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EDITORIAL

The Arbor Day Spirit.

Our endorsement is upon the plans of the Western Horticultural Society in its endeavors through organized friendly rivalry to further the growing of trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses for the beautifying of homes and schools. In the knowledge that we have land in plenty upon which to build homes and to grow crops and stock for their maintenance, we have been too content to rest. Our standard of a home has descended to the low level of the necessary—the home and the land. The significance of the power of attachment possessed by woods, groves, lawns, flowers, vines, and a combination of natural embellishments is not sufficiently appreciated. The man or woman or boy or girl who spends his or her moments of rest and recreation on the dry parched brown grass on the sheltered side of a house exposed to the glaring sun and the blistering summer winds, cannot develop into so useful a citizen, cannot even be so capable of making money as he could have been if these moments were spent in spots where trees break the velocity of the winds and by filtering it through their moist leaves give it the benign influence of a soothing breeze where grasses sheltered from the action of evaporating winds grow fresh and green, where flowers lift their soft tints to relieve the strain of the monotony upon the eye and where creeping vines ramble over walls and fences, giving to the home a sense of seclusion and of privacy. The influence of surroundings upon character can only be measured by the alternate fitness of a people to direct its own and humanity's destiny, and so far such a people has never been produced upon a land where grass is practically the only vegetation.

The tenor of these remarks reflects upon the Arbor Day spirit, a spirit that should permeate every person during the month of May. Upon some farms nothing more can be done this year than the preparing of the ground; upon others trees and shrubs native to the country and indigenous to the district can be lifted from bluff and woods and transplanted about the farmstead; vines can be obtained and planted upon the sun-exposed side of a kitchen or living room; children at school can be interested in flowers and shrubs; in fact, there is an imperative need that everyone become infatuated with a vision of a country dotted with homes surrounded with trees, which in turn develops a people broad in intellect, sympathetic in character and versatile in ability. Plant trees!

Where a Little Professional Advice Would have been Helpful.

One of the most difficult and delicate pieces of work to be attempted by any Department of a Government is that of veterinary police work, such as is done by the Health of Animals Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, dealing as it does entirely with the control and suppression of contagious diseases of animals. Such work, necessitating as it occasionally does, compulsion in the interests of the public health, may cause friction, especially in the case of hot heads or people lacking information of the significance of such diseases.

Conflict may, as already stated, occasionally arise, but one does not look for nor expect it from official sources, presumably working in the public interests and towards the same goal, but when such does occur we must put it down to lack of accurate information and not to any anxiety to

precipitate trouble. A case in point is furnished by a letter recently sent out by the Department of Agriculture at Edmonton, in which statements (all erroneous) were made reflecting on the Veterinary Branch, Ottawa, and another to the effect that the Dominion Contagious Diseases Act did not provide for the control of anthrax, a malignant fatal disease in animals and man. Such news came as a shock to us until we realized that the Department at the northern town had made the very serious mistake (for a Government office to make) of confusing anthrax with blackleg; and as a result of such a mistake had caused to be included in the Public Health Act of Alberta four clauses, 84 to 87, entirely unnecessary and liable to provoke a conflict of authority and hindrance to the proper method of carrying out attempts to stamp out animal contagious diseases.

Anthrax is a malignant, quickly fatal disease to animals and man; blackleg is a disease of young cattle, is not communicable to human beings and can be prevented by the use of vaccines. The Department at Edmonton has evidently been misled, but seeing the two Departments of Agriculture at Ottawa and Edmonton work together so well in the matter of live stock judges, seed fairs, etc., it is a pity that the junior Department had not consulted the senior before issuing the statements with a request for publication. Knowing such to have been made in error, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE refrained from doing so, and only draws attention now to put people on their guard against taking the statements seriously if such appear elsewhere. The extracts from the Public Health Act show a distinctly amateurish hand, for in section 85 the following words are seen regarding animals affected with anthrax, glanders or rabies: "Such are to be isolated until the animal dies or recovers"! (The italics are ours.) Once the diagnosis of either of the diseases mentioned is arrived at, no temporizing should be permitted, for recovery does not occur in such cases.

It Pays to be Straight in Registering Live Stock.

