

Manitoba Shorthorns Sell Well

Mr. Greenway's Sale a Success—Forestry Work Progressing
Stallion Registration—American Editors Conquered

By Our Western Correspondent

When the organization of the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior was first discussed there were many who regarded its operations, so far as the West might be concerned, as trivial and unimportant. There might be a few farmers induced to plant trees, it was said, but so far as the majority were concerned they neither had, nor were likely to have, any inclination to do so. The fact that twenty-five years' occupation still found the majority of Manitoba farms without a tree save those which nature had in some cases placed there, and that in the main the Western farmers did not make any attempt to preserve, much less improve, the scanty timber that, as settlers, they found on their lands, seemed to indicate that the efforts of the new branch of the Government service would be as seed sown in stony ground. But the result to date has cleared away all doubts concerning the real sentiments of this community as regards trees and tree planting. The efforts of the forestry officials have been received in a manner indicating a deep interest in and appreciation of the plan proposed by the Government for the afforestation of the Prairie country. It has been shown that the Prairie farmer is as keenly alive to his own interests in this as in every other matter, that he knows a "good thing" when he sees it, and loses no time in making as much as possible out of his own. It has been shown that only expert advice and assistance is required to make enthusiastic "foresters" of the residents of the plains, and that what seemed to be apathetic disregard was really discouragement at the outcome of many unsuccessful experiments in tree planting. The advice and assistance of the forestry inspectors have been successful in removing the long-standing prejudice that trees cannot be grown on the prairie. For three years the work has gone on. This year there were planted under the supervision of the Forestry Branch over 700,000 trees, and applications have been received for about 1,600,000 for planting in 1904. This is in Manitoba alone. And the work done and the good accomplished does not end here. Example is contagious, and the success of those men who have received trees from the Forestry Branch has led many of their neighbors to plant independent of Government aid.

The officials report that their visits of inspection and advice are usually more appreciated than the free supply of seedling trees. The successful work of the branch is due in a great measure to the system of inspection, first, of the land to see that it is properly prepared

for planting, and later of the plantations.

The visit of the agricultural editors is a thing of the past. They came, they saw, they were conquered. There has been in the past a slight tendency on the part of some of the agricultural papers, especially those published at some distance south of the line, to belittle the Canadian North-West, and to predict misfortune for the people now going into that country from the United States. The visit which the editors of a large number of these papers have just made will do much to remove this prejudice. They have one and all been surprised with what they saw here, and will go home with a better understanding of the movement which we call the American invasion, and which is known south of the line as the conquest of Canada.

Hon. Thos. Greenway's dispersion sale of Shorthorns is an event of interest to breeders everywhere. Mr. Greenway has often said that to be "the premier farmer" of Manitoba was a dearer ambition than to be "the premier premier," as he was called for years. In breeding Shorthorns at least, he has realized his ambition and the Greenway herd has for years headed the list in Western Canada. The announcement that a large portion of this herd would be sold by auction brought almost every breeder of prominence in this province and many from the Territories to Crystal City on the 25th inst. A special train was run from Winnipeg at excursion rates and the number of visitors was so much beyond expectation that there was some difficulty experienced in finding conveyances to take them from the station to "Prairie Home" Stock Farm. Among those present were the visiting agricultural editors of the United States, who expressed great satisfaction with the stock, the sale, and the prices received. Every animal offered was sold and it is a source of satisfaction that almost all remain in Manitoba. A few head go to the Territories, notably Sittytton Hero VII., the famous head of the herd.

Forty-eight animals sold for a total of over \$12,000. Thirty-six cows averaged \$267; three bull calves, \$149, and nine bulls, \$203. Sittytton Hero VII. sold for \$775. He was purchased by Mr. George McKinnon of Regina. Matchless 5th, the highest-priced cow, was sold for \$500 to Albert Lawson, Thornhill, Man. A full list of purchasers and prices will be supplied later.

Dr. Elliott, the new Minister of Agriculture for the Territories, has submitted to the Legislative Assembly a proposal for legislation regarding the registration of stallions in the Territories, which it is hoped will prove of great benefit to the whole country, but particularly to the ranching district. Its object is to give farmers and ranchers an accurate knowledge of the horses standing for service in the country. These are to be divided into three classes: 1st, thoroughbreds and purebreds; 2nd, crossbreds and 3rd, grades. Owners will be compelled to register their animals and copies of the registration certificates must be used in all advertising matter issued by owners. The new ordinance will follow the Act now in force in Manitoba in giving owners of purebred stallions a lien on the offspring as security for payment of service fees. The tendency of such legislation will undoubtedly be to encourage better breeding and to induce horsemen to bring into the country a better class of animals.

The Advantages of Clovering

On June 20th the writer had a pleasant visit with Live Stock Commissioner Hodson, at his farm near Myrtle, Ont., popularly known as Glenhaddon. This farm was taken over by Mr. Hodson a few years ago, when it was very much run down. Under his direction and by the employment of skilled agriculturists to do the work, the farm is being gradually brought up to a high state of fertility. Mr. Hodson's plan has been largely one of clovering. His system of rotation is clover, corn or oats, grain and seed down to clover again. The clover is never pastured. One year's hay crop is taken off and the second crop plowed down in the fall for corn or roots the next season. The hay mixture consists of 10 lb. red clover, 3 lb. alsike and 6 lb. of timothy per acre.

This method has worked most successfully, and no better crops are to be seen anywhere than those at Glenhaddon farm this season. Mr. Hodson has experimented with the growing of soy beans with very great success. Where the grain crop appears after soy beans, the much stronger and more thrifty condition of the plants after soy beans is quite marked; so much so, that it is hard to account for it. Can any of our readers explain?

Special attention is given to the permanent pasture feature. Thirty acres of Glenhaddon farm are devoted to permanent pasture, situated on rolling land sloping to a valley through which runs a splendid stream of sipping water. The permanent pasture mixture used consists of a mixture of Lucerne, alsike, timothy, orchard grass, white clover and blue grass. This has worked well and by having the pasture divided into three ten-acre fields and changing from one to the other every week or two, an abundant and most nutritious pasturage is provided. Three years ago 16 milch cows were pastured on this 30 acres, last year 30 cows and this year 33. J. W. W.