

Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

Vol. XLV.

Winnipeg, Canada, October 13, 1909

No. 890

FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1866.

Canada's Foremost Agricultural Journal
Published Every Wednesday.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

Canada and Great Britain, per annum, in advance	\$1.50
(if in arrears)	2.00
United States and Foreign countries, in advance	2.50

Date on label shows time subscription expires.

In accordance with the law, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to all subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance, accompanied by payment of all arrears.

British Agency, W. W. Chapman, Mowbray House, Norfolk St., London, W. C., England.

Specimen copies mailed free. Agents wanted. Address all communications to the firm, not to any individual.

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

OF WINNIPEG, LIMITED,

14-16 PRINCESS STREET,

WINNIPEG, MAN.

EDITORIAL

Shipping Grain Westward

The possibilities of the western route for the shipment of grain is of vast import to all concerned in the grain trade between the Dominion and the United Kingdom. A few weeks ago a representative of the port of Bristol, who is charged with the duty of encouraging trade between Canada and Bristol, visited Vancouver to study the advantages of the Pacific route for the shipment of grain from Western Canada to the markets of Great Britain. He is reported to have left convinced that the Pacific coast is the logical outlet, and that the development of the western route would be of considerable benefit.

The opinion of the Bristol agent on the vexed question of bulk shipment from Pacific ports is particularly interesting. He is convinced that if cargoes were properly loaded and ventilated, there would be no valid objection to the shipment in bulk and that although the cost of lining ships for carrying bulk cargoes would be considerable this would be offset by cheaper cost of handling. If modern facilities were provided in Vancouver he is convinced that trade would follow.

This problem of western shipments, however, is one that needs very careful consideration and no doubt those connected with the working out of the scheme will know all particulars before any considerable expense is gone to in arranging for grain shipments from the Pacific coast of Canada. The rate of insurance, the time taken to go from the Canadian coast to its destination and the fact that the grain has to be sacked, are obstacles at present in the way. As to actual hauling charges there seems to be a difference of opinion among the authorities. It seems, however, that as yet no calculations have shown a saving by a divorce from the regular rail and boat route.

Horse Racing and Professional Gambling

Victoria bankers figure that two hundred thousand dollars were taken out of that city during a recent race meet of several weeks' duration. After making this good sized clean up on the island the sure thing artists moved over to Vancouver and opened a sixty days' engagement at Minoru Park, where they have evidently been doing a satisfactory business, for the sixty days are past and gone and the hook-nosed bookmakers with their touts and tipsters, are still in town and the nags are being jogged daily over the same old course. When Vancouver has been properly milked the layout is scheduled to repair to Montana. It cannot get out of the coast country too quickly and the people in charge of horse racing in British Columbia should see that there is no repetition of the wholesale gambling features that characterized this year's meet.

Horse racing of this kind cannot excuse its existence on the ground that it is improving the trotting or running breeds. The horses are there merely as a pretext for betting, and if light horse breeders in America wish to retain public confidence in their business they will have to divorce their interests from those of the professional gambler.

The British Farmer and the Land Tax

How should land be taxed? That is a question of some moment among British agriculturists. One group of politicians, constituting the government, hold that the unearned increment of land, the value accruing not from any act of the owner but from the growth of population and the public improvements of the community, belongs to the people and should revert to the people accordingly. The other group, those opposing the much discussed British budget of 1909, maintain that taxing future values is to merely increase the burden of taxation already borne by those who use the land, that is, the agricultural classes. The British agriculturist, who is rather hazy as to the meaning of unearned increments and future values, is inclined to stand pat and advocate the leaving of land taxation as it is. In the meantime the budget is passing to the peers, who, since they own about nine-tenths of the land of the United Kingdom, should know fairly well what to do with a measure that proposes to take some of the growing value of that landed wealth from them.

Preparing for Winter

Now that glorious weather and a bounteous harvest have pleased Western Canadians, special care should be taken to ensure a continuance of that feeling of contentment. Cosy homes and good health are boons that help to make life on the farm worth while. Generally

speaking all is satisfactory in summer, but when winter sets in the cold blasts and low temperatures make uncomfortable homes, and ventilation is an enemy to health. Now is the time to guard against these. One day spent at much needed repairs in and around the house will do much to make it more comfortable. Liberal banking up, careful work around doors and windows and the installation of stoves or furnace mean much. As to ventilation it is an easy matter to put on double doors and windows, so arranged that thorough ventilation can be given and fresh air provided for the inmates of the house. Of course none will neglect the fuel supply.

Set apart at least one day to make these desirable preparations for providing winter's comforts. When January comes you will not regret it.

Strength of Wheat Situation

One northern wheat closed at Winnipeg, Sept. 1st, at 99½ cents per bushel; it closed the last day of the month at 94½, a loss of 5 cents in thirty days—not a very serious reduction, considering the way wheat has been offering during September and the inactivity of demand. In Liverpool, the largest wheat-buying center in the world, the market for more than three months has been characterized by a dullness in the demand for both consumptive and speculative grain, and in the meantime in America supplies were piling up, and Russia was shipping wheat in larger volume than in any previous year. At any other time such condition of the market would have started wheat slumping, but this year it didn't slump, and, having passed successfully through one month of the yearly period when sellers outnumber the buyers and pound values down, it is probable the cereal will be able to hold its own for the remainder of the season. Certainly Old Country millers will have to buy grain more freely before long. The reserves they hold are nearing exhaustion, and when the European demand becomes normal again prices are likely to be he'd. In the meantime the Argentine is quite a factor in the situation, but the wise ones are not looking for any serious break to come from that quarter. Anyway, without breaking price, the world can stand a lot more wheat than the Argentine or Australia are able to send.

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The oat crop is estimated high in all countries. In Canada we have a crop an even hundred million heavier than 1908. The United States authorities have estimated theirs at 200,000,000 bushels over the out-turn of last year. In all growing countries, in Europe the oat crop is rated a record-breaker for size, and European buyers expect an easier market in consequence.