

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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AND N.-W. T.

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A Warning Note.

On every side we see manifestations of prosperity; people are flocking to this Western clime eager to launch forth under full sail as tillers of our prairie soil, intent on bending each purpose to its fullest capacity, hoping that good progress may be theirs. Advancement is sure for the man with energy, yet it is not wise for a beginner to start on a very extensive scale, unless he hails from the bordering States of like climatic conditions, or has spent a season or more in this country and understands the broad farming methods of our West.

Land is changing hands, and at every turn going up in price; speculators are daily pocketing that which never cost them the "sweat of their brow." Buildings of all kinds are being rushed forward as rapidly as conditions will permit, and many special plans and individual schemes are under consideration, ready to be put into operation for the spring trade. Good times like the present are appreciated by all, and although some may label us pessimistic, yet we state that this is the time when a level head and a strong hand are most needed. In times of prosperity men are liable to become intoxicated with the fulness of their purse and rashly go beyond their means. Land with us is a safe investment, yet one can be overloaded when the payday comes, so that although we advise those who have money to buy, yet we say be careful; don't be too grasping. Many farmers at present are planning for improvements which will fairly "bound into shape" during the coming summer.

The go-ahead spirit is in our veins; our pulses throb as we move onward and forward in the upbuilding of this Western land. This is as we would have it, provided a steady hand is at each helm to prevent the ecstasy of good fortune from plunging into the shipwreck of debt and thus scattering all we have already garnered. Be careful in the time of prosperity and reach not out to excess.

By the Way.

Mr. J. J. Gunn, Gonor: "In sixteen seasons' experience in beekeeping I have only found two of them unprofitable." * * *

Mr. S. A. Bedford, Supt. Brandon Experimental Farm: "If the Americans who are coming over here next spring are like those whom I have met at the Experimental Farm, the more the merrier. Instead of them Americanizing us, we shall Canadianize them with a vengeance!" * * *

Mr. Jas. Yule, Selkirk: "It is a great mistake for farmers to think that expensive pens are necessary to make a success of hog-raising in this country. What is wanted is a dry place, and although it may be cold, if exercise be allowed and good feed supplied, there will be no trouble in growing good ones." * * *

Jas. Black, Winnipeg Poultry Association: "Even in the city, where expenses necessarily are higher than in the country, eggs can be produced during the winter months for two cents each, and not long ago a prominent firm of this city, who deal in poultry products, offered me 40 cents per dozen for all winter eggs and 35 cents per pound for broilers." * * *

Mr. J. Maw, Winnipeg: "There is good money in poultry; use the incubator and stick to the old stand-bys, the P. Rocks and Leghorns." * * *



REV. PROF. BAIRD.
Manitoba College, Winnipeg, President Western Horticultural Society.

Prof. C. B. Waldron, North Dakota, at Manitoba Horticultural Society meeting: "Nearly all the winter-killing of trees in this latitude is caused through a process of dessication or drying out, which takes place when the ground is frozen to a great depth. Mulching with strawy manure is very helpful in this respect." * * *

Mr. R. J. Phinn, Moosomin: "A man orders a car for wheat and calls upon the station agent day after day for perhaps a month, then when he gets the car he is charged demurrage if it is not loaded within twenty-four hours. Why should not this rule work both ways? Again, a cattle-shipper of this town asked the station agent when it would be possible for him to get cars for stock which he wished to ship, and was told that they would be on hand on a certain day; he brought his cattle in, but they had to wait three days in the cold before the cars arrived. What about redress for this kind of treatment? Wherein lies the justice of our present demurrage system?" * * *

Geo. W. Atkinson, Ornithologist, Winnipeg: "The principal enemies to our beneficial birds are the farmer, the sportsman, the ladies, and the small boys." * * *

Live Stock Judging Courses.

To those who have watched the introduction and progress of short courses in live-stock judging at the Ontario, Iowa or Wisconsin Agricultural College during recent years, it has been evident that a move in the right direction was undertaken at these stations. So numerous were the applications for admission at Guelph one year ago that the management found it necessary to double the period of instruction and divide the class into two sections so that when one was leaving the institution the other was being admitted. The class-room, too, where the animals were brought in for inspection, was found to be far too small, and in consequence a large new judging pavilion has been constructed on modern principles, capable of accommodating several hundred. At the other colleges mentioned, similar success has been achieved, and the short course is very popular among stockmen.

The advantages to be gained by spending a short period where the individual characteristics of the various pure breeds of live stock, as well as methods of feeding, breeding and management, are being demonstrated, should be apparent to every wide-awake breeder. Not that everything may be learned during a course of say two weeks, but during that time it is possible under first-class instructors to have one's knowledge so improved that more careful selection and breeding may be done. To those, also, who are making a start in pure-bred stock, it affords an invaluable opportunity to become possessed in a short time of the foundation principles upon which success in breeding can alone be achieved. For a beginner, it is true that a systematic drill in placing should extend over several months before the ability to grant awards in a show-ring can be acquired, but everyone in this country has not a year or two to spend in the search for such knowledge, so the short course fills a great want and hence the patronage which it has met wherever introduced.

The "Farmer's Advocate" is gratified to learn that a short course in judging for the stockmen of Manitoba and the West is being prepared by the Live Stock Associations, and will be opened in Winnipeg toward the end of February. It is understood that first-class instructors in live-stock judging have been secured, and a real intellectual treat is in store for those who can avail themselves of a short period for improvement along that line.

The movement is a step in the right direction, and is such as the rapidly-increasing interest in pure-bred live-stock in this country demands. The day is not far distant, if it has not already arrived, when we can successfully compete with the breeders of other countries. It is, therefore, in order that any step calculated to increase the interest in and improve our knowledge of pure-bred animals should receive the most hearty co-operation of every stock-raiser within the boundary of Western Canada.

HORSES.

Horse-meat Banquet.

A cable despatch from Berlin, dated Jan. 8th, shows how old horses are disposed of to advantage in Germany:

"Six hundred people sat down to-night to the most remarkable banquet that ever has been given in Berlin. The dishes consisted entirely of horse meat, and were served in various forms. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals issued the invitations to the dinner, which was given for the purpose of demonstrating the nourishing and palatable qualities of horse meat, thereby causing increased consumption of meat and a ready market for old horses. This would prevent owners from working the poor animals to death, as well-fed specimens would bring good prices. The bill of fare to-night consisted of horse soup, pickled horse tongue, filet of horse, and roast horse. All of the dishes were nicely prepared, and were evidently greatly relished. The presiding officer of the society, Privy Councillor Von Seicfeld, said 30,000 horses had been eaten in Berlin last year, and that he hoped for a large increase in the future. Many prominent members of the Reichstag and of the City Council were present at the banquet."