

# The Farmer's Advocate

## AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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should be thoroughly considered by the voter. Transportation by good roads is considered by our correspondent a more vital question than transportation by radials. We have always maintained that large and productive districts, not already supplied with a railway feeder, should get a radial road leading to the trunk lines and to the nearest market. We have also believed that good roads in all farming sections are a vital and immediate need. It is for each section to decide which they need most, and from which they will derive most benefit if they cannot have both. We would certainly not tie up the credit of municipalities already well supplied with railway facilities in order to build more radials, particularly in districts needing better country roads, and the country road, brings the farmer nearer to market if it is a good road.

### Showing the Aged-Cow Class in Their Work Clothes.

The Shorthorn aged-cow class at the International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, was significant in that it signaled the emphasis now being placed on the commercial aspect of pure-bred live-stock breeding. Each and every entry was accompanied in the ring by a nursing calf, which demonstrated that every cow was a breeder and qualified to perpetuate her race, and, perhaps, the good characters that justified her presence in the ring. Idle, fat, non-breeders are excluded from the class which calls for this living evidence of maternal production. A female of any beef breed of cattle that will not bear young is worth no more per pound than a good, fat steer, and is of no more use in the herd. A strenuous show season in Canada, under conditions that exist at exhibition time, may even partially unfit a breeding cow for maternal duties, and in some cases it becomes necessary to use an inferior bull to ensure pregnancy. Furthermore, a nursing dam will not stand the same chance of winning in a class of aged cows as will the entry that has had nothing more to do than eat her feed in idleness, and perfect her conformation from the products of both. While we admire the blocky, deeply and evenly fleshed animal in the ring, it seems inconsistent with the now universal motto "Efficiency" to award the red ribbon

to a female in a breeding class, which, so far as production goes, will do no more for the herd than a good fat bullock.

We would not leave the impression that all entries in the aged-cow classes are non-breeders, for they are not. Many herd owners cannot afford to possess and maintain such a beast, and a great many cows are good enough to nurse a calf and still win. Our object is to encourage the commercial phase of breeding and showing, and to do this the fair boards should guarantee to the spectators that the aged cows are shown in their work clothes. The educative purpose of an exhibition is not to reveal the beauties of a well-fitted animal in the breeding class, but to show the type and good qualities of the producing male and female. They have awakened to this in the United States, and the Shorthorn aged-cow class at Chicago was only an outcome of the experiences and results which have accrued to a number of the state fairs, some of which have blazed the way for the International ruling that the cow and nursing calf be shown together. There is a suggestion here for Canadian fair directors.

### "I am a Prod."

BY PETER MCARTHUR.

Wait a minute! Have they named that political baby out West? I hope not, for the child appears to be welcome—surprisingly welcome—and a lot depends on the name they give it. Old people used to say: "The name is half the nature," and they were careful to name children after persons whose natures were commendable or agreeable. I am of the opinion that the same thing applies to political parties. "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches"—which in this case would mean a campaign fund—so it is all important that the new party now being cradled in the West should be given a name that will please and attract as many people as possible. As this party is being promoted by farmers it is not likely to be endowed with a campaign fund, so a good name is doubly important. I notice that most of the people who talk about this new party call it the "Grain Growers," but that will not do at all. The Grain Growers have a strictly business organization, pledged to keep out of politics. It is true that the new movement originated with the members of this organization and that they hope to send from twenty to thirty of their members to parliament, but it will never do to call the new party the Grain Growers. That would tend to confine it to one class of voters in the Western provinces, but what is wanted is a party that will appeal to Canadians of all classes in all places so that it will roll up an overwhelming majority. It may sound like a large order to ask for a party of that kind, but I am convinced that it is entirely possible. Recent events have shown that such a party is needed and that the country is ready for it. In the past I have always argued against a third party, but when I find a large body of public opinion already in existence and only waiting for leadership and a name I am willing to change my mind. But before suggesting a name for the new party that is struggling into existence let us examine briefly the state of political opinion in the country.

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To begin with, I find that a majority of the people I meet do not want an election at present or in the near future. But that is not because they are entirely satisfied with the way the affairs of the country are being managed. It is because they feel that an election conducted along the old party lines would be one of unexampled bitterness, and they dread it. Indications all point to an election that would rage about issues of loyalty and disloyalty. Such an election would rouse the fiercest passions of which man is capable, and would give birth to enmities that it would take generations to overcome. Although the leaders of both parties are trying to outdo one another in their protestations of loyalty, I do not think that many of the people are with them. This is not because they are not loyal but because they know that loyalty is not confined to party lines. The daily casualty lists and the frequent memorial services for those who have fallen in battle are bringing together the plain people of both parties in a common sorrow. Conservative and Liberal families alike have felt the shock of the Supreme Sacrifice, and there is no politics in their mourning. To them the slurs about loyalty and disloyalty are distasteful and uncalled for. The whole country is suffering the sorrow and burden of the war, and the clamor of the political leaders is something in which no one takes much interest. To the most earnest and thoughtful people it is like

"A tale told by an idiot,  
Full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

The more the political leaders assert their loyalty and virtue the more the plain people are inclined to draw back in offended silence. Many men of both parties do not hesitate to say that they feel themselves leaderless—and that is what makes a new party necessary and welcome.

