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EDITORIAL

Interest in Good Roads

That an organized effort is being made to improve the highways of Manitoba will be appreciated by all who make use of roads. The only regrettable feature so far is that the newly-formed association does not contain active members from all parts of the province. However, that, no doubt will be remedied in time. Municipal councils should not hesitate to become members because initial steps have been taken by municipalities surrounding Winnipeg. The association is provincial, and the object is to have uniformly good roads in all districts.

In order, therefore, to have best results it is the duty of every individual who is interested in this important question to see that his municipality is properly represented on the deputation that meets the government shortly, and also at the next annual meeting, so that intelligent and representative members may be elected as executive managers of the organization. There is a good work to be done, and it remains with the people to see that this work is as thorough as possible.

Farmer's Advocate's Donation

In offering prizes for road improvement competitions THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE hopes to interest individual farmers in the use of a simple and inexpensive implement that has been used to advantage in other parts of Canada as well as in the United States. The split-log drag, as its name indicates, is simply an ordinary log ten or twelve inches in diameter split down the middle, the two halves being braced so that one follows the other about thirty inches apart. When soft wood is used, particularly if the roadway is stony or gravelly, it is well to face the trailing edge with iron, but on ordinary mud roads, where this implement is most efficient, it is well not to have such facing. The edge of the log smooths the mud,

causes the water to run off and so puddles the surface that when it dries an excellent road-bed is formed.

It is the improvement of clay roads that Manitoba most needs. Plows, scrapers and graders commonly are used to make a well-rounded road-bed, but traffic in a wet season soon forms ruts and holes that make the road almost impassable. Judicious use of this split-log drag remedies this objectionable condition. If you do not agree, enter the competition. You can at least satisfy yourself and your neighbors and you stand a chance of winning a handsome cash prize.

Fame and Fortune On the Farm

The tirade against the lot of the boy on the farm, written by "Saskatchewan Farmer" and appearing on another page of this issue, is not published because the sentiment expressed is approved. However, the writer gives a most lurid picture of conditions as they exist on all too many farms. He has, perhaps, combined the defects of many to make his case the stronger. But that he could muster up such evidence without departing from the truth is deplorable. However, it is not necessary to read as far as the paragraph that contains his admission to guess that he is not in love with his work. It is evident that he does not delight in the occupation in which he is engaged—and still more evident that he does not wish to be.

Twentieth century farming does not demand that such conditions should exist on any farm. Intelligent farmers who take a pride in their work soon remedy these numerous defects and provide such facilities as make farm work on the whole not at all objectionable. Naturally, the manual labor entailed is more strenuous than that required in the office or the study. But what strong man objects to hard work? The modern, thinking farmer has learned that by using brains and planning it is not necessary to work the long hours or undergo the hardships referred to by "Saskatchewan Farmer." Neither are the boys of the home imposed on with chores and extras. If our correspondent were acquainted with the long hours, and the brain- and nerve-wrecking study of the men in store or office who are eminently successful, perhaps he would change his mind and not be so sweeping in his advice to farm boys. For one Garfield, or Lincoln, or Hill, or Vanderbilt, there are hundreds who left farms in boyhood days and never attained a position equal to that of the average farmer. With more reading, more thinking, and more planning the average condition and contentment of the farmer can be made higher than the present average. Perhaps for those whose aims are fame and fortune, a withdrawal from the farm would be best, both for them and for the farming industry.

An Example Worth Imitating

The dairy cow competition in Wisconsin, conducted under the direction of the college of agriculture, is suggestive of valuable work that might be carried on along similar lines in this country. The competition is designed to help develop the dairy industry by stimulating the testing of individual cows and herds and encouraging better business methods in the management, feeding and care of cows.

To this end a competition has been started in which substantial cash prizes are offered for the highest records of butter-fat production per year. The first prize in the individual cow class is \$300, and \$500 is offered as a first prize to the owner of ten cows in any one herd that shows the highest records in butter-fat production in one year. In all, \$1,850 are offered in cash prizes by the State, in addition to which some eighteen special prizes, consisting largely of pure-bred bull calves of the leading dairy breeds, cream separators and dairy apparatus are donated by breeders and manufacturers.

The only cost to competitors is \$5.00, to cover the expenses of an expert sent out by the college to test the cows and supervise the carrying on of the work. A good deal of interest is being taken in the competition, and the indications are that much benefit will result from the work.

If Wisconsin, which ranks as one of the leading dairy States in the union, needs a competition of this kind to stimulate interest and encourage better business methods in the dairy business, it is a safe bet that there is a fertile field for applying such stimulus to the business in this country. What dairying needs everywhere is better informed cow owners. Wisconsin has set an example in educational work that is worth while and worth imitating.

Surface vs. Sub-Surface Packing

As between the roller and packer, as implements for use in conserving soil moisture, opinion is pretty well agreed. The packer is the most efficient, though not yet the most generally used. It leaves the soil in better condition to hold and retain moisture; properly used increases the soil's capacity for moisture and lessens the amount lost by evaporation. But the question arises which of the two types of packers is best adapted for general use. One type is known as the surface packer, and is designed for work very similar to that done by the roller, the chief difference being that it does not leave the land so hard and smooth on the surface. There is something of a surface mulch. The other type, the sub-surface packer, is designed for packing the soil at some depth below the surface. It leaves the soil firm underneath, but the upper two or three inches are loose, and the particles not broken down extremely fine. If an ideal result is ob-