

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

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## A New Dairy Superintendent for Manitoba.

Charles A. Murray has been appointed to the position of Dairy Superintendent, rendered vacant by the dismissal of C. C. McDonald. Mr. Murray is a son of Assistant Superintendent Murray, of the C. P. R., and advises us that his experience extends over a period of nine years in the States, principally in connection with dairy supply firms in the building and equipping of creameries. He has also attended the dairy schools at Madison, Wisconsin; Ames, Iowa; and at Guelph, taking up special work. He expects to open the Dairy School early in January, full particulars of which will be available at an early date. Mr. Murray has a very difficult position to fill, owing to the disjointed condition of the dairy industry in this Province, and we trust he has the qualifications necessary to make a success of his department, though many people were expecting that the position would go to one of our well-known Canadian dairy experts.

## Dairy Cows vs. Stockers.

In some of the districts around Winnipeg, where home dairying is carried on most profitably in conjunction with grain farming and stock raising, many farmers are disposing of their young stock at the very favorable prices prevailing and investing the cash received in the improvement of their stables and the purchase of more dairy cows. The introduction of the hand separator so reduces the labor of the home dairy, and the strong demand and good prices for dairy butter during all this season, has given a great impetus to this industry. While there is a good demand, at good prices, for young cattle, there is no less a demand for in-calf cows. While it may be profitable to dispose of young steers and put the money into cows, it is questionable whether it is wise to sell the heifers. When a man has been breeding from cows that are good dairy cows, and using a bull likely to intensify these desirable qualities, it is very improbable if cows can be bought, without the most skillful selection, that will prove as profitable as would the females bred at home. This is a question worthy of careful consideration before a price is put on the young heifers.

The selection of profitable cows, whose product actually yields a profit over their keep, and the successful feeding of calves on separator milk, are questions of very great import at the present time and worthy of study.

## Elevator Commission.

The Elevator Commission has about completed its labors, having taken evidence at a great many of the grain centers in Manitoba and the Territories. A great variety of evidence has been presented by farmers whose evidence has been mostly individual opinion, there having been no organized efforts to present their case before the Commission. In some places where the greatest dissatisfaction has existed, little interest was taken, and not much evidence presented to the Commission, probably owing to an impression that no benefit would result from any report that the Commission might present to the Government. The Commission having been appointed to investigate the whole question, in order to place information before the House of Commons, it seems a pity that every possible means should not have been taken to lay before them full and definite information, apart from all personal or political feelings. There is no doubt but that the grain-men will furnish a most complete and carefully prepared statement of their side of the question. However, judging from the reports of meetings to hand, the one point that has been emphasized by nearly every producer appearing before the Commission was the desirability for absolute freedom in the shipping of wheat through flat warehouses or otherwise, and we believe that the abrogation of the C. P. Railway's special privilege to standard elevators would settle the whole

question. Not that flat warehouses would be built to any extent to compete with elevators, but, as has time and again been pointed out, the privilege to erect them would serve as a check to abuse of the privileges now held by owners of elevators. We do not believe that any intricate system of Government inspection is required; freedom to ship as one sees fit will pretty well solve the whole question. Of course, those who invested capital in standard elevators, conditional upon the special privileges, may have some claim on the parties who gave them the privileges, and to them they should look for settlement. The question seems to be whether the granting of these privileges was within the legal power of the railway companies, and whether the Government can enforce the doing away with them.

## A Hail Insurance Company Under a Cloud.

Hail insurance has been a much-discussed subject for several years, and many proposals have been made for providing cheap and safe protection. No practical solution having been arrived at, the public seemed to be ready to fall in with any businesslike proposition that promised to give satisfactory insurance at reasonable rates.

