

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

Vol. XLVI.

Winnipeg, Canada, July 27, 1910

No. 951

## FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1866

Canada's Foremost Agricultural Journal  
Published Every Wednesday.

### SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

Canada and Great Britain, per annum, in advance, \$1.50  
(if in arrears) .. 2.00  
United States and Foreign countries, in advance .. 2.50  
Date on label shows time subscription expires.  
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for its discontinuance, accompanied by payment of all  
arrears.  
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Norfolk St., London W. C., England.  
Specimen copies mailed free. Agents wanted.  
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FARMER'S ADVOCATE  
OF WINNIPEG, LIMITED, WINNIPEG, MAN.  
14-16 PRINCESS ST.,

## EDITORIAL

### Hold the Livestock

The dry weather and probable feed shortage are bringing out livestock these days in large numbers. A few weeks ago packers were having difficulty in getting a sufficient number of certain classes of cattle to fill requirements. Just now all classes of butcher stock are in good supply and prices in consequence easier. Calves, especially, are being marketed heavily. It is probable that some are obliged to sell because feed is likely to be scarce, but every man who has stock and can see ahead the wherewithal to winter it, should hold. The same conditions are developing now that started the upward trend in values two years ago. Livestock prices under immediate heavy selling may decline some, but the indications are for higher future values. It is a good time to hold stock and wait. High livestock prices are usually concurrent with high-priced feed.

### Railway Commission

Since railway commissioners have been appointed in Canada much has been done to protect different classes from what was termed unfair treatment at the hands of the railways. In Western Canada those connected with the dairy industry have found just ground for complaint, owing to regulations imposed by railway companies in regard to handling and hauling milk and cream. Thanks to the railway commissioners the grievances have been remedied.

Cans for shipment now are received at station or platform and receipts given as for other commodities. In case there is no agent at the shipping point the baggageman on the train must supply the receipt.

Milk shippers in all parts will welcome this change. For years they have fought for their

rights. The railway companies refused to grant a remedy, but the dairymen put up a persistent and organized fight, and finally appeared before the railway commission. When evidence from both sides was heard the commissioners did not hesitate in pronouncing the producers' demands as reasonable—another evidence of the value of the railway commission to the farmers, if the case is presented in the proper way.

### The Acre Yield Competition

One of the most significant agricultural features at the Calgary Provincial Summer Exhibition was the acre yield competition. This display was most unique, and one characteristic of Western Canada. Most people have a certain idea of the number of bushels that constitute a good yield of wheat per acre, but few have seen the grain grown on one-acre displayed in a conical heap. A dozen or more of those acre yields exhibited in rows from a display of comparative educational value, and one not yet duplicated in Western Canada.

Demonstrations or object lessons are the most practical methods of education, and the acre yield competition at an agricultural exhibition is something that should receive encouragement from all agricultural societies and every husbandman interested in bigger grain yields.

### Keep a Scrap Book

Business men who prosper have a ready reference system whereby they can, on short notice, look up details regarding different branches of their business. This not only saves time, but also ensures reliability. Guess work is not tolerated.

Why should not the farmer equip himself with a ready reference on agricultural affairs? We commend complete files of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE. These, with the index contained in the last issue of June and another in the last issue of December, make it possible to refer without delay to special articles relating to the various phases of agriculture. Perhaps the next best thing is a large scrap book, in which articles of value are pasted as they are seen. However, in order to have a satisfactory scrap book it is necessary to "clip and paste" as soon as a valuable hint is located. If this is not done promptly, chances are it will not be done at all.

We frequently receive letters from our subscribers asking for an issue that appeared "a few weeks ago" containing an article on a certain subject. This "few weeks" may mean two or three weeks, or it may mean three or four months. If too long a time has not elapsed we generally know about where to locate the necessary, but when months pass it

means considerable loss of time searching for the indefinite information requested.

Therefore, keep the papers on file intact. If you cannot do this, keep a scrap book.

### Livestock Commission Salesmen

"I buy from the commission dealer every time in preference to dickering with the shipper or farmer," says one of the heaviest buyers of hogs on the Winnipeg market, "and I believe it would be better for the hog raiser if he would consign his stock to some reputable commission man instead of dealing with the buyers himself. The trouble is that the farmer seldom cares to put a price on his stock in the yards; the buyer bids, say \$9.15 on a bunch of hogs; the farmer rustles around until somebody offers 5 cents a hundred more, and nine times out of ten he sells without giving the first buyer a chance to make another offer. Nobody can judge within 5 cents a hundred what hogs are worth. Then little troubles arise over the freight charges, yardage charges and so on, all of which the buyer is required to adjust. He must in fact represent the seller, be the buyer and act as commission man."

All of which goes to show that the buyer doesn't consider his sinecure exactly a bed of roses. There are some points in his remarks worth considering. The system of dealing through commission houses has many advantages to commend it and is the only plan on which the larger markets of America can be carried on. A man may be just as capable of selling his own stock as another man is of selling it for him. A good many farmer shippers are able to do so, but in the average number of cases the salesman earns his commission in the price obtained and the business is more satisfactorily transacted for both seller and buyer.

### Cows for the Prairie Farmer

Letters that appear from time to time in these columns dealing with the problem of building up a dairy herd show that many opinions are held in regard to the most satisfactory procedure. A great number favor the milking strain of Shorthorn, while others insist on nothing but standard dairy breeds.

Much of this difference of opinion regarding the advisability of keeping milking Shorthorns is due to a summing up from a different viewpoint. On another page of this issue Mr. Dutton hits the point when he says: "If you want to dairy get acknowledged dairy cows." No one with an ounce of stock sense will advise otherwise. The fact is, however, that farmers of the Canadian West do not want to dairy. Along with grain farming they choose to keep a few cows and have a few calves coming on that will make creditable feeders.