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EDITORIAL

Stock marketing conditions in Alberta and grain marketing conditions in Manitoba were both well ventilated last week.

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The plowing match season draws on. There are few better ways in which an agricultural society can employ its energies than in fostering the art of plowing.

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If there has never been a determined set against weeds before there should be one made now. A day with discs, harrows and plow now will mean weeks saved later on and weeds can never be so easily checked as during the days of early summer.

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Rural communities all over the country are organizing to construct and operate telephone lines. The movement is one to be commended and where the phone is about to materialize we recommend a careful study of the article upon its erection and operation which appeared in our May 15th issue.

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The value of what the Doukhobors lost may be measured by the efforts put forth by others to secure the lands. An all night stand in the rain and snow in order to be first in to register for a homestead when the doors opened in the morning is a physical task that many balk at. Incidentally it creates a surmise if there is not some better way to allot such lands than by a test of endurance and promptness. We have no hope, however, that any scheme will be evolved, as it is not a case of who had the most right to the lands; so it has to be decided by standard of the might.

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The price of lumber keeps creeping up throughout the country, almost one would think in defiance of the report of the Parliamentary committee which declared that the prices were controlled by a systemized organization that is exploiting the lumber market without justification for the prices demanded. The remedy for the lumber trade abuses is peculiarly convenient, and feasible of application. It is in the lowering of the duty upon the American product to such an extent that lumber produced in Canada under identical conditions to that produced in the States will be sold for the same price as the American lumber. The West is patiently awaiting the Order-in-Council that can effect this lowering of tariff and lowering of price.

Insuring Against Hail.

Each year the question of hail insurance presents itself, and according to the reports of the hail insurance companies more people each year decide to avail themselves of the protection afforded in insurance than adopted it in the previous year. This does not argue that suckers are on the increase, for the business of hail insurance companies is very largely renewal business. It is simply an evidence of the fact that there is a large class of provident farmers who realizing the danger of taking all their eggs to market in one basket, have adopted hail insurance as a means of lessening the risk of loss from a single cause. Usually the fact that many adopt it is no particular argument for the adoption of a certain course, but in the case of hail insurance it probably carries more weight than ordinarily.

It is not with danger from hail as with danger from fire, that an exercise of care will largely eliminate the risk, for no matter how thoroughly a man may put in his crop and have his farm protected by wind-breaks, the hail storm will

work as much havoc as in the most exposed fields. It is also hard for a man to realize that his district may be hit by a storm after twenty years, more or less, of immunity, yet such is annually the case and not a more desolate sight might one ever be forced to witness than the results of the ravages of a hail storm over a district of ripening grain. The newcomer may fortunately never have witnessed such a waste and the risks of the uninsured may never have been impressed upon him, but he should not ignore the possibility of a visitation and should face the possibility of having his crop partially or completely destroyed. If a man cannot afford to stand a total loss, or values more highly his crop or the revenue provided in a hail insurance policy, than he does the small amount of a premium, his proper course is to hold a business interview with the representative of a hail insurance company.

The Editor and the Orator.

"Our Great Northern Neighbor," is the title of a significant editorial given special prominence in a leading New York paper. It is remarkable for what it concedes, and almost as remarkable for some of its assumptions, although to most of these we have become somewhat accustomed as a chronic habit of mind on the part of our neighbor to the south.

First of all, we have an acknowledgment of Canada's area as being "larger than that of the United States," its "superior natural resources," its "similar coast-line," and the touch of that Saxon industrial and commercial activity now giving Canada "equal prominence" with the great Republic. Then follows in bold outline an enthusiastic resume of the agricultural, mineral, timber and power resources of the Dominion, whose water-power is reckoned as constituting two-fifths of the entire world's possession of "white coal," which, cheaper than any other form of energy, will afford facilities for manufacturing, lighting and transportation, creating veritable hives of industry in Quebec and Ontario; while the agricultural areas will prove world granaries like those of Argentina. It is pointed out, in order effectively to awaken the appreciation of American readers, that the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan embrace an area not only equal to the New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, and all that vast area extending down to the Gulf of Mexico, but with enough room left to afford a comfortable spot for all Great Britain and Ireland. At the Canadian Club banquet in New York, recently, ex-secretary of the United States Treasury Mr. Leslie M. Shaw, who made a notable speech, substantially verified the editorial, and added that, while the past half century's development in the United States had been unequalled in the history of nations, the next fifty years would disclose developments in Canada quite as marvellous.

