several varieties to sow an acre would be sent to the Agricultural Societies that applied for them, and then these could be entrusted to farmers in whom the Society had confidence. Farmers in several districts would then be able to conduct their own experiments. The Experimental Farm was in Assiniboia, and it was possible that certain seeds and particular methods that were suited to that part of the country might not be suited to Alberta. By the plan above indicated the kinds suited to the different districts would be ascertained, and thus would the farmer be benefited."

The facts are:

At the Red River meeting a gentleman complained that the Experimental Farm at Indian Head was of very little use to farmers in Alberta on account of the distance, and that while the Farm sent up a good many samples of grain, they were either not suitable to the climate of Alberta or the recipient did not take care of them. He then asked why an Experimental Farm could not be established at Red Deer, which was near the center of Northern Alberta.

The Hon. Mr. Bulyea, Commissioner of Agriculture for the Northwest Territories, who was present, replied, stating what was being done in this line at Calgary, and that he hoped, in the near future, an Experimental Station would be started along the line of railway to serve all the northern districts.

On Mr. Bulyea closing his remarks, I made the following offer to the Agricultural Society of Red Deer, whose president was, I think, chairman of the meeting: "That as there was no chance of Red Deer having an Experimental Station for some years at least, and as I was aware of the fact that many of the samples sent from the Farm at Indian Head were thrown away or given improper treatment, if the Agricultural Society would take charge and grow the crop, I would undertake to send the Society sufficient seed to sow one acre each of two or three varieties of wheat, and the same of oats and barley, the Agricultural Society to pay freight charges on seed, to thresh the grain, and finally to distribute to, or sell to, the members of the Society the product of all the varieties, or only those giving best results."

Two points would be gained by following this plan. One in securing reliable data as to varieties of grain most suitable for Alberta, and the second in allowing the members of the Society to secure seed of the varieties so found.

No mention whatever was made as to a decision to adopt a different plan in the distribution of samples than has been followed here before, and I made the offer entirely on my own responsibility in the hope that it would relieve the Farm of the necessity of distributing so many small samples, take less seed than was distributed each year in the three-pound samples, and prove a benefit to the district accepting the proposition, which was subsequently made to several agricultural societies in Northern Alberta.

Yours truly,

ANGUS MCKAY, Supt.

JOHN LEASK, Virden, Man., Dec., 1899: "I like the ADVOCATE."