

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

\* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.\*

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VOL. XXXIX

WINNIPEG, MAN., AND LONDON, ONT., OCTOBER 5, 1904.

No. 628

## Editorial.

### Will the Price of Wheat Advance?

In the market for most products, supply and demand fix the price. When an article is badly needed and there is a small amount of it, the price increases. The wheat market, however, quite often shows a variation from this well-established rule of trade and commerce. At one season we see the crop-killer in league with the "bulls," and at another we have the boomster, who predicts heavy yields in the interests of the "bears," and low prices.

During the last three or four weeks signs are not wanting to prove that some of those who buy wheat for milling or other purposes are anxious to boom the yield, because of the effect it will have in keeping down prices until the grain has at least passed out of the farmers' hands. Reports of the amount of damage by rust continue to vary from different districts, and no doubt there is good reason in some cases why they should, but, after careful investigation throughout Manitoba, Assiniboia and Eastern Saskatchewan, we are persuaded that many of the reports published announcing high average yields are far from the facts, except, perhaps, it may be, in the case of the two Territories above named. Really first-class wheat is going to be a scarce article on the American continent this year, and there is certain to be a large demand for it. Our big flour mills have made themselves famous through their high-grade flour made from first-class wheat, and this year, as in the past, they must have it to maintain that valuable reputation. Some of these milling firms have a large and complete system of elevators reaching across the prairie, in which they hope to store, and, in fact, are now receiving all the really choice grain they can secure. They are buying it because they do not expect to see prices that will be more satisfactory to them.

There, undoubtedly, is going to be a large amount of No. 2 and No. 3 Northern, and because of the proportion of lower grades being relatively high, the first-class wheat will be in greater demand. Although we do not, as pointed out in a previous issue, wish to advise farmers to either sell their wheat at once or hold it, we are persuaded that the signs of the times point toward better prices for high grades. Some, of course, have not facilities for holding on, and others have financial obligations to meet, but he who has choice wheat, and can hold it, in all probability will get paid for his trouble.

### The Hired Man Trouble.

From the number of legal inquiries received at the "Farmer's Advocate" office involving difficulties between the hired man and his employer, it is evident that there are more disagreements than usual this year. As a rule, the trouble arises through the employee leaving his job before the expiration of his contract, and attempting to collect wages for the period during which he worked. In a few cases, men have, apparently, become discouraged because another one in the same district was receiving a higher wage for equal labor; while, in others, the disappointment originated through either one or both contracting parties having a very unreasonable idea of the amount of work a hired man should do.

The law in regard to these cases is, as a rule, very clear, and appeals to common sense. In a word, the one breaking the agreement is the one who must suffer. In many cases, however, there is

little, if any, real agreement, and any understanding at first arrived at was entirely verbal, and often without witness.

All these difficulties bear out our contention, as published in March and April, when we strongly urged upon every farmer engaging help the necessity of having, if possible, a written agreement, with witness. When a hired man engages for a term of months at a stated salary, and he leaves his job before the expiration of his time, without just provocation, he cannot expect anything for the period during which he worked, unless otherwise stated in the agreement. Evidently, a number of men have been engaged on Western farms this year whose early life was either spent in a city or some other place where the habits of work on Western farms were quite unknown. A definite and detailed agreement should be insisted upon. It can do no person any harm.

## We Can and Must Grow Clover.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE OFFERS PRIZES TO GROWERS OF THIS VALUABLE LEGUME.

The policy of the Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine has been and is to foster the great profession—Agriculture—in every legitimate way. The carrying into operation of such a policy necessitates a close study of the conditions and needs of our Western agriculture, and calls for original ideas. A few years since, recognizing the great interest in and need for instruction in live-stock judging, the staff of this journal inaugurated the first stock-judging institute held in Canada, at Bradwardine, Man., and suggested and afterwards took charge of the first stock-judging competition held in Western Canada, at Brandon show. Since that time the Farmer's Advocate has continued to assist all workers in this worthy cause, that of live-stock advancement, by offering valuable medals for competition in live-stock judging at the big shows. We feel, however, that the time has arrived to give attention to the fostering of another phase of farming, namely, the growing of that valuable fodder plant and indispensable legume—red clover. Instruction in live-stock judging is now general, and has so demonstrated its usefulness as not to need any special assistance from us by means of rewards. The Farmer's Advocate will therefore offer four silver medals, to be awarded next fall, for the best catch of red clover, one acre or over, seeded in the spring of 1905; and the following year (1906) a gold medal will be offered for the best crop of red clover, one acre or more, cut from land seeded the spring of 1905. For the silver medals Manitoba will be divided into four sections, one medal for each—all sections will compete for the gold medal. Further details to be announced later.

### Who Pays Compensation for Compulsory Slaughter?

The above question has been brought to our notice by one of our readers, who cites the scale laid down under the Contagious Diseases of Animals Act, quoted in our issue of August 17th. In brief, the Department of Agriculture (Federal) only pays compensation for hogs slaughtered on account of hog cholera, but MAY pay for such other diseases, e. g., malade du coit, as the Minister may determine. No compensation is as yet paid for glanders. Hitherto, the municipalities have looked after this matter. Under the policy followed by the Veterinary Director-General no horse is slaughtered unless showing clinical symptoms (discharge from the eyes and nostrils, enlarged glands between the jaws, or farcy buds over the body) of glanders. All cohabitants not clinically affected are tested with mallein, but not slaughtered as the result of one test, but are re-tested, and the hardship is thus materially lessened. A glandered horse showing clinical symptoms should be slaughtered by the owner, not because such is demanded in the public interests, but because it is to his own interests. A discharging glandered horse should be considered as dangerous as dynamite, and should be decently interred as quickly as it can be after its death. Such a horse, permitted to live, is liable to infect other horses, and THE OWNER AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY, and self-preservation ought to dictate immediate slaughter. A discharging glandered horse has NO value. Personally, we believe that if compensation is paid for one contagious disease it should be for all animals compulsorily slaughtered, or else no compensation should be paid whatever. It is a question whether it would not be in the public interest to pay compensation for glanders, seeing that it would not take anything like the amount to stamp out that disease that hog cholera has called for (two years ago, about \$40,000 was expended for hogs slaughtered on account of cholera in Western Ontario). We have, however, sufficient confidence in the administrative ability and integrity of the head of the Health of Animals Branch to leave the matter of compensation in his hands, provided he is not hampered by political influences, which, unfortunately for all sections of the Dominion, are too rampant.

### Our Fruit Supply.

The recent experiment of the Ontario Department of Agriculture in shipping fruit to Winnipeg under the supervision of Prof. J. B. Reynolds (Professor of Physics and Literature, O. A. C., Guelph) was signally successful. The fruit arrived in good condition, although brought by freight in two refrigerator cars—one the C. P. R. (Bohn system); the other, the Hanrahan refrigerator car. The significance of the arrival of this fruit in good condition is seen when it is remembered that whereas the express rate is \$2.10 per cwt. on fruit from the St. Catharines and Grimsby districts, by freight the rate is 66c. The California package was used, but the packing leaves much to be desired, according to appearance and the testimony of Prof. Reynolds. Some of the packages were not filled full—a loose package increases the risk of damage to fruit—others were packed with too thick paper, and others with excelsior. The growers seem to be afraid to spend a little money, especially for a decent-sized stencil or stamp of their name and address. Grapes were shipped in the box, holding thirty pounds net, which sold at auction (wholesale) at prices ranging from \$1.10 to \$1.75. The peaches