

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

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## Thanksgiving.

Thursday, October 16th, the date appointed by the Dominion Government for our annual national Thanksgiving celebration, may not be the most convenient for all sections of so vast a country, with such diversified conditions. It would probably be found impossible to fix upon a date equally acceptable and suitable to all the provinces, and certainly no time equally opportune for all the people could be selected. This being the case, it is well for all to accept the date set apart for the purpose in the spirit suggested by the name given the day and the occasion, and for each to observe it in accordance with his circumstances and in the manner that commends itself to his judgment and his better nature.

The observation of the day as a holiday in the popular sense, while it is all right for those whose circumstances admit of it, if wisely and judiciously done, is not really a necessary accompaniment of the occasion, and the industrious farmer and his family who, finding their work crowding them and duties pressing that cannot well be deferred, may quite as consistently celebrate the day in the spirit of thanksgiving while engaged in their usual occupations.

If the enjoyment of peace and plenty constitute prime reasons for thankfulness, surely Canada, of all countries, has abundant cause for acknowledgment of the blessings of a beneficent Providence. While a year ago the dark cloud of war hung over a part of our empire, feasting for the sacrifice of the lives of some of the sons of the Dominion, bringing sorrow and sadness to some homes, to-day "white-winged peace" hovers over a happy, prosperous and contented people, a bountiful harvest having crowned the labors of the husbandman, the measure of it being "shaken down, heaped up and running over," our principal apprehension being the difficulty in securing sufficient transportation facilities for carrying our abundant products to market, and the danger of a blockade.

The year drawing to a close has certainly been a record one in the history of the Canadian Northwest. The phenomenal in-rush for the purchase and possession of land and the unusual increase in the extent of immigration and settlement will mark the present year as the opening of a new era in the advancement and prosperity of this western world, and will add immensely to the fame of this country as a field for home-seekers from the east and from the Old World over the seas. There is room and a welcome for all who will come with an honest purpose to prove good citizens and with a loyal effort to improve and develop the country, while providing for themselves and families homes of comfort and good cheer. New settlers with limited means may expect to have to endure the privations incident to pioneer life under such circumstances, but with frugality, patience and perseverance and the adoption of the methods of farming found most suitable in the experience of the earlier settlers all difficulties may be overcome and a comfortable home assured in a comparatively short time.

To those who have found their feet firmly fixed on farms freed from debt and feel disposed to launch out into more extensive holdings, no word of encouragement is needed, but rather, perhaps, a word of caution against undue speculation and the danger of being drawn into deeper water than one can fathom with his feet and his head clear above the surface. The wave

of prosperity now passing over the West will doubtless have its ebb as well as its flow, and while it is well to mount the crest and, metaphorically, make hay while the sun shines, it is the part of wisdom to pay as you go, and to be somewhat careful to undertake no more than can be safely handled. In periods of prosperity and in the strenuous life of the new and bounding West there is need of guarding against the liability to overlook the importance of gaining the best in life, and there is need of pausing to reflect on the source of life and its many blessings, "lest we forget, lest we forget."

## To Remove Restrictions to Home Building.

With the rapid increase in land values and the general prosperity throughout the West, the process of home-making goes on apace. In most districts throughout the whole country there is great improvement noticeable in the buildings and general appearance of the farms. The shack period once passed and the home-building process started, not only improved buildings appear, but tree plantations and wind-breaks, and once these are established comes the desire for small fruits and the hope for large fruits, as plums, crabs and apples. Perhaps nothing will tend more toward home-making than trees and fruits and flowers, and everything that can be done toward that end is worthy of encouragement.

As has been pointed out on more than one occasion in the columns of the "Advocate," Ontario and Eastern grown trees, especially fruit trees, are too tender to be successfully grown in this country. It has been demonstrated at the Experimental Farms that even the hardy elm, although of exactly the same variety as is native here, when brought from Ontario so far north as Ottawa, is so tender that it freezes down every year. The climatic conditions to the south of us in Minnesota much more nearly resembles our own than do the conditions east of the Great Lakes. The horticulturists of Minnesota have for fifty years past been experimenting in fruit-growing, and have certainly made splendid progress, as evidenced by the magnificent displays annually made in the fruit department at the State Fair at Hamline. Now, it would seem only natural for us to take advantage of what has been accomplished during the fifty years of experimental work in these States immediately to the south of us, and profiting by their experience, use the varieties that have been proved to be hardy and satisfactory with them, and from this source we could surely obtain quicker and more satisfactory results than by awaiting the somewhat slow process of "breeding up" suitable varieties from the Siberian crab for our own use. The Experimental Farms are doing worthy work in their endeavor to evolve an apple from the *Pyrus baccata*, but when there are good hardy varieties across the boundary line it does seem ridiculous that every facility should not be had for testing them.

The situation briefly is this: A very deadly tree insect, the San Jose scale, attacked some of the orchards and nurseries of Ontario, coming from the Eastern States, where great damage had been done in some districts. In order to protect the Canadian fruit industry, what is known as the San Jose Scale Act was passed by the

Federal Government. This Act prohibited the importation of all trees and shrubs that might carry the scale from the States. This legislation, while possibly very necessary to protect Ontario and the Eastern Provinces, had the effect of stopping the importation of trees into Manitoba and the Territories from Minnesota, where it has always been claimed the scale never did exist, and yet giving the West no protection against the infected nurseries of Ontario. The injustice of this legislation being brought to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture by the Horticultural Societies in the West and some of the Western members of Parliament, the Act was amended to permit of the importation of trees at certain periods of the year under provisions for thorough fumigation. This process would work well were it not that the process of fumigation is exceedingly dangerous to the life of the tree, and only when the plants are in a dormant state can they withstand the exposure to the hydrocyanic acid gas. The difficulty is to get southern-grown plants matured early enough in the fall or held back enough in the spring to arrive at the fumigation ports in a condition to withstand the test and still reach their destination in the country in suitable time for setting out.

The Jewell Nursery Co., of Minnesota, one of the largest and most enterprising concerns in the States, claims that there is now a large demand throughout Manitoba and parts of the Territories for hardy nursery stock, and they have asked the Provincial Horticultural Society for their co-operation in securing an amendment to the San Jose Scale Act whereby importations of nursery stock to Manitoba could be fumigated at the nursery in Minnesota instead of at Winnipeg. They propose to undertake the extra expense that might thus be incurred, allowing the Government, of course, to retain complete control of the fumigating. Doubtless the Horticultural Societies will use their best endeavors to this end, but in the meantime it will be well to remember that the fall dates for receiving nursery stock at Winnipeg run from October 7th to December 7th; the spring dates from March 15th to May 15th.

## We are Up Against It.

The farmers of the West are producing more wheat than the railroads can handle in the short time between harvest and the closing of the lake ports. With all the increase of storage and rolling stock that has been provided since last year's blockade there is still not enough accommodation. The farmer is advised not to rush all his grain to market at once, to distribute the transportation of it throughout the year; and on the other hand, he is advised not to hold his own wheat for speculation, to convert his wheat into cash as quickly as possible and meet his liabilities, and save the shrinkage and interest on the wheat. Everyone knows that the best time to sell is the early market, and the man who gets his wheat off first makes most out of it, consequently the desire to sell early while there is storage and rolling stock available. To build granaries and handle wheat over several times adds greatly to the cost to the producer. It is all very well for the city press to advise the farmers to insure against loss through the grain blockade by building granaries, but as the railroads can't find cars enough to haul lumber to build the granaries, what would they advise next?