

other country on the globe. It is scarcely more than a dozen years since wheat began to be exported from Manitoba, and the millions of bushels that yearly go out now is the best answer to what the country is capable of producing, and if he does diversify his farming let him do it with a view to prevent him buying what he needs for the support of himself and family. The low price of wheat has a tendency to be not permanent for two reasons—its cheapness causes an increased consumption of breadstuffs among classes of people who may not usually make use of it as an article of diet; at the same time it deters farmers from growing as much, or causes them to quit growing it altogether, and the inevitable ebb and flow in the price of that, in common with all other commodities, will result sooner or later in a higher price prevailing. Let us be ready for it when it comes.

A. D.
[The writer of the above takes a stand directly opposed to that now so generally accepted as the only reasonable and safe plan of farming successfully, viz., mixed farming. Of course there is mixed farming and mixed farming. The writer says in effect that the wise farmer takes all he can get out of his land, and as soon as it is "played out" move into a new place and repeat the operation; when the dung pile gets higher than the stable, move the stable; export nothing but grain, and do not on any account concentrate the grain into less bulk of greater value as beef, pork, butter, cheese, poultry, etc., and thus save the difference in freight. But as there will doubtless be considerable discussion on this article, we will not deal further with it here. Suffice it to say that the farmers who are in best condition financially today are those who have been engaged in mixed farming, no matter what district you look too.—Ed.]

Farmers' Institutes in Wisconsin.

BY PROF. JOHN A. CRAIG, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON, WIS.

In presenting, as suggested, an analysis of the forces that have made the farmers' institutes of this state so successful, it is necessary, at the outset, to assert that not one of them is comparable to the personality of the man whose life was rounded in their service. The late Mr. W. H. Morrison, who was superintendent of the institutes from their inception, was exceptionally adapted by nature and by education for the work he directed so effectively. As a part of his nature, he had the kindly interest and the open-hearted manner which are so necessary to bring and bind together diverse elements in close organization. His perception of the good in men was keen, and through this he associated with the institute earnest workers, whose enthusiasm sprung from hard-earned success in their vocations. By education he was equipped as an organizer, and made an authority on the industries of the several communities of the state. Having served in several public capacities, he had an extensive acquaintance over the state, and that was of great benefit in securing the interest of localities. An attempt to do justice to the personality of one who has been a friend can never be satisfying, so that I shall confine further consideration to an outline of the other elements that have been successful parts of the superintendent's policy.

THE SUPERINTENDENT A SPECIALIST.

The most marked development of the agricultural resources of Wisconsin has come through the specialism of the lines of industry and their incentives. The institutes, coming under the latter, have been specially helped by this, and the specialism exists in the fact that they have been the subject of the uninterrupted thought and continued effort of one man strengthened by the co-operation of many others. As to the effect of this specialism, it is most clearly observable in the system of advertising meetings, in securing the services of the best men, and also in adapting the institutes to the needs of the different localities.

ADVERTISING THE INSTITUTES.

The attendance at an institute depends chiefly on the degree to which the date of the meeting has been made known in the neighborhood. The sending out of posters is made very effective in advertising the time of the institute, and in making known the subjects and the speakers. The centre of the poster is given over to the programme, and the outer parts to local advertising. The service of the school is enlisted, and the interest of its officers is further secured by allowing them to utilize a large part of the evening meeting with exercises prepared by the school children. Direct correspondence with the enterprising men of the neighborhood is another agency that is freely employed.

ENLISTING SUCCESSFUL MEN.

As soon as the time of holding an institute was fixed, the superintendent would write to the most successful and the most influential farmers of the community enlisting their co-operation. This was always effective in giving the institute a standing, and it localized the institute in a very desirable manner. This year the superintendent had four conductors under his direction. These men have direct charge of the conducting of the institute, and they usually have from two to four other workers with them, in addition to a number of other local helpers. It was a distinctive trait of the late superintendent to be constantly bringing forward

new men. In this he excelled. Every worker coming in contact with him felt the inspiration of an intimate friend who had large views of life, and those who were diffident and ineffective in talking of their work at first would, through him, catch something of the noble fire there was in it, and develop into earnest and direct speakers.

