

FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

Vol. XLIV.

Winnipeg, Canada, December 21, 1910

No. 952

Farmer's Advocate AND Home Journal

ESTABLISHED 1886

Western Canada's Agricultural Weekly
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 ST.,

WINNIPEG, MAN.

Editorial

Our Fat Stock Shows

It is three months yet before the final call is sounded for the fat-stock shows at Brandon, Regina and Calgary, but quite early enough for intending exhibitors to get started in the fitting and training of their exhibits for the ring. The fitting, in fact, already should be under way. Livestock men interested in the progress of the industry in Western Canada, of which progress our winter shows are a fair index, should direct their efforts to the getting out of larger cattle, sheep and swine entries. In horses and in poultry one can generally reckon on finding shows that have overflown any accommodation yet provided for them, but in the other livestock branches exhibits could be largely increased to the betterment of the shows and to the advantage of those engaged in these lines of animal husbandry. Our fat-stock shows need more fat cattle, fat sheep and bacon hogs, as many horses and hens as they have now, but more of the others, particularly heavier fat classes.

Lacombe Farm Report

The farmers of Western Canada, and especially those of Alberta and Saskatchewan, are much interested in the work carried on at the Lacombe Experimental Farm. G. H. Hutton, the superintendent of the farm, is an enthusiastic agriculturist, and the work accomplished by him is of great import; thus any report he gives out usually is received with telling effect. In this issue will be found a complete summary of many of the experiments conducted in the fields and the results obtained at the farm during the season of 1910.

Aside from the data given as to the yield of the various varieties of grain and the dates of seeding, much information is given as to the amount of seed to sow per acre and also the results obtained from frequent cultivation and the use of the soil packer. Such informa-

tion is timely, considering that Western Canada is subject to seasons of drouth and any system of procedure that aids in the conservation of moisture and consequently larger yields is of valued consequence. The Lacombe Experimental Farm, judging from this and preceding reports, is performing a valuable function in promoting Western agriculture.

Pioneer Series

With this issue we start what is intended to be one of the most interesting and most instructive features of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE—a pioneer series. Realizing that those who have had a wide range of experience are in best position to talk on farm topics, as they pertain to the Canadian West, we have decided to endeavor to give a review of progress made by individuals who for twenty years or more have been in touch with farming operations on the prairies of Canada. A relation of personal experiences and advancement under difficulties is interesting; advice for future action from such source is helpful.

Every industrious man of integrity and sound principle, who for twenty years or over has been identified with agriculture in Canada west of the Great Lakes, is entitled to a place in this department. It matters not whether he had \$10,000 with which to make a start, or came with only enough to provide food and fodder for a month. Perhaps an honest start was made as hired man with a prosperous farmer, or with a more or less unscrupulous individual.

The series is opened by a review of what a present member of the provincial legislature of Manitoba has experienced. At one time he was a hard-working hired man. All cannot be members of parliament. However, there are hundreds scattered over the prairies whose experiences will be of interest and benefit to readers of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

If you have a friend or a neighbor whom you know would do credit to such a department let us have his name and address, as well as some details of his career. We will write him for his photograph and further particulars, or if at all possible we will pay him a visit. Our object is to cover every district in the West gradually. Half a hundred can be handled in a year.

Common Interests in Livestock

A combination of circumstances entailing more or less friction seems to have led to some dissatisfaction among stockmen of Alberta, with the result that an attempt has been made to organize apart from the livestock associations with headquarters at Calgary. We will not argue the point of provocation to form a new association.

That there should be but one set of livestock associations in Alberta, known and recognized as being of provincial character, should be favored by all well thinking livestock men.

If the old associations at Calgary have not been fulfilling the function satisfactorily to all concerned it is not likely that a remedy will be found in the formation of other associations in another part of the province and in opposition to the one in existence. Disunion and rivalry and retarded progress are bound to follow. What the livestock interests of Alberta need is one united set of livestock associations, supported by the most capable men in the livestock business in the province. If it is feasible to have two associations why not have an organization in every district that desires one? The more sets of associations the more local in character they become. What is wanted is a united front and provincial associations that will command support from the government to carry on the good work. The government at Edmonton undoubtedly has recognized this fact and are to be commended in giving this year's grant to the old established Alberta Livestock Associations. The common interests of the livestock men of Alberta should not allow for any lack of unity.

The Alfalfa Crop

Many have concluded that it is wise to consider alfalfa as one of the crops that demand careful attention next year. However, even more farmers of the Canadian West can profit by adopting this legume and giving it liberal space on their prairie farms. Too many are more or less skeptical about new crop introductions. They prefer to allow a neighbor or a government experiment station to make a start.

In the case of alfalfa the man who delays until some other person has done the pioneering is wasting just so many years. There is big money in wheat, and perhaps just as much profit in oat-growing; but for the man who has even a few head of live stock, neither of these standard cereal crops will give the return that is easily possible from alfalfa. It is an ideal feeding crop, and, like other legumes such as clovers and peas, materially benefits the soil on which it is grown.

During recent years considerable attention has been given to alfalfa growing in the columns of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE. We will continue to devote space to it until ninety per cent. of the prairie farmers know its worth, and show that they know it by growing it on their farms.

Men who have had experience in this country do not hesitate to speak with no uncertain sound in favor of it. Frequently extracts from books and bulletins give interesting particulars. The superintendents of sub-experiment stations in North Dakota are now contributing valuable information as to suitable soil condition and methods that are advisable. Farmers of this part will do well to study all that appears in our columns from time to time, and make use of what applies to local conditions.