

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Journal

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### EDITORIAL

Stripped of all quibbling, the Grain Exchange is not a philanthropic institution.

"Figures do not lie" 'tis said. Alas, that we cannot say the same of the crop prophets

The adage "A short life and a merry one" is not to be taken by nurserymen or others as a warrant to deal in chicanery.

Be careful when buying nursery stock to stipulate *Western-grown*; some of those pretending to supply the real thing, import Southern-grown, tender, and therefore inferior stock.

This is a matter for the Western Horticultural Society to take up at their next annual meeting.

The fruit tree brokerage business is not confined to Alberta in the western provinces. Some houses have admitted to selling in one season several times over more nursery stock than they grow. Where does the stock come from? The Customs department solves the problem. They report nursery stock consigned to western houses as coming in by the car load from the South.

Cruikshank undoubtedly did a great thing for the Shorthorn; Booth and Bates have both had an eclipse. The Scotch one is due now.

The *Globe* says: "British residents in the West are not enamored of the policy of making that country a reproduction of the Danubian provinces."

The report of the first examination held at the M. A. C. in scientific agriculture, is out. It will soon be in order to publish a list of "Who's Who" in farming.

With the people in favor of government ownership of phones, the era will soon pass away when eight farmers will be found on one line at twenty-four dollars per annum per phone.

The Dominion government would be giving the Eastern farmers a fair shake, if they inaugurated assisted passages to Ontario and other eastern provinces for farm laborers from the British Isles.

If the provinces instead of maintaining emigration offices here and there, would use the money for assisted passages as suggested above, or give the money now expended to say, the Salvation Army it would be well.

It was pretty well agreed that a farmer who knew his business could raise hogs at a profit for five cents a pound live weight, and here the statistics show the average price at Winnipeg for the past year to have been over seven cents.

It is not very long ago since a prairie dweller looked askance at coppers, when even a village postmaster would give you a stamp rather than exchange one for the legal number of cents. How times have changed! An announcement is made that fares on the Prince Albert branch are reduced half a cent a mile, from four to three and a half, and how grateful everyone feels! Fancy a half cent reduction, why not one cent reduction? Three cents a mile is the maximum rate Canadians ought to be called upon to pay when the aid to the railroad corporations, the dividends they pay and their investments in capital account are considered. In fact it ought to be two cents a mile in the older settled portions of Canada, including Manitoba.

### Some Rejected Advice.

When the long, cold, still nights and the short, crisp, hazy days alternate with monotonous regularity, the minds of some men naturally fill with gloom. The hands of the Grain Exchange, of the railway magnates, of the coal miners, of the lumbermen, and of divers other masters of trade, though large at most times with oppressive possibilities, increase in these days to the size of a colossus. Editors know this from experience. In winter we receive letters so dark with pessimism that their very gloom haunts us through the nights; but in summer, when the sun leaves us but for a short eight hours, then returns to bless the earth and man with its benign rays, the flow of these letters ceases and the morning and evening of each day see the country hallowed with the bright spirit of optimism.

Under this spell of winter's gloom, many of our readers, who wish us well, advise us to a course of conduct that is simply suicidal. They counsel us to make statements which private citizens can express with impunity, but which, if they appeared on these pages, would involve us in such a state of affairs that the troubles of Emperor Nicholas would appear as a mere church choir ruction.

### Editorial Announcement

We are pleased to announce to our readers that, commencing in this issue, we shall publish in the *Home Journal* a series of articles by Dr. M. E. Allen-Davidson, on *Home Sanitation*. These articles will be found to be of considerable value to our readers from the standpoint of information and suggestion. : : :

"Why," says one correspondent, "instead of spilling ink to let us know how sow thistles and wild oats are eradicated, do you not show us how to eradicate the Grain Exchange?" And another says: "Why do you not print the name of (such and such) a firm, for it is notoriously crooked?" Evils, we know, exist in the grain markets, and the extent of railway facilities are gauged, very often, by the size of the revenue to be expected, rather than by the needs of the patrons of the road; yet it cannot be expected of the agricultural press that it will engage in long and expensive litigation to accomplish that which the government is supposed to do, and is endeavoring to accomplish through its grain commission.