ADAPTING INSTITUTES TO LOCALITIES.

It means the success of the institute if the superintendent is so versed in the leading industries of the farming community as to give the audience just that which is interesting and useful to them. A superintendent of wide observation who is a man of affairs can see the situation clearly, and he will make no mistakes in this direction. To make the meeting successful, both in point of attendance and effectiveness, this must come to the front for consideration.

EXTENSION OF THE WORK.

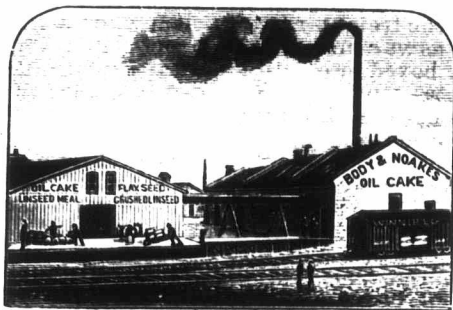
In the system here in vogue there is the possibility of further extension without disturbing the present structure, but simply adding to it. The system has advanced so that to add to its development the season for holding the institutes has to be widened. Most of our institutes are held in December, January, February and March, and as a consequence it is not possible to leave the main lines of railway to any extent. It is unquestionably true, that the greatest good is done by the institutes when they are held in communities that have not the benefit of close and ready communication with the rest of the world. Such communities are the most backward in their progress, and it is a fact that the institutes in such prove an attraction, and draw large and enthusiastic audiences if the weather is favorable. It is thought to be the best plan to confine the winter institutes to the towns that are easily accessible by means of the railroads, and to make the more distant points during the summer season. Travelling in such parts is much easier and more agreeable at that season, and the weather is likely to be more favorable for attendance from a distance, if the date of the meeting is arranged for a time when the pressure of farm work is light.

Flax Culture.

An industry that does not receive the attention in Manitoba or the Territories that its importance deserves is that of growing flax. Very considerable quantities are grown every year in Southern Manitoba, by the Mennonite population, located on that magnificent stretch of land, lying between Gretna and the Pembina Mountains.

It is grown entirely for the seed, being harvested with a binder or cut loose with a mower, and it usually receives little attention, being left out till other grains are cared for, as it does not easily shell; it is threshed with an ordinary separator very satisfactorily, by using proper flax screens.

Sown on breaking early in June, it generally yields a very fair return on old land. Care should be taken that the land be free as possible from weeds, as flax comes away slowly in the spring, and being sown rather thin (when for seed), gives weeds a great opportunity.



The Winnipeg Linseed Oil Mill, owned by Messrs. Body & Noakes (and of which the accompanying cut gives a good idea), has been running for some years; it uses the bulk of the flax grown in Manitoba, manufacturing boiled and raw oil—the residue being the oil cake, so highly prized by stock feeders, large quantities of which are shipped to Eastern Canada and England after the local demand is supplied. It is yet an open question whether flax could be profitably grown here for fibre. We are inclined to think labor too scarce, and also that the fibre would grow too woody in this climate.

But it might be more generally grown for the seed in many districts. The last crop bulletin issued by the Department of Agriculture gives the area under flax as 9,737 acres, average yield of 11.96 bushels per acre, making a total of 116,451 bushels; from 15 to 20 bushels per acre, however, is frequently obtained, and the price, though down to 70 cents this year, has been generally 80 and 90 cents per bushel, so that the flax crop might well become another "egg in the basket."

Occasionally we hear of dairymen who have trouble with their milk. One writer, in Hoard's Dairyman, says his milk becomes "ropy" in about twelve hours after milking. His cows have been in the habit of drinking from a pond of still water, and the opinion of the Dairyman is that bacteria from the pond has a good deal to do with the trouble. It is also suggested that the milk vessels be closely looked after, that all the pails and creases be thoroughly cleaned and scalded out.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Veterinary.

ANSWERED BY W. A. DUNBAR, V. S., WINNIPEG.

INDIGESTION—LICE ON HORSES.

