

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE *

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VOL. XXXVIII.

WINNIPEG, MAN., AND LONDON, ONT., OCTOBER 5, 1903.

No. 583

Editorial.

Thanksgiving.

The harvest will soon be past; the summer is already ended; the earth has yielded up her increase for another year, and the sower who went forth to sow has reason to rejoice. Thursday, October 15th, has been proclaimed a day of national thanksgiving, and Canadians from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and those of the West in particular, may well bow their heads in token of submission to the Great Giver of all things for His munificent blessings.

It is quite within the limits to say that the people of no country in the world have greater reason to be thankful. We are enjoying a period of prosperity that is laying beyond all doubt the foundation of a future greatness. It is not a time when the people of the West are reaching forth after impossibilities. The highest hopes have their roots deep in the fertile soil of reality. As a country, our vast resources are surely becoming known and appreciated, and extraordinary development is now assured. Immigration is steadily increasing, and prospects for the population of unoccupied lands never were brighter. A large percentage too of those who are coming are of that highly-intelligent class whose highest ambition is the improvement of the community in which they live. It therefore does not require the trained eye to see a few years hence a greater agricultural Canada extending from Port Arthur westward. To the older provinces we owe a debt of gratitude for thousands of strong-hearted sons and daughters who as pioneers planted the seeds that to-day are bearing fruit. Sacrifices, both individual and national, were made. Amongst other things, as a great venture, a railroad was extended from sea to sea, the outcome being our present realization of the once distant hope in a united and prosperous Canada.

With farmers the season is not one when many can afford to take a holiday. The harvest has been late, and there is much work yet that ought to be done before winter sets in. Nevertheless, there should be no difficulty in observing the day in the true spirit as the daily duties are being performed. There is no class who has any greater need to give thanks than those who have sown and reaped. No doubt the drought in early summer and the great storm of a few weeks ago tell a sad tale in some districts, yet in the great majority of places the crop has been heavy, and is being saved in comparatively good condition; and the increased price will do much to make up for the shortage in quantity or quality, as compared with previous years. Another gratifying feature is the increase in the price of farm lands, owing to the opening up of the country and the inrush of new settlers. There is scarcely a homestead in Manitoba that has not increased several hundred dollars in value during the past few years. Those who have taken up land this season and have decided to construct homes as the country develops, have reason also to rejoice over present prospects. The one industry of the country that, perhaps, is not enjoying the very highest increase of prosperity at present is ranching. The price being obtained for cattle from the ranges is by no means what it should be, and it would appear that the trade is being manipulated in the interest of the few. However, this condition cannot continue long. Pastures are reported good from nearly all quarters, and the probability is that range stock will be ready for winter by the time severe weather may be expected.

In the midst of prosperity, therefore, is it not becoming that we should hesitate to consider from whence cometh these material gifts, lest we become intoxicated by the spirit of advancement that pervades the business and commercial atmosphere of this country, and fancy ourselves the guiding hand instead of the Great Ruler who governs the relations of men.

Siftings.

When the wheat began to move freely toward the seaboard, passenger trains to Winnipeg had to be reported behind time. Great is King Wheat.

Grain growers will agree that parliaments move slowly. The amendments to the grain act have not received official sanction any too soon.

An eastern daily says "the recent snow-storm did not cool the enthusiasm of the Westerners to any extent." Westerners look to results. Past efforts have meant present prosperity. This in turn means a Greater Canada.

"Made in Canada" was the watchword of the Dominion Exhibition held in Toronto a few weeks ago. "Grown in Canada" is the echo from several million bushels of wheat on its way to the markets of the world. Could there be a better immigration agent?

Many new barns have been erected in Manitoba and the West during the past summer. The large staff of "Advocate" representatives who have been over the country are unanimous in declaring that they are generally modern, convenient, and substantial. This is an eloquent testimony of the growing progress of the country.

Where new barns have not yet been erected, the old log or turf houses should be looked to for the winter comfort of the cattle. All chinks should be filled up to keep out the cold winter winds; and what is equally important, the inside fixings should be made secure and safe for keeping the animals in their respective places. How common it is to enter a cow stable in the morning and find "Horny" and "Moulie" trying to settle a long-standing difference of opinion as to which had the strongest head, each with a pole and part of a stall trailing by the neck-chain?

An old resident of Manitoba and reader of the "Advocate," writes us as follows: "While everything was dripping wet, and the earth in yielding, sticky slush about one's feet, the human barometer was at a pretty low-down standard. The transition from grave to gay, however, was quick in coming and complete in character. In a few days threshing and stacking were going ahead merrily, under a glorious "Indian summer" sun and in a delightful autumn breeze, raising our hopes and spirits, drying out the earth and the grain, and setting forth again visions of cheques for No. 1 hard, which had during the storm gone down to a few greasy bills representing feed grade wheat.

Another matter which should be carefully attended to in repairing buildings about the farm is that no nails are left in pieces of old building materials. Nothing inflicts a more dangerous wound than an old rusty nail. On finishing a repairing job go round and apply the claw hammer to all such. It may save you hundreds of dollars.

Exhibition Reform.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

On my return to the City of Winnipeg from the East, I picked up a copy of your issue of August 20th, and my attention was directed to the article headed as above. The Winnipeg Exhibition is an institution in which I have taken the greatest possible interest since my first arrival in the country some seven years ago, and I have watched its development each year with increasing satisfaction, for there cannot be the least doubt that Winnipeg's great annual event, or I should say the great annual event of the Canadian West, has each year been a distinct advance upon the previous year's effort.

Under these circumstances, I must venture to disagree with your contributor who states that the show is not growing with the times. Even his own statements contradict this assertion. One has but to read the reports of the exhibition for the last ten years to be at once convinced that the Industrial has grown year by year to a really wonderful degree. And here a word should be in season about the use of the word "Industrial." It is evidently the desire of the directors of the association that the exhibition should be of as industrial a nature as possible, and each year I have been assured that efforts are made to secure the very best possible exhibits, and those of a movable and interesting character, such as the working loom which was working at the last exhibition. But it is a matter of impossibility for directors to secure whatever exhibits they wish. This must surely depend upon the manufacturers and exhibitors themselves. The utmost is done to secure the interest of enterprising firms, both in the East and West, and each year has shown improvement in the quality of the exhibits. No doubt it is extremely interesting to see the various processes of manufacture as your correspondent states, but he will be the first to admit that a comparison between Glasgow and Winnipeg is a little incongruous at any rate at present. Glasgow, as all know, is a great manufacturing center, and the seat of both arts and sciences, and although we are emulating the great Scotch city in a humble way, it must of necessity be some time before we can arrive at their pitch of perfection in the way of an exhibition. "L. S. L." states that the accommodation in the main building is insufficient, and surely the reason of this is that the exhibition has so grown that this result was inevitable. A larger building is necessary, of that there can be no doubt, and surely the various manufacturers who yearly apply for space would not do so were they not seized of the fact that showing their goods at the annual Winnipeg event will secure practical and beneficial results.

It is a little hard of the writer of the article in question to criticise even the children's roundabout, whereon they spend many happy moments during fair week. Possibly the roundabout might be in better condition, and a brass band might be provided, but as this was stationed right away from any other portion of the exhibition, the harsh music of which he complains could not have interfered much with the enjoyment of others, and certainly it is each year most popular with the children.

It is surely indeed easy to criticise, but any question as to the attractions of the last exhibition is surely unjust. I was informed by one who knows that these attractions provided this year were the very best that could be procured in New York City, and each was a high-priced specialty. One must be hard to please to whom