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There is one thing that both parties have been doing—that may yet prove to be their undoing. From press and platform they have been urging the need of Greater Production of all kinds. As the war progresses it becomes more and more evident that the final victory will depend as much on our power to produce as on our power to fight. No matter what party an election would make

victorious, it would be necessary for it to do all in its power to prosecute the war to a successful issue. That is not a political but a national question. The life of both Canada and the Empire depend on that. The work of recruiting and maintaining our army must go on. But how about the work of production—which is now regarded as equally important? Has either of the existing political parties done anything worth while to stimulate and liberate the productive resources of the country? I think not. Both have owed their power to deals and alliances with the interests that prey upon the producers of the country. Now that greater production is shown to be a true and important form of loyalty, it is high time that the producers united so that they may do their work effectively. They must shake off the parasites that prey on them, and break the bonds that enslave them to the Big Interests. The need of the hour is for a producer's party that will wipe out the profiteers and place the untrammelled energy and resources of the country back of the war. There you have the name that I wish to suggest for the new party—The Producers. The Grain Growers are all Producers, and the name should suit them. Moreover, in the present crisis, every man, woman and child in Canada should be a producer, and willing to promote all reforms that would make possible the highest and most efficient production. "Producer" is more than a name—it is a platform on which all could unite, in spite of past differences of party, race or creed. It should appeal to the workers of the cities as well as to the workers of the farms. And no campaign of education would be needed to introduce the Producer's Party to the people of Canada. The work has been done already by the government with its "Production and Thrift" campaign, and the lesson has been driven home by both political parties, by the pulpit and by the press. The producers of the country have been called upon to put forth their strength to the utmost, and in order that they may do it they have a right to demand that they be enabled to produce to the best advantage. As they cannot hope to make their demands effective without organizing a political party that will enable them to enforce it, the course they should pursue is clear. If the Western leaders of the movement will adopt a platform wide enough to meet the needs of all the producers of the country, they will bring about an industrial revolution that will do more for Canada and the Empire than any other service they can perform.

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Having stated the case seriously let us now stand back and look it over. Would the new party stand the test of serious debate and satire? I think it would. Greater production is urged by the two existing parties, and all the Producers would want would be to make the bounds of production wider yet. In serious debate the Producers would have the Conservatives and Liberals beaten from the start. They could call on the members of both parties for support, and quote the public utterances of their leaders to prove that they should get it. But how about ridicule and satire? You know the hardest thing about a new party—particularly a party made up of the plain people—has to endure is the ridicule of their opponents. But here the Producers would be at a great advantage. Their natural slogan would be: "Are you a producer?" Every Canadian would be obliged to say "Yes!" or be disgraced. This question would make professional politicians decidedly uncomfortable, for if they proved themselves to be producers they would have to explain why they were not supporting the "Producer's Party." All opponents would be put on the defensive at once. And just think how the new party could smoke out the parasites and non-producers and hold them up to scorn. Even Sir Jingo McBore would be forced to try to show that he is a producer. What a splendid cartoon could be made showing Sir Jingo approaching the leader of the Producers and whining as he puts his hand in his pocket:

"If I produce some campaign funds will you regard me as one of the leaders of the Producer's Party?"

On the other hand, if Sir Jingo tried to be scornful he could be shown in conversation with the leader of the Producers, and this bit of conversation might be imagined:—

Leader—Are you a Producer?

Sir Jingo—Who sir?

Leader—You sir.

Sir Jingo—Pooh sir.

Such a cartoon would show just where Sir Jingo stood, and his opposition would help the new party more than it would hinder. Then, if they tried to nickname the new party the natural nickname would be "The Prods." Very well. The same could be accepted with thanks. The dictionary defines "prod" as a sharp stick, and what is needed in Canada is a new party that will go after the old ones with a sharp stick. And if anyone should suggest that "The Prods" suggests the Prodigal more than a Producer, that slur might also be accepted gratefully. The Producers of the country have been living on husks for a long while, and it is time that the fatted calf was killed. Personally, I do not like veal, but I would try to digest it in such a cause as this. Being entirely convinced that the country is ripe for such a party as I have outlined, and that there is a great work for it to perform, I do not hesitate to take the bull—I mean the Red Cow—by the horns and announce that "I am a Prod." If the Western voters will only come out boldly I want to be with them—not only because of the opportunity to render a real public service, but because of the chance there will be to produce joyous campaign literature along new lines.

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