

Founded 1866

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

Vol. XLV.

Winnipeg, Canada, October 6, 1909

No. 889

### 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.

In accordance with the law, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to all subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance, accompanied by payment of all arrearages.

British Agency, W. W. Chapman, Mowbray House, Norfolk St., London, W. C., England.

Specimen copies mailed free. Agents wanted.

Address all communications to the firm, not to any individual.

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

OF WINNIPEG, LIMITED,

14-16 PRINCESS STREET,

WINNIPEG, MAN.

## EDITORIAL

### Responsibility for Hog Values

The hog situation is a rather interesting one. That hogs are scarce in this country, as well as in the United States, is a fact most are aware of who are brought in touch with our live-stock interests. There are fewer hogs in the country now than for some years, and if farmers will remember this and not be stampeded by lowering prices into selling hogs of any size, age or condition, under the impression that the bottom is going out of the hog market, their action will be profitable to themselves and will strengthen the entire situation.

There is no doubt but that hogs will sell some cheaper during the next few months than they have in the past few weeks. Supply for some time has been so light that packers were willing to pay almost anything in reason to get the live pork, keep their plants going, and have stock to meet the requirements of the trade. They claim to have been running lately on too small a profit margin, and just as soon as hog receipts show an increase, prices must naturally slump.

Spring litters are now beginning to reach market, and will come forward in increasing numbers during the next month or two. Western Canada has not so large a hog market that a rapidly-increasing supply does not produce prompt results in the way of decreasing prices, and even though over-supply is only seasonal, and hogs likely to be as scarce again after selling flurry is over, buyers pound values down to as low a point as possible to recoup themselves they say when stock is plentiful for what they lose when it is scarce. In one sense this may be good business, but it shows shortsighted judgment. If confidence is to be created in the hog industry, and confidence more than anything else is what the producer

is said to require, it would be a good move on the part of buyers to display some little confidence at this time themselves. Pounding prices unduly low when hogs are temporarily plentiful is the surest method known of knocking any little interest that may have been developed during a period of comparatively high values and fairly profitable outlook.

The present situation calls for careful marketing on the part of the producer. In any event hog prices are likely to shade lower at this season, but indiscriminate selling will only weaken them still more and over-supply of low-quality stock will serve as excuse for decreasing values all around. At the same time buyers would be looking to their own interests, and the interests of the industry in the productive end of which they claim to be closely concerned, by holding values on first quality stock as firm as they can. It is the man who is producing properly-finished hogs that needs encouraging. Knocking him in order to squeeze out a little more profit, simply because a squeeze seems easy, may work out all right at the time, but it will not stimulate interest in the productive end of the hog industry. And more hogs, they say, is what we need.

### The West Drains Other Lands

This year the drain on other countries in the form of newcomers who have migrated to Western Canada has become so great as to be alarming to the parts most seriously affected—Eastern Canada and the United States. The Canadian West wants all the desirable settlers in sight, and as long as she offers the opportunities now in evidence, the annual flood is likely to increase. Fertile soil is easily put into condition to give a bounteous crop capable of being sold at high prices is a lure to the agriculturist that for ages has proven a winner.

But why the alarm in these older districts because of decreasing population! Perhaps they never were over-populated. However, changing conditions in connection with running a farm make it unnecessary to employ as many hands as formerly. New machinery and labor-saving devices of divers kinds make it possible to decrease the farming population of districts that have been cultivated for thirty or forty or fifty years. A township that contained the maximum of cultivated land twenty-five years ago can now be as well looked after by employing at least twenty per cent. less men. Has the population in any case decreased one-fifth?

True, some sections of the older settled parts of America suffer from scarcity of labor, but this lack is not so great as it is in Western Canada at certain seasons. The annual migration tends to equalize matters. The newcomers, human-like, endeavor to be where their labors count for most.

### Automobile Roads

The rapid increase in automobile traffic in many parts of Canada indicates that ere long it will be necessary to have special roads made for these machines. England is making special arrangements for the construction of motor roads that will give chauffeurs full opportunity to overstep the present speed limit without endangering the lives of pedestrians and those who are satisfied to travel by horse and carriage or other means.

Accidents recorded recently show that it is as important to have exclusive automobile roads as it is to have steam and electric coaches on definite routes. The proper place for a fast automobile is on a separate right-of-way. Until such is provided, there is bound to be unnecessary injury to man and beast in rural parts.

### B. C. Boosters, Attention!

In community advertising the Americans in the Inland Empire leave Canadians far behind, and we in the western provinces are not novices at publicity-getting. What the boosting associations of Washington and Oregon, improperly called boards of trade, don't know about keeping their communities in the public eye, and don't do to attract people and capital, isn't worth knowing or doing. Unless one aviated he couldn't cross those States without learning something of the advantages of residence; without being fed on locally-grown fruit while he listened to elegant talk on the cheapness and productiveness of the local fruit lands. They go after every traveller on the Jim Hill lines—and Jim owns the Inland Empire. At each important station they have stalls on the platform decked with every kind of fruit the community grows. And they sell at prices that seem ridiculously low to the man who has been feeding at the fruit hawkers' hamper on the train. Every native in sight is an encyclopedia of local information. He can tell you just what the district is capable of doing, what fruit land is worth, how much it has increased in value during the past year, and what it is certain to be selling at next. He may be a salaried representative of the boosters' guild, or a man with real estate to sell, but some of that hot air taken in with the fruit is bound to stick, and more than one traveller may resolve before before the train leaves that if he ever goes fruit farming, it will be in that locality. At any rate, the people are going into the country whatever is the inducement.

Did you ever ask the boy who sells fruit on the railway trains of our own west, where his stock comes from? As a rule, he doesn't know, but if he does, nine times out of ten he will tell you it is from Oregon or Washington. Poor kind of business this for those who are trying to build up our own fruit country at the coast. Our boosting methods may be pretty