

# Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

Vol. XLVI.

Winnipeg, Canada, February 2, 1910

No. 906

## 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 arrears.

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 ST., WINNIPEG, MAN.

## EDITORIAL

### Husbanding vs. Restoring

The letter in this issue written by Geo. H. Bradshaw should be studied carefully by every man in Western Canada who is interested in the future of farming on the prairies. No man should consider that he is doing his duty when he sows seed and reaps a harvest in such manner as gives an annual crop with minimum labor. The old claim that prairie soil is an inexhaustible storehouse of plant food suitable for cereal production has long since been exploded. Our soil is rich, but a continual drain without returning anything will in time deplete the richest soil.

This being granted why not act on Mr. Bradshaw's suggestion? It is much more satisfactory to husband the resources of the soil by judicious cropping and reasonable return of plant food than to restore fertility to a worn-out soil. Thorough cultivation and frequent summer fallowing will ensure good yields for a number of years—depending on the virgin condition—but to maintain the maximum crop producing power it is necessary to return the important elements and humus within a very few years from the time it is first cropped. Experience has demonstrated this point in all agricultural lands.

Furthermore the newer districts of the prairie provinces should profit by the experiences of pioneers. Weeds are recognized as a serious menace to crops. They cannot be eradicated except by persistent, expensive and intelligent cultural methods. Then why not adopt measures designed to prevent these pests from getting a foothold?

Mr. Bradshaw's letter is worthy of serious consideration. His operations on what formerly was a weedy farm in one of Manitoba's oldest districts and his observations during 1909 enable him to speak with authority.

### The Home Beautiful

The thought of spring should engender in every farmer's heart the desire to do something that will make his home surroundings more attractive. The chief essentials are trees and shrubs, flowers and vegetables. No longer does the intelligent westerner believe that climatic conditions will not permit the growing of a reasonable variety of horticultural products.

In order to guard against disappointment, however, it is well to exercise good judgment in the purchase of ornamental and fruit trees and bushes. Southern growers who establish a local agency, as a rule, supply stock that is worthless. It seldom survives one winter. Nurserymen who are established in the north have made such selection that the general rule is for a very high percentage of stock to give entire satisfaction.

Of course, methods of planting frequently result in the loss of good stock. It is essential that the soil be thoroughly prepared, and that reasonable care be taken in the setting out as well as in attention until the roots have developed sufficiently to feed the part above ground and produce increase in stem and leaf.

The effort is well worth while. The net result is an improvement in the home. When a well kept vegetable and small fruit garden accompanies trees and shrubs the farm home is made one that city folk envy.

### Works, Not Prophecy, Required

Pat Burns, meat packer, Calgary, in an unpublished interview, is said to have voiced the prophecy that Manitoba in a few years will be buying much of her beef in Ontario, and that the West ere long will be a "has been," so far as beef production is concerned. Sydney Fisher, minister of agriculture, Ottawa, in a speech in that city sketched for his audience a West that in a few years will be producing a billion bushels of wheat a year, one and one-half times as much as the United States produced last year. Both probably may be prognosticating aright, or probably they may be both wrong. We find it necessary now to buy a good deal of our mutton and lamb in Ontario and Australia; sometimes we bring in hogs from the East when our hog raisers are out of business temporarily, and it may be that we shall find it convenient some time to buy our beef in the same quarter, but we cannot see it that way just yet. Live stock raising is not developing with us as rapidly as grain growing, for the reason that grain growing offers the larger money making possibilities. But it is holding its own. The cattle we exported last season would beef quite an army of grain growers, and probably by the time we are consuming at home all the cattle we produce, some of the disadvantages

under which the cattle raiser now labors will be removed. After all it is not the farmer's fault that live stock raising is not progressing as Mr. Burns and his friends and business competitors would like to see it progress. The average farmer doesn't object to stock raising, but he has serious objections to certain phases of the conditions under which live stock are at present marketed. Probably attention from the right quarter towards the improvement of these would stimulate interest in live stock more quickly than anything else, prophecy not excepted.

### Conserving Our Resources

Canada's conservation of national resources commission met last week at Ottawa and spent some time discussing the conservation of forests, mines, fisheries, soil fertility and a few other things. Incidentally they recommended that legislation be enacted, holding railways responsible for forest fires started by locomotives or by careless employees along the railways' right of way. Action in other matters was deferred, the members of the commission deeming it expedient to first gather as much information as possible on the various questions that are due to be dealt with by the commission. Canada's national resources have not all been squandered yet, politicians of both parties to the contrary notwithstanding. We have some good sized belts of timber standing still; we have some rich fishing waters, some mineral lands yet unexploited, and the largest known area of unoccupied agricultural land in the world. But there is need for conserving all of them, our agricultural resources not the least. It is worth this country's while to support generously the efforts of the commission for the conservation of resources. We are starting this work here in good time, not too early, but in good time as compared with the United States, and we need to stay with it. Our resources are sufficient for all time if we look after them, or they may be squandered in a quarter of a century if we do not.

### Showing it to the Packers

The United Farmers of Alberta and the government of the province seem to have reached an understanding in regard to the establishment by the government of pork packing plants. For some time this question has been hanging fire. The United Farmers' Association, as representing the agriculturists of the province, desired the government to undertake pork curing, to erect factories and look after the sale of the products, but the government, fearing probably that farmers—even with government owned packing plants, and all the advantages which the existence of such are supposed to imply—could not be depended on for a supply of hogs sufficient to