Last spring a number of business men from Minnesota, who had been connected with hail insurance in that State, came over to Manitoba and concluded that there was a good field for a live hail insurance company. These men had good financial backing, but in order to get a charter from the Local Government to enable them to do business in the Province, it was necessary to have a number of local names among the applicants. This was easily arranged, the charter obtained under the title of the Manitoba Farmers' Mutual Hail Insurance Co., and also a license to do business in the Territories from the Territorial Government. Several expert hail insurance canvassers were brought over from Minnesota, and the company made a big push for business. In all 3,900 policies were issued, representing in amount \$3,339,564.33. At the close of the season an assessment of 5% was made, with a 25% discount offered for prompt payment. This seemed an exorbitant assessment, as there was little loss occasioned by hail this past season. Representations were made to the Local Government, who appointed a commission to investigate the affairs of the Company. The finding of this commission has been published through the length and breadth of the country, and according to it there have been gross irregularities practiced by the duly appointed agents of the Company, and some unwise (if not illegal) methods of doing business practiced by the Company itself. Presumably policyholders will have to pay their premium notes, except in cases where it can be proven that policies were obtained by fraud. The Company evidently purpose continuing in business, and desire to have confidence restored. At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held recently in Winnipeg, they decided to forego the creation of a reserve fund from the levy of this year, and to refund any amount paid in excess of the amount necessary to pay actual losses and liabilities to those paying, in proportion to the amount paid by each.

## Meat Inspection in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg's Health Department proposes to have all meat offered for consumption in the city inspected and branded, so that citizens may choose between healthy or diseased meat, or, rather, between the several brands that may appear on the carcass. It is proposed to inspect all live cattle before slaughter, and then inspect the meat after slaughter. Only that which is killed in the city and found healthy will be branded "first-class"; all meat brought in dressed will, if found free from disease germs, be branded "second-class." Such a system would imply a deal of guesswork, and seems about

as workable and practicable as the many schemes devised by this same department to provide citizens with pure milk, every one of which have, so far, been a conspicuous failure.

Dr. McEachran, Dominion Veterinary, when passing through the city lately, appeared before the City Health Committee. In connection with tuberculosis in cattle, he recommended that the Government be urged to set aside a sum for the compensation of owners of condemned tuberculous dairy cattle, and said he believed \$250,000 would stamp the disease out of Canada. He is further reported to have said: "As a result of the work done in Ontario and Quebec, for eight months the Experimental Station has been trying to secure animals showing symptoms of tuberculosis, but none could be found." He thought an appropriation would be passed at the next session of Parliament. He also took occasion to point out to the Health Committee that "many of the cattle affected with lump jaw were not necessarily unfit for food." There was no known instance, he said, where disease of the kind mentioned (lump jaw) had been contracted through the consumption of the flesh of the affected cattle.

## Winnipeg Industrial Dates for 1900.

The dates upon which the 1900 Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition are to be held have been fixed for July 23rd to 27th, or one week later than in 1899. These dates, while running into the commencement of the haying season in Eastern Manitoba, will, in all likelihood, be much more suitable to the majority of people, and will very greatly conduce to a more respectable display of horticultural products. In discussing the question of dates, the present Board recommended to the consideration of the Board of 1900 the advisability of opening the Fair on Monday morning and closing on Friday night. This would mean that all exhibits should be in place on the Friday and Saturday previous to the opening, and that judging in all classes would begin on Monday morning at 10 o'clock, instead of Tuesday as formerly; and by closing the Fair on Friday night exhibitors would be enabled to get back home before Sunday. We feel very sure that such a programme would be very much appreciated by live stock exhibitors particularly, as far too much Sunday work has been necessitated by the arrangements of the past few years. It is, however, doubtful if it would be wise to start the judging of live stock on Monday, as visitors could not be present without coming into the city on Sunday or before, and to many visitors the most interesting and instructive part of the exhibition is to see the live stock while they are parading in the judging arenas. This, in fact, is the only time when an intelligent comparison of the stock can be made. In all other departments, except, perhaps, fresh fruits and vegetables, judging could be started on the Monday; but Tuesday morning would be time enough for the live stock sections.

Another point worth emphasizing, if the proposed arrangement be carried out, is the absolute necessity of closing the gates against all visitors and others, as far as possible, on the Sunday, and insisting that all exhibits be in position on Saturday night.

## More Bulls for the West.

We understand that in pursuance of some arrangement made between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the C. P. R., the latter are giving free transportation to eight carloads of pure-bred bulls that are to be brought in.