As for the advocacy of reform, we endeavor to do our best in the interests of our readers, realizing that their and our success are mutual, and because we appreciate the power for good which a rational press may exercise. We are prepared to do our share in the moving of the load which hampers the just distribution of the wealth produced on the farms, and for this purpose have taken a short hold, close up to the weight, and are pulling steadily, believing we shall accomplish more than by a snappy jerk with a loud "yo heave".

### Government Employees in the Grain Exchange.

In our editorial columns last week, in dealing with "The Grain Exchange and its Relation to the Marketing of Wheat" the opinion was expressed that government employees, such as the Chief Grain Inspector and the Warehouse Commissioner, should not also be members of the Grain Exchange, seeing that they are expected to observe a strict neutrality as between the farmers and the grain dealers. Human nature being what it is, we cannot

wonder that the farmers look with suspicion on the membership of two government officials, charged with the faithful carrying out of the Grain and Inspection Acts, in an organization which is formed avowedly and solely in the dealers' interests. Many grain growers feel that proximity to the dealers engenders a fondness for that corps of men, and possibly antipathy to the producer.

We can see no good reason why the Grain Inspector's or the Warehouse Commissioner's offices should be in the Grain Exchange, especially when it has two bad effects; viz., exposing the officials to influence, as well as tending to create distrust in the minds of the farmers. Further, the salaries paid to the two officials mentioned are surely large enough to render unnecessary membership in the Grain Exchange. The Chief Grain Inspector's salary in 1905 was \$4,500; that of the Warehouse Commissioner for the last seven months of 1905 was at the rate of \$3,500 per year, an increase of \$1,000 per annum, which in the latter we do not believe was warranted by the work done, so far as it is possible to find. When the salaries of other government officials are compared with that of the Warehouse Commissioner, our mention of the matter will be understood at once. For example, the salary of the Deputy Postmaster General, as per the Auditor-General's report, is \$4,000; that of the Deputy Minister of the Interior \$3,000; Deputy Minister of Customs \$4,000; the Veterinary Director-General \$3,000; the Director-General of Public Health \$4,000; Deputy Minister of Agriculture \$3,700, the last three being under Mr. Fisher, who is noted for his economical handling of his department.

The comparison shows that the amount and importance of the work to be done, and the training necessary, professional or otherwise, are not factors in determining salaries paid. We doubt whether the position of Warehouse Commissioner is worth the money spent on it for salaries. The impression is abroad that when a farmer makes complaint, he is switched off with plausible excuses, or explanations tending to exonerate the grain dealer. Further, the Chief Inspector's opposition to the request of the Grain Growers, that the weight per bushel should be endorsed on each inspection certificate, which request was granted by the government we understand, has been sufficient to stop the implementing of the government's promise. As a result many farmers have lost money, as much as two cents a bushel, on their wheat as it is well known that large quantities of inspected 2 Northern have weighed over sixty-two pounds per bushel. This fact, and the other, that some 2 Northern, the heavy weight stuff, is said to have brought a premium from eastern millers, is one of the causes of the several flurries in Grain Exchange circles.

It was not good tactics on the Chief Inspector's part to oppose the placing of the weight per bushel on the inspection certificates; of course to do so would mean an additional check on the accuracy of the grading, as to whether it is done by the standards or not. The Inspector's objection was on the score of work and expense, which after all is quibbling, because it would appear to be easy to get both money and men, for work dealing with the grain trade, in the department of trade and commerce; his opposition rather tends to lend color to complaints against the inspection of grain in western Canada.

If the Experimental Farm reports on grains and fodder corn, etc., would only have a paragraph or two stating the varieties they recommend farmers to plant, and remarks re the characteristics of each, the bulletins would be more thoroughly scanned, and of some value to new-comers.

The dual purpose type of Shorthorn that exists in the minds of some stockmen is a short-ribbed, narrow-chested, leggy animal. The exact opposite is the real thing as they have it in England.