

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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Editorial.

The Principal Needed Now.

Now is the time for the appointment of the Principal of Manitoba Agricultural College. If the institution is to be ready for a term next winter the work of erecting the buildings will require to begin in early spring. This, we believe, is the intention of the Local Government. But before the first sods are turned the man who is to direct the new college should have been given an opportunity of visiting similar institutions in the United States and Eastern Canada. The very best information obtainable regarding building plans and the course of instruction to be outlined should be in possession of the chief director before building operations begin. Upon his shoulders there will be a great responsibility, and he should be given ample time to prepare for it.

In filling this important position there is no reason to believe that the Government have not a high appreciation of the qualifications necessary. It should not be placed within reach of the heelers, of which both great political parties unfortunately appear to have their share. Nothing would be more fatal to the cause of agricultural education in this Province than the election of a principal who could not have a free hand to pursue as he believed the wisest course. The persistent wire-puller for government favors during the last decade particularly, has made himself an abomination to cabinet ministers, but in the present instance there is confidence in the hope that practical men will be appointed to the staff. The Principal should be selected without delay, and his work should begin at the earliest possible date.

Confidence Essential to Success.

With present low beef prices, and our ranges, as well as those of our neighbor to the south, stocked with mature steers more plentifully than common, the outlook for an average movement of surplus cattle, whether they be pure-bred or not, is far from satisfactory to breeder or seller.

Times of depression are certain, and it is well to remember that money is often lost through indiscriminate sacrifice during the backward movements of the great pendulum which regulates the value of the daily butcher bill of the world. The upward swings brings with it flush times, and misfits from other callings join in the cattle business and clamor for a share of the profits, but before he has mastered the art of cattle-raising the pendulum swings back again and the novice again changes his vocation.

When ups and downs are all counted, the stockman who understands his business has a good margin on the right side of his bank account, and, hence, experience has taught the prudent cattleman to view the situation calmly, without any lack of confidence in the ultimate result, for before long market prices will at least recover to the extent that a fair remuneration can be expected.

During times of depression it is common for those requiring sires to purchase cheaper animals than they would were prices good. Such a policy is ruinous to the best interests of their business. When beef is plentiful it is only the best type of animal, the one that gives abundant proof of first-class quality, that will find a ready purchaser, and these animals can only be produced by the right type of sire. Buy good sires, and have confidence in your business.

The Agricultural College Course.

As the time draws near for the appointment of a Principal for Manitoba Agricultural College, the course of study to be undertaken becomes a matter of greater moment to the agricultural interests of the Province. There can be no denying that there is a strong element centered in the higher educational circles of the City of Winnipeg, whose influence is being brought to bear in favor of having the college course laid down upon a four-year basis, leading toward a degree from Manitoba University. Of those who advocate the adoption of that course, it unfortunately must be said that they are either deficient in a knowledge of the practical needs of the Province or have a greater desire to set up an ideal than to help the young farmers of Manitoba who are interested in instruction that would be easy of application. It has been frequently pointed out in these columns that at the establishment of the institution it would mean a useless and unwarranted expenditure to provide the additional staff and equipment necessary to the advanced work leading to the degree of Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture (B. S. A.).

The expense of building and properly manning the college under any arrangement will be considerable, and it should be carried out on lines to suit the agricultural classes rather than to meet the whims or designs of university officials who desire that all education should be directed by the Provincial Capital of learning. Should the curriculum be one so arranged that students can take the regular course during winter without interfering with those necessary duties of the farm which come when labor is most needed, there will be undoubtedly a fair attendance from the beginning. The course should, therefore, begin in the fall, when the rush of summer work is over, and end in early spring. Under this system it would be impracticable to have the course lead to a degree, because students doing so would require to remain during the summer until June to pursue investigation work. It is, however, pretty certain that the number of young men who could spare the extra time or who have the desire to take a degree course in agriculture in this Province at present, and for a few years to come, is limited to a very small number.

In the Province of Ontario, with an agricultural college of high standing, and a people to whom the virtues of agricultural education have been preached unceasingly for many years, the average number who annually take the bachelor degree in agriculture does not exceed one dozen. Is it, then, to be supposed that in a comparatively new country, where the average citizen has much to learn of the advantages of an agricultural college, there is likely to be a sufficient number calling for advanced work to justify the establishment of a course to meet their needs?

The "Farmer's Advocate" is not opposed to a degree course where the conditions warrant it, quite the contrary. But this condition certainly does not exist in Manitoba at present. The time will surely come when it will be demanded, and then only should it be established. For the present the entire financial force which is available to promote the interests of agricultural education should be directed in such a way as will do the greatest good to the greatest number of the young farmers of Manitoba, and that way is in the establishment of a regular course extending over two winters, with a short course lasting for a fortnight or perhaps longer, when the elementary principles in grain growing, soil cultivation

and stock judging and management may be dealt with for those whose time for study is most limited.

Pointers.

The plans for Manitoba Winter Fair at Neepawa are well arranged. It will be worth seeing.

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It will be a big deal when the B. C. lumbermen sell out to the C. P. R., but it has not gone through yet. Who is the biggest bluffer?

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An Experimental Farm in Alberta would soon determine to what extent fall wheat and clovers could be grown along the sunny slopes east of the Rockies.

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The Dominion Exhibition campaign is making substantial progress. So far those who have opposed it did so mainly for selfish reasons.

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The stock-judging school at Brandon, Feb. 18th to 20th, promises to be even better patronized than last year.

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Buying a stallion simply because he is big has been likened to voting for a candidate for office because he weighs 300 pounds.

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Treat all live stock kindly. The value of such treatment cannot be overestimated.

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Prepare now for the next harvest, by study and planning for an advantageous sowing.

The Manitoba Winter Fair.

The citizens of Neepawa are certainly to be congratulated for their enterprise in undertaking to carry on a winter fair. To that town must go the credit for the first exhibition of the kind in Western Canada, and the promoters and supporters of the movement are worthy of the hearty sympathy and support of all stockmen.

Being the first attempt at a show of this kind, the directors have prepared a very attractive list of prizes. In the beef classes a first prize of ten dollars and a second of five is being offered. Considering that there are a great many classes, the amount of money which has been raised is remarkable.

Prizes are also being given for sheep and swine; special emphasis being placed upon the bacon hog. A good poultry exhibit is encouraged, and a large display of dressed fowl is expected.

It is intended to submit some of the animals to the slaughter test, and lectures by competent instructors will be given on the live animal, and on the dressed carcass as well. The entire exhibition is intended as a great educational lesson for the farmers of the Neepawa and surrounding districts, and a large attendance is already assured. Farmers from a distance who can spare the time will be fully repaid for railway and other expense by spending the days of this exhibition at Neepawa.

At the Wisconsin Experiment Station it was found that cows given warm water drank eight to ten pounds more per day than when supplied with cold. In one trial cows given warm water produced six per cent. more milk than those given cold, while in another trial the difference was only one per cent. in favor of warm water.