

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

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## Farm Siftings.

The farmstead is much improved by a grove of trees, which may be obtained by an expenditure of labor. A neighbor, however, prefers to spend \$50 for forty rods of hedge fence, which he thinks will be useful as well as beautiful. He pays in three annual instalments: 50 cents, 50 cents, and 25 cents per rod, starting next spring, when the trees will be planted, to receive three strands of wire a year or two later. Interest at 6 per cent. is paid from date of contract, which contract does not state the number of trees to be planted per rod. Is this not rather a high price to pay for a few trees? The Forestry Department of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, will do better than the above scheme; will send an expert and give instruction, whereas the hedge-fence fellows are newcomers from the East. Anyhow, if any farmer will spend \$15 in work annually, and get a pound of maple and elm seeds from the Brandon Experimental Farm, he will have a better grove than that for which he pays \$1.25 a rod.

The farm auction sales will soon be starting, and a chance will be offered to pick up some live stock. If you have lots of rough feed, live stock of the right sort will turn it into money and make, at the same time, a lot of manure in the quickest and easiest way.

Many a farmer would have made money this fall if he had possessed a good aneroid barometer. Such an instrument would have helped him foretell storms, and he would have got a stack finished maybe, or would have stacked in place of waiting for the threshers. A good aneroid barometer costs about \$6, and with care should last for years.

It will be a good idea to locate the stone supply before snow falls, if you intend to build a basement barn next summer.

My daily paper states, in an interview with one of the Winnipeg pork-packers, that he is unable to get hogs, consequently offers high prices, 7 to 7½ cents live weight. If the farmers had any hogs the price would, I suppose, drop to 5 cents. Toronto prices have been 87 or higher for months. A neighbor tells me that the reason our packers can't pay as high as the Eastern prices is because they cannot turn out a cured product equal to that put on the market by the Ontario or Chicago packers. We shall, if this is the case, need to get organized a co-operative packing house and force prices up to their proper value.

"It's up to you, farmers!" Fares says "the farmers of Manitoba and the Northwest will have to be more particular in the class of hogs they raise." That means, use better bulls, lose the calf flesh, and feed the cattle to a profit.

Now is the time to clean out the chimneys, and make any repairs necessary, and thus avoid a lot of fire during the winter. Even a burning chimney is extremely dangerous in this country with high winds and big straw-piles.

One of the Manitoba stocker buyers is advising farmers to castrate all the bull calves and to be sold for stockers. Ranchmen and stock buyers will not buy calves unless castrated at a considerable reduction. The best time to operate is when the calves are a few days old.

Now is the time to get the house well banked for the winter. If you have no storm sash it will probably pay you to get some. The winter winds soon search out the chinks, and will reduce the temperature of the farmhouse very quickly, which means loss of fuel in the endeavor to keep warm.

Don't be afraid to put up a few extra stacks of oat or even wheat straw at the buildings. Even if not used this winter, they may be valuable in case the 1902 crop is a short one. It doesn't cost much to carry over a stack or two of good fodder.

Nothing illustrates a lack of foresight so plainly as to see a farmer in February or March digging a straw pile out of the snow, the straw pile being a quarter of a mile or more from the stock barns.

My local paper brings to notice one phase of working the Manitoba Grain Act. A farmer thought he was being cheated in his weights at the local elevator, and promptly laid complaint. The Grain Commissioner looked into the matter, but from all reports the evidence was not conclusive enough. If you think you are being cheated, weigh your grain in the presence of a witness, and don't make a complaint until you have two or three instances to bring forward. For your weights to be accepted as evidence, you will need to have the scales properly tested and certified. Don't forget to balance them before weighing always. Stealing from farmers at the elevators will not go on when it is known that the farmers own a good set of scales. Honesty is the best policy in business, as elsewhere, so don't try to even up with the grain man by filling the top of the bags with 1 hard and the rest of the bag with 1 northern or worse.

INTER PRIMOS.