HARRY DOLF, Indianford:—"I. A nine-year-old horse of mine sweats when standing in the stable. I clipped him and do not cover him with blankets. He sweats from the flanks back over the hips and down to the hocks, the rest of him being perfectly dry. He is in poor condition, but eats well; has no strength to stand any work. He is also troubled with pin worms, which I can not get rid of; has been in this condition for the past year. A V. S. examined his teeth, but pronounced them all right. Please prescribe. 2. What will destroy lice on horses?"

1. Your horse is suffering from a form of indigestion, probably brought on by improper feeding. Feed exclusively, but sparingly, on bran mash for sixteen hours, and then give laxative ball composed as follows: Barbadoes aloes, six drachms; calomel, one drachm; ground ginger, two drachms; syrup or soap, a sufficient quantity. Continue the mash diet until the medicine has ceased to operate. It is also necessary, whatever the diet may have been, that a change should be made. If the animal has been fed on dry grains, this ought to be changed to soft food, such as alternate rations of boiled or steamed oats, barley, wheat, bran mash, with flaxseed, etc. Give in food, morning and evening, for two weeks: sulphate of iron and nux vomica, of each half a drachm; gentian, one drachm; bicarbonate of soda, two drachms. Give walking exercise daily in the open air, when not too cold or stormy.

2. Powdered stavesacre seed, four ounces; soft soap, four ounces; carbolic acid, one ounce; water, one gallon. Boil for half an hour. Rub this ointment well into the lousy part, and repeat once a week until the lice disappear.

MARKINGS OF PLYMOUTH ROCKS, ETC.

T. Saltcoats, Assa.:—"Kindly publish correct markings of pure-bred Plymouth Rock fowl, in order to select from a flock of mixed and pure-breds, male and female. Also give cure for coughs, with hard breathing, swell heads, and egg eating." See FARMER'S ADVOCATE, December 5th, page 465, for markings of Plymouth Rock.

1. The disease is probably the "gapes" or "roup," which consists of an inflamed state of the trachea, caused by the presence of small worms. These worms can be removed by very carefully introducing into the windpipe the end of a feather properly trimmed, turning it around once or twice and then drawing it out. The infected fowls should be kept in a dry, well-ventilated and warm place, apart from the rest of the flock. The inhalation of tobacco smoke is recommended for the destruction of the parasites. Washing the beak and mouth with a weak solution of chloride of lime is also said to be beneficial. The food should be pulaceous and composed chiefly of barley meal. Give, morning and evening, in food, a little sulphur and ground ginger.

2. Allow plenty of gravel, oyster shells, bone-meal, meat, etc. Have nests with a hole in the bottom, so that the egg will fall through as soon as dropped. There is no infallible remedy for this foulish vice.

ANSWERED BY J. H. TENNANT, V. S., LONDON.

HEAVES.

J. J. BLACKBURN, Smith's Falls:—"I have a horse that has been troubled with the heaves for about eight months. Kindly give a remedy?"

In the first place, give the horse a dose of some purgative medicine. A good one is 7 or 8 drachms of aloes given in the form of a ball. Then give 1 drachm of Digitalis night and morning in the feed. Care must be exercised in feeding not to give dusty hay or too bulky feed. It will also be well to dampen the feed. Do not work or drive the horse on a full stomach. Give plenty of time for him to empty himself before putting to hard work in the morning.

INDIGESTION.

SUBSCRIBER:—"I have a driving horse, that after being driven four or five miles frequently scours very badly. I know no cause for it, have only had him under a year. Can you give reason and remedy, and oblige?"

The scouring is caused by the improper digestion of food, which may be due to various reasons. If worms are suspected, give a pint of raw linseed oil and one ounce of turpentine, once a week, as a drench. In my practice I have found that more than one-half of the cases of indigestion are caused by imperfect mastication of food owing to some defect in the teeth, and would advise "Subscriber" to have his horse's mouth examined by a competent veterinary surgeon.

Miscellaneous.

BUCKWHEAT.

R. A. FAIRMAN, Beaverton:—"What is the value of buckwheat as a stock food?"

Buckwheat does not occupy a very prominent place on the farm as a feeding grain. It makes a good food for poultry, and when mixed with corn is sometimes used for fattening swine. It can also be fed to other kinds of stock with good results; but under ordinary circumstances it is not likely to prove a profitable grain to feed, for the price per