The basis of the purebred live stock business is honesty, for without that indispensable quality the whole fabric falls to the ground. Just recently the directors of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association have found two breeders guilty of falsifying pedigrees, and as a result have expelled both breeders and will proceed against one in the courts, the penalty on conviction being a fine and imprisonment. One breeder was found guilty of registering spurious pedigrees in the herdbook and offering at auction sales cattle under false pedigrees. Another breeder was convicted of selling a cow under the name of one that was dead. Both breeders will not again be allowed to enter animals in the herdbook. It is to be hoped that warnings such as the above will be sufficient; the purebred live stock business must be conducted so that there is not a breath of suspicion raised, or all breeders suffer as a result. A short time since our attention was called to some horses said to be registered Clydesdales, and our opinion asked as to whether such animals appeared to be purebred. A question such as that cannot always be answered, beyond giving the information that if the animals were purebred, they were not typical specimens of the breed or at all high class. The querist (a horseman) then stated that it looked to him as if the animals in question might be travelling on borrowed pedigrees. It is thus evident that a breeder of purebred stock who will persist in marketing culs is leaving the way open for suspicion of the purity of the breeding of such animals. The example of the American Shorthorn Association and that of British breed societies we recommend to similar Canadian organizations.

We Need More Butter Manufacturers.

Just a short time ago announcement was made in the daily papers that butter was very scarce, that a certain big railroad contractor could not get the necessary quantities of this dairy product to butter the bread of the men in his camps. What is the reason of such shortage of supplies? The market quotations show prices which we are assured by those who know the manufacturing of butter from A to Z, as fairly remunerative. The output nowhere approaches the demand, and it would seem that there is abundant opportunity for more creameries in the country. Some people have an antipathy to the big central creameries, a feeling not shared in by us, yet for all we think there is plenty of room for both central and local creameries. The reluctance to engage in the work is largely due to lack of understanding as to the best methods to follow, both in production and in marketing. Dairying is the natural adjunct to bacon raising, another very profitable phase of modern farming to-day. The separator has rendered dairying a far more simple and therefore more perfect line of work than it ever before, and to those who will engage in it it affords an opportunity to get a good return for their labors. Many people would support creameries if they thoroughly understood the ins and outs of the business. We would advise any of our readers who have any idea of going into dairying to consult with experts provided by the respective Departments of Agriculture for that purpose. In Manitoba, Prof. W. J. Carson, M. A. C., Winnipeg, Man.; Supt. W. A. Wilson, Regina, for Saskatchewan; C. A. Marker, Calgary, for Alberta. These men can be relied upon to give information necessary, and being disinterested parties, their only interest being the furtherance of dairying in their respective provinces, the information obtained from them will be instructive and helpful. The output cannot be increased all at once, but there is, we believe, a field for the man liking good stock, not too heavily engaged in wheat raising, to do good work and to recoup himself weekly, fortnightly or monthly as the case may be with creamery cheques.

Clodhopper or Farmer.

There is an old adage about the value of experience as a teacher; but even the best of teachers must have apt pupils and receptive minds. Each year's seeding is an experience that if approached and engaged in with an enquiring mind leaves a man better fitted to conduct his business in the future. The clodhopper watches for the land to dry; then with plow, seeder and harrow proceeds to the operation of seeding. Upon him the obvious demonstrations of nature in the effects upon the soil of certain conditions of moisture, temperature and aeration are entirely lost. To him plowing is simply turning up the ground and harrowing is levelling it off. Seeding is the scattering of the grain without regard to the fitness of the soil and climate for its growth. And the sooner it is all over the better luck he thinks he should have.

There is another class of men who observe the phenomena of nature and also the mental indigence of their neighbors and profit by them. Experience and observation teach such men that there are certain ideal conditions of soil moisture and temperature in which seed springs rapidly into the blade and that under these favorable conditions crops come best and quickest to maturity. In their operations these men endeavor to work in harmony with nature. In the fall their fields are packed to retain moisture and in the spring an effort is made to keep the land firm with the exception of the layer on top to protect from the drying winds. They have learned the effects of a rough surface in the fall and a firm, level one in the spring, and know each is to be avoided.