## Can We Grow Fall Wheat?

The possibility of growing fall wheat in Manitoba and Assiniboia, has for the past twenty years been up for discussion from time to time, and a good many trials have been made, but with no satisfactory results. The opinion generally prevails that fall wheat will not succeed, and that even if it would there would be no advantage in it, as it would occupy the land for two years to get one crop, and the milling qualities of the wheat would not equal that of our famous No. 1 hard.

Since fall-wheat growing is proving so successful in Southern Alberta, the question comes up again in a new and stronger light as to whether it could not be grown as successfully further east. The summer-fallow has taken a prominent place in the farm system of this country, but in far too many instances the summer-fallow fails in accomplishing its purpose, owing to the inability of the farmer to carry the work through to a finish. When the rush of haying and harvest comes on, the summer-fallow has to suffer.

If the system found most successful in Alberta would prove satisfactory in the spring wheat regions, the difficulty in handling the fallow might be overcome. Their plan is to work the land deep and well in the fore part of the season (just similar to our summer-fallowing), then in July sow the fall wheat, and then they plow it in four or five inches deep. The soil at that season is warm and deep sowing puts the seed into moist soil and ensures germination; a heavy growth is made. At this writing, early October, the fall wheat stands from eight to fourteen inches high in the Packer Creek country. The heavy growth has been holding a covering of snow to protect the crop through winter, and the deep, strong roots resulting from the deep plowing is supposed to add strength and vitality to the plants, ensur-

ing them to recover from any chance hard usage in the spring. Could some such plan as the above be adopted here, it would to a great extent prevent the fall growth of weeds on the fallows, and the crop would come away ahead of the weeds again in the spring. The advantages of the early harvest need no comment.

In Alberta the fall-wheat yields are enormously heavy, running up to forty and fifty bushels per acre, and a hard red variety of wheat is now being introduced from Kansas which is said to be a high-class milling wheat.

Several farmers from Manitoba who have this year seen the magnificent fields of fall wheat in Alberta are arranging to make tests along this line next season.

## The Retired Farmer.

In every little town and village throughout the country, and especially in the older and more thickly settled districts, there are numbers of retired farmers, and with every successful season the number increases.

That there should be a tendency among farmers to migrate from the farms to the small towns as soon as they have "laid by" a little money, on the plea that the village offers greater social advantages, is evidence that there is something wrong with either the system of farming or the farmers themselves.

That a farmer should wish to give up the active life of the farm for the idle, gossiping life of the village is strange indeed. It is for the benefit and schooling of the children, you say. Well, it is a poor farm that is not a thousand times better place to bring up children than on the village street.

One of the worst features of this is, that the retired farmer becomes a landlord. He rents his farm on as favorable terms as possible, and at first, for a time, is very solicitous that the farm should be well cultivated and kept clean, but as years go on he becomes less particular about the condition of the land, but more exacting as to the rent. And it is the old story—the landlord squeezes the tenant and the tenant squeezes the soil, and between the two the land becomes impoverished and dirty. No!—this migration from farm to town is but another of the evils arising out of exclusive wheat farming. The game is played hard when the seasons are favorable and money is made quickly, and the result is not good for the farmer, his children, nor for the district.

The more general introduction of live-stock breeding, together with an intelligent system of crop rotation, will result in a more equal distribution throughout the year of labor and in the building up and establishing of the home life on the farm. The farm home where the family live in the best room, not in the summer kitchen—where paper, magazines, and books are liberally supplied, and where the profession of farming is studied and respected, not despised and despised you each home there is no desire to migrate to the village. In the old days, when the best of literature can be had for very little outlay, there is no excuse for the farmer not reading and studying from the best experience of others matters pertaining to his own business. Neither is it from the well-to-do farm, equipped with good stock barns and provided with shelter-belts, and favorable surroundings, and stocked with a high class of live stock, that people migrate to the village, but from the bare, bleak, uninviting, inhospitable shack of the wheat-farmer, who is too busy to plant trees, care for a garden, or to even think about making a home.