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EDITORIAL.

The Need of Co-operation.

Since the first sods in the cultivation of this vast wheat-growing country were turned, nothing has given the farmers greater reason for agitation than the grain blockade, or car shortage, which has existed during the last few months. The situation has been, and truly is, alarming, and should impress everyone concerned, and there are many, with the great necessity of united action, so that redress may be found in some way, and the crying need of the country in a more efficient measure supplied.

According to conservative estimates, our last wheat crop amounts to at least sixty million bushels. Of that amount, it is said fifteen million were shipped from Fort William before the close of navigation. The elevators throughout the country, including those at shipping ports, are now full, and all together contain upwards of thirty million bushels, so that money has now been realized by the farmers on a fair proportion of the crop. To the returns thus received, and the briskness of the live-stock market, can the remarkable activity in present commercial circles be attributed.

For the bountiful harvest which has been reaped and the full granaries of the land, we have reason to be grateful to a kind Providence, but in availing ourselves of His dispensation, we should do so without abuse or waste. In spite of all that has been or can be done, a loss in marketing exists, and further losses of the grain stored in temporary granaries are certain. All along the railway lines these structures stand full upon the prairie, and cannot now be possibly emptied before next spring.

During all the fall, cars have been wanted, and at nearly every station across the broad wheat-growing belt they are wanted to this day, and their presence will be anxiously looked for, even into the months of early spring. The question is how shall they be obtained? What is to be done? Some have become tired of agitation and feel almost like falling back and allowing the matter to take its course, as if it would right itself. Such is not the best policy to be adopted by those whose interests are at stake. If ever any material relief is to be secured, it must be through persistent and intelligent agitation. To recklessly talk about burning elevators and dynamiting the track can be of no avail. It is worse than futile. It has been urged by some, and it seems to us wisely, that all agricultural societies, live-stock associations, boards of trade, municipal bodies, travellers' associations and kindred organizations co-operate to bring pressure upon the Federal Government to remedy the distressing lack of railway facilities which has existed, and continues to exist, in Western Canada.

The controlling management of our railways, and in some degree our political destiny, appears to be largely in the hands of Eastern men, who are not fully alive to the pressing needs of this new country. To anyone who has studied the situation, it is evident many of them are listlessly ignorant of our conditions, and must be awakened by our efforts.

When we remember that the manufacturers have arranged for a monster delegation, the largest that ever visited Ottawa, to wait upon the Government, urging for increased protection, the futility of half-hearted measures should be seen. The Territorial Grain Growers' Association are doing a good work, but they need the united support of

every farmer within their jurisdiction. Let co-operation be the watchword, until a brighter day shall dawn and better railway facilities be at hand.

The Fair: When Shall We Hold It.

Agricultural fairs were first instituted to promote farming by teaching the farmer. That they have been, and are yet, to a certain degree, filling this mission no one will dispute, but the question arises, can better results be reaped without additional expense or time? This, we think, is worthy the most serious consideration of all lovers of farm husbandry.

Certain seasons there are when farm work must not be neglected, or the results will prove disastrous, and, unfortunately, in the past, fair dates have too often clashed with these periods. Harvest time and the threshing season should especially be respected in wheat districts when setting dates. It is ruinous to the purpose intended to expect farm work to cater to the fair, but there appears to be no substantial reason why the fair should not cater to the farm work. Summer fairs have many advantages, especially in such centers as are chiefly devoted to wheat-growing. During that period the grain-grower has time to devote to the necessary arrangements, whereas when harvest begins his full time is required saving and threshing his crop and preparing for the next. With the stock-men, however, the case is different; animals, without special fitting, are not in nearly so good condition during summer as in late September or October. This is especially noticeable in the classes of the calendar year.

Another feature is that the leading fairs, such as Winnipeg and Brandon, coming as they do toward the last of the summer season, and having standards higher than the smaller shows, draw large crowds, and, consequently, many who attend these decide that they have seen sufficient, and take no interest in and do not even attend their home show if held near that time.

Inasmuch as agricultural fairs are conducted as a means of encouraging hearty competition, through displaying in some central spot the best products of the farmer's skill, they invariably give new ideas that stimulate and fire with honest zeal all those who participate therein.

It is a grand work to create inspiration toward anything calculated to be helpful, and this can often be done at our fairs, especially in the minds of the young. What the brain carries away is often reproduced and frequently improved. Many are the ingenious contrivances which have been given to mankind simply through viewing some article prepared for another purpose. The knowledge we thus acquire often becomes so closely allied with our very natures that we frequently fail to give credit where it justly belongs. The fair deserves more credit than it ever gets. We ought to be continually adding to our storehouse of learning, and the country fair is one of the real live educators which the farmer has at his command. Try and set the fair dates in your locality so that the largest percentage of the farmers can be accommodated, is the advice of the "Farmer's Advocate." What our numerous readers think on this question we would be pleased to hear. Write it at once; our columns are always open for good honest expression of opinion on any question of public interest.

Siftings.

Honesty should begin at home, and from there spread.

Shrunken wheat and the coarser grains can be most profitably sold on foot.

In this new year, so lately entered, most men can realize, largely, what they expect—provided they hustle for it.

Living and staying in the world are two different things. Make the home comfortable, and learn to enjoy life every day.

Now is the right time to prepare for the ice needed next summer. The advantages are many; see to it, now.

Many men are good beginners; they engage in a new venture quickly, but are equally as ready to stop. It is the "stayer" who counts every time. Become a "stayer."

It may be difficult to get farmers to agree upon what ought to be, but not so hard to get them to agree upon what should not be. The car shortage, for instance.

When you make a mistake and discover it, face about and admit it. There is no sense in trying to overshadow wrongdoing; it will quickly come to light. The simplest way is the safest and most manly.

"A little Chat with Prairie Mothers," by Mrs. McEwen, in the Home Department, should be interesting to all our readers. Beautiful surroundings go a long way toward making happy homes.

One good rule, which if followed, will help lead to the goal of happiness, is "live within your income." Raise as much of the necessities and comforts of life as possible, and waste not.

In raising stock, it is only the best ones that add to the bank account. Fasten this securely in a convenient chamber of your memory, where its full significance will continually crop out at each breeding season.

When buying stock for feeding purposes, the intelligent stockman desires high individual merit, combined with select pedigree. What about the average breeder, who breeds to sell and has to live by it? Does his mating show that he is catering for this trade?

It may not be generally believed that a horse will put on flesh more readily if watered regularly. A light drink in the morning before feeding will assist very materially in improving the digestion and general health of our noble friend.

To winter twenty animals on the food that would give best returns if fed to only fifteen is poor policy. Although the twenty might not starve, the extra time required for them to regain their normal condition would prove the experiment a sorry failure.

Be careful in putting away medicine that has been used, to notice that it is distinctly labeled; it is also well to mark plainly on the wrapper the name of the disease which this remedy is intended to cure. Many a serious mistake would be avoided if this were carried out.