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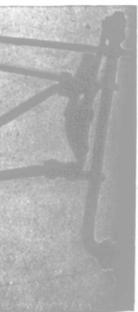
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FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL

Cleaning Up

Among the items that need attention in the annual spring clean up about a country home is the water supply. More illness can be credited to impure water than the average citizen dreams of. Objectionable materials conveyed to wells by surface streams, or by soakage, develop germs that frequently harm weaker members of a household and sometimes those who are not so weak.

Therefore, every precaution should be taken to see that well curbing is strong, and that the top is thoroughly banked and so covered that the danger of undesirable materials getting in is reduced to a minimum. Pure water is as essential as clean, pure food, and perhaps more so, because the cooking process is sufficient to destroy germs that may lurk in the food. Absolute cleanliness should be observed in connection with both.

Dairy Special Trains

The dairy industry in Manitoba is receiving some much needed encouragement. Recently short courses for cheesemakers were given at outlying points by the dairy department of Manitoba Agricultural College; authorities in the city of Winnipeg have carried on an educational campaign among those supplying milk and cream for city consumption; large creameries do what they can to induce patrons shipping cream to send only high-grade product.

The latest announcement intimates that during June dairy special trains will be sent out on the two leading railway lines of the province to assist farmers by advice and demonstration. This work will be conducted under the auspices of Manitoba Agricultural College, and along

lines similar to those used to advantage on a similar campaign in 1907. Demonstrations, lectures and discussions should do much to impress upon the farmer the advisability of keeping a few cows and handling them and their product properly.

American Cattle Situation

"So far as the marketable supply of fat steers is concerned there is a decided shortage." This sentence, taken from last week's market report in one of our American contemporaries, is used to sum up the cattle situation in one of the chief beef states of the Central West. Terms very similar have been used to describe the live stock situation in more than one state on the other side. There has been a decided shortage in fat steers in American markets for some time, and the way things have been going this shortage is not soon to be made up. Under the magnetic influence of unprecedented high prices stockmen have been selling close and it would not be a very risky bet that there will be a "decided shortage" of fat steers for a longer time than the consumer with a palate tuned for porterhouse and the other fancy cuts in the steer's back, cares to think about. With feeders selling at six and a half, or better, and stockers being taken out at five and three-quarters, with none too good reports from the grass country, and a strong probability that corn will sell next fall around last season's figures, values for beef cattle are unlikely to show much decline. Farmers in many parts of the Canadian West have made encouraging profits from cattle feeding of recent years. The man who has young stock should hesitate before disposing of them until they are in best market condition.

Good Roads Movement

Good roads enthusiasts always experience great difficulties in arousing the general public to action in supplying what they all agree is very desirable. No man who makes use of rural highways for twelve months doubts the necessity of improved roads. Railways have learned that the more care is taken in providing superior road-bed, the greater is the satisfaction on the road; they also realize that it pays to haul large loads. Farmers agree that the same holds good in regard to vehicle traffic. But they do not stir to action readily. Many dread the lavish expenditure of money and the possibility of increased taxation. They forget that more is lost in time and in broken harness or rigs or in run-down horses than would pay several years' taxes.

In Manitoba the campaign is progressing. Enthusiasm, at one time in evidence only in Winnipeg and a few municipalities through which main roads passed to that city, is

spreading gradually, and now indications are that within a short time the Manitoba Good Roads Association will be a truly provincial organization.

Definite plans and system are essential to satisfactory road construction and maintenance. Uniformity in all parts of the province—and throughout the West for that matter—would be advisable. With a live road commissioner to plan and advise and a live organization to interest the people the next few years will see much needed improvement in rural roads.

Big Frogs in Small Puddles

Every community knows one or more individuals who delight in talking of themselves and what they call theirs. "It is natural for some owners to rate their horses as world-beaters, just because they have nothing really high-class with which to compare them," wrote an American horse editor recently. Yes, and the same principle applies to estimates of many other things—ourselves, for example, our children, our noted relatives, our farms, our methods! We have all seen infatuated schoolboys blowing themselves out like frogs, over some trifling accomplishment in heading their class, as though it were an event of at least county importance. And we have seen older men professing modesty, yet puffed up with a ludicrous sense of their importance, because they have headed the poll in a vote for councillor or school trustee, or have threshed a bigger crop than anyone else in the district. How absurd they appear in their neighbors' eyes!

How many men, too, are slow to learn anything, because they think they know so much already! In agriculture, for instance, this self-satisfied attitude is one of the greatest bars to progress. People follow inferior methods, keep poor stock, grow indifferent varieties, pass splendid opportunities for the adoption of improved methods, because they don't comprehend that there is anything better. They buy bran instead of growing alfalfa, sow oats instead of planting more fodder crops, reverse sound principles of rotation because they exaggerate the importance of some minor convenience in practice, and so on.

The remedy for this impending self-satisfaction is to gain a broader outlook, through travel, reading and personal intercourse with bright men. There are many things outside one's locality near home better than anything of the kind. Endeavor to see or learn of these best things wherever they may be. It is unwise to confine interest to a municipality, a county, a province, or even a single country. Strive to draw knowledge and inspiration as much as possible from the whole world. The