Next comes the confession that the paper mills of the United States need the pulp-wood of Canada to keep them going, and, to aid their building enterprises, the almost "exhaustless forest supplies" of Canada are wanted in exchange for American-made agricultural implements, milling and power machinery, for locomotives, passenger and freight cars. The article proceeds to commend the wise foresight of Hon. Secretary Elihu Root in taking steps to pave the way for reciprocity with Canada, and discerns in the new Intermediate Tariff provision of Canada and in some reported observations of Premier Laurier at the Imperial Conference, anent Canada's entering into trade negotiations with other countries, the approach of another Independence Day. Canada is already in the exercise of independence in the framing of her tariff and in the control of her immigration, postal and other policies. The American mind seems slow to grasp the conception of the national evolution that is going on—Imperial unity, with self-government, as voiced

by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the late Conference in England. Canada is not "just waiting" for the opportunity to strike for independence. Sir Wilfrid Laurier well knows this, and he knows, further, that no Government could survive one day at the ballot that would permit Canadian resources or interests to be exploited by means of any tariff "deal" for the benefit of American industry. This article carefully conceals any reference to the enormously high protective tariff of the United States, though calling attention to the Canadian tariff, in spite of which United States trade with Canada has largely developed, and, which it might have added, has occasioned many American industries to transplant themselves to Canada. The article and Mr. Shaw's speech both conceal any desire to lower the American tariff. Mr. Shaw confessed that reciprocity would work to the advantage of Canadian agriculture and would retard her manufactures, but the insuperable obstacle to it, he said, was the practical impossibility of finding articles appropriate to be sacrificed in the interests of others. However paramount are the agricultural interests of Canada, we need not disguise the fact that they are interwoven with the industrialism of the cities and towns; and, while we are in no mood to punish ourselves with a retaliatory high tariff, the conditions, tendencies and assured industrial progress of Canada forever preclude the possibility of this "Olympus of the nations," foreshadowed thirty years ago by Lord Dufferin, lapsing into a pastoral realm, a handy appanage of the United States. It is not to that end we are belting Canada with transcontinental railways and ship canals, and asking the British Government to join in establishing improved cable facilities and a fast steamship service on the Atlantic and Pacific.

The Doukhobors.

June 1st witnessed another phase in the attempt to make Canadian homesteaders of a large class of Doukhobors. These efforts have been pursued with much patience and in many cases rewarded by a complying with the homestead laws. The few Doukhobors to whom the Government had to deny the right of title to a quarter section are in the minority, and it is probable they never could have become successful farmers even if they did consent to observe the homestead laws to citizenship. Many of these people will do better without these lands and the land assuredly will be better without them. Farming is an occupation that requires the exercise of executive ability as well as the expenditure of muscular energy, and the former these de-homesteaded Doukhobors do not appear to possess, although they are plentifully supplied with the latter, which if they can be induced to employ will make them a better living at the direction of a farmer of the Anglo-Saxon, German, or some such race, than expended as their own incompetent minds dictate.

This depossessing incident also directs attention to the accomplishments of some of the more energetic and intelligent Doukhobors. The work of these has really been phenomenal when account is taken of the degraded state into which generations of these people had been ground. Humanity makes progress by the slow processes of evolution and generally one state has to be found unsatisfactory before another more advanced is aspired to. Our ideals are generally forced up, not held up, but these Doukhobors apparently raised high their ideals or rather allowed others to raise them and then have assiduously aspired to them. Men more given to reason would probably have stopped to enquire whether or not the conditions to which they were asked to attain would be satisfactory to their tastes and desires, but these emancipated, trustful, patient people, by an exercise of a latent sagacity and labor, accepted the judgment of others in the belief