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WINNIPEG

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

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WINNIPEG, MAN., AND LONDON, ONT., JANUARY 6, 1904.

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Editorial.

Bread Producers Convene.

The week before Christmas, in the Territorial capital, King Wheat's supporters convened, and a right royal gathering they had. The effervescence of genial, broad-minded good-fellowship, coupled with an untiring ability for Western advancement, prevailed throughout the meetings. Every one seemed to fill the niche wherein his usefulness told most for the general good of the association. Those who handled the helm knew the chart in detail, and also were masters to direct, for noiselessly, so far as friction was concerned, did the trusty craft plow through oceans of work, fulfilling obligations and reaching the port on time.

The work of the past year was very gratifying to those who had faithfully kept their shoulders to the wheel, and more than ever does the organization realize that only by everlasting effort and untiring zeal on the part of each individual member can the highest good be attained.

The annual gathering, in the first place, has a very stimulating influence, which continually keeps working throughout the year along numerous lines according to the characteristic personality of the various members which constitute the whole. Last year's meetings had imbued many a resourceful individual with inspiration to perform faithful work throughout the year by gathering information and in other ways assisting not only self but the neighborhood and country, in so far as conditions and ability permitted.

These meetings have the natural tendency to take a man out of his shell and help him to see that life for self is a grovelling existence. They inspire courage, implant useful methods, which keep on "leavening" until a mighty change has resulted; new ideas have been born and given voice, and they in turn are now taking root; another fruitage day will dawn.

Another advantage of these meetings is that men of strong ideas have these blended, mixed, sifted, until the combined outcome of the gathering greatly exceeds in its grand culminating, far-reaching usefulness anything anticipated by an individual member. The impetus given for keener insight and nobler effort ameliorates many tendencies which otherwise would have a deteriorating effect.

The T. G. G. have proved by many of their resolutions passed at their last convention, and reported elsewhere in this issue, that they are a very perspicacious body, immutable in their determination that every step must be forward. They fully realize that in the developing of this rich agricultural country brain and muscle must work in unison. They have the muscle, and with it are producing "bread stuffs" in excess of present transportation facilities. The staff of life is here in abundance, a veritable drug on the market, and for that and other closely-allied purposes the combined brain power of these wealth producers is now centered upon ways and means to alleviate their enemies of increased prosperity.

The asthmatical engines which are so often forced westward, not for their health, but rather for the purpose of maintaining trade at competing

points, are far from conducive to the best interests of the West, and yet their dying efforts are no uncommon prairie sight. Were that the only hampering feature of a public nature to which the Western producer is tethered, matters would be bad enough, but cost of building material has increased unproportionately in his locality, caused by some understanding seemingly imperfectly understood, else surely the powers that be would have made more effort to have righted that which threatens with no uncertain sound to retard Western progress.

A strong, fearless railway commission is urgently needed, a tribunal having the love of national development at heart. With such a power for good assisting and leading the grain-growers, great things would be accomplished in a few years, should the seasons prove favorable.

Improved grain inspection and a new grading standard particularly suitable for commercial purposes, would materially assist in strengthening present conditions, by giving heart to the farmer's effort, consequently new strength to his arm.

Systematic blending and Eastern grading must be done away with ere the Western G.-G. can feel reasonably secure, for all such tampering indirectly affects his pocket, and what perhaps hurts him even more, he feels that these two acts are weakening the prestige of his honored product on the British market, and as a true Canadian he resents such with a tenacity born to live and overcome. He may be thwarted for a time, but outdone, Never! The present influence of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange also creates sensations not altogether blissful, but like true Westerners these sturdy farmers are ever hopeful, and are carefully sowing clean seed of tested vitality, so that by and bye they will reap a full harvest.

Throughout all the meetings of the convention a broad-mindedness was visibly manifested, adding prestige to the gathering, and placing the many speakers on a much higher plane than could possibly have been attained by any aimed-for effort on their part.

Siftings.

Like time and tide, opportunities wait for no man.

It is better to give praise seven times where it is not due than to condemn once unjustly.

To read without thinking is like eating without chewing. Read less and think more.

Failures should never discourage us. Every failure should be set up as a danger signal to warn us from making the same mistake again.

It is humiliating to think of the number of boys on farms in all parts of the country who have never thought that a knowledge of scientific farming would benefit them in the least. They vainly imagine that having been born on a farm, and learned how to harness horses and hitch them to a plow or wagon, and haul and plow like other people, that they naturally know how to farm. There is no one so ignorant as he who is ignorant of his ignorance.—[Farm and Ranch.

When in doubt about something you would like to do, just keep on "sawing wood" that you know needs to be cut.

The annual dinner of the Portage and Lakeside

Agricultural Society, held at Portage on the 14th December, is one of those social functions which infuse into our business life a sense of genial co-operation and sympathy with one another, which leads to enlarged incomes and the better enjoyment of them.

System and care have as much to do with success as good farming, and the two are generally found to go together where success results.

The first weekly agricultural journal published in the West.

What profession to-day is more deserving of having a weekly publication issued in its interest than agriculture?

Become a contributor to the "Farmer's Advocate" by sending in the agricultural news of your district, or a description of how you grew that big crop.

A New Era.

With this issue the great and rapidly-growing army of "Farmer's Advocate" subscribers residing between Port Arthur and the Pacific Coast have presented to them the first agricultural weekly journal ever published in Western Canada. We are living in an age of rapid advancement. Agriculture, as well as other professions, is making marvellous strides. Farmers, perhaps as never before, are awake to the importance of being well informed upon agricultural topics.

Since the announcement was made one month ago that the progressive farmers of this country were to be given the opportunity of reading a weekly farm paper, hundreds of letters have been received testifying to the high appreciation in which the announcement has been received. We beg to return our humble acknowledgments and trust that our efforts in future may be worthy of all these kind words. It will be our aim to produce such a journal as every intelligent farmer's family in Western Canada will consider a part of the home. From week to week an effort will be made to supply such agricultural information as the people stand most in need of. To do this we desire the co-operation of our readers. By friendly co-operation and suggestion, the reader can do much to make the "Farmer's Advocate" still better in every respect. You can help by giving a few notes on some agricultural topic of practical interest. If there is any information in your possession that has helped you, send it along for the benefit of others. The newcomers will need such counsel, and thousands of them will be welcomed to the West this year. Help your fellow toiler to accomplish more during the year 1904 than 1903, with a lessened outlay of toil. Consider our columns yours, and thus join in making the first agricultural weekly paper of Western Canada, even more than it was as a semi-monthly, a benefaction to agriculture, the supreme industry of the West.

Scarcity of hay is one of the drawbacks that a great many farmers in Manitoba will have to labor under this winter. The price is steadily rising, and those who have hay for sale are keeping it for still higher prices, which are sure to come before spring.