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## EDITORIAL

### Capable Officials Wanted

True agriculturists in all parts of the province will agree that a statement of facts regarding Manitoba's department of agriculture reveals weaknesses that need remedying. Such incapacity should not be tolerated in any department, much less in the department of agriculture in a province such as Manitoba. Strong men are wanted. Conditions demand that the position of deputy minister of agriculture should be filled by the most capable man available, no matter what salary—within reason—it takes to place him there. Heads for departments also are wanted—men who can hold the confidence of practical farmers and who have ability to organize and initiate lines of work destined to demonstrate the feasibility of adopting up-to-date methods.

The campaign opened in last week's issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE merits the support of every agriculturist in the province. With reasonable assistance it is easily possible to so remedy the defects that a great gain will result to the province as a whole.

### Popular Features at Fairs

A prominent fair manager recently advised that it was a good plan to pay special attention to features that are popular in the district, and that the prize list should be extended in that particular department so that there would be a special drawing force to bring keen competition. This advice is sound as long as the popular feature is of the proper sort. But what about such features when they are liable to give encouragement to the development of animals or products that are not wanted, or at least not desirable in any country.

Take for instance general purpose horses. In many localities there are enough good

sound general-purpose-type horses to warrant fair managers in pronouncing that class of stock sufficiently prominent to make it a special feature in the prize list. But should this be done? Should fair boards encourage the production of animals, the breeding of which should not be supported, by offering large and extended prizes?

Extra support to local popular features may stir up interest enough to cause a slight increase in attendance, but the properly managed fair aims to encourage only such features as are of sound educational value. Education along proper lines should not be sacrificed for those features that are popular but that tend to direct the energies of farmers along improper lines.

### Capital Required to Start Farming

It is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rule as to the capital required to start farming on the prairies. Instances can be recalled where men have started with so near to nothing that it wasn't worth while considering that they had any capital, properly speaking. And a large percentage of them have waxed prosperous. Others have started with a reasonable amount of capital and at the end of ten years or so didn't appear to be much better off than those who started with nothing. Others again have started with all the money required, and to spare, and have gone to the dogs, financially speaking. So it is impossible to lay down any rule, to say to a man: "This much capital you require to start farming on the prairies; if you have much less than this your chances for success will be impaired; if you have more than this your chances will be better; but this sum you need."

Success depends more on the man than on his financial circumstances. Settlers who came here back in the eighties or early nineties and endured some of the real hardships of pioneering, know pretty well that their success was due more to their stick-to-it-iveness than to the amount of capital they brought in to start operations with. It is pretty much the same yet in making a start. A man can start farming in a way with five hundred dollars or less, or he can start in another way with five thousand, or as much more as he can get hold of. But it is as impossible to state the amount in actual figures as it is to form an estimate of what his success will be—for after all success depends on the man. Consequently the estimates offered in another column of the amount of capital required to begin farming need to be considered in relation to the scope of operations contemplated. The inquirer may pull out successfully. If he knows his business he will. If he doesn't he should start slower, learn his own capacity and enlarge his enterprise as he grows larger in experience.

### Farmers' Clubs

Farmers' Clubs in connection with agricultural societies are bound to develop into factors of great value in farming communities. The scope of such institutions can be widened to cover features that long have stood in need of development. It is to be hoped that every agricultural society in the West will make a strenuous effort to cover a line of work similar to that taken up by what are known as Farmers' Clubs.

Public school concerts have done much to nerve the youth for platform work, but when this is followed up by active service of the boys and young men in Farmers' Clubs the effect on future generations in fitting them for public positions cannot be overestimated. Farmers of mature years also profit by taking part in the discussions or other numbers on the program. The increased fund of agricultural knowledge is worth while, but the ability to express opinions intelligently from the public platform should be cultivated by every man who has the interests of agriculture at heart. It is thus that men are equipped to fill seats in the provincial legislatures and the house of commons.

But there is another phase of Farmers' Clubs that demands consideration. Everyone delights in an occasional evening's entertainment. The social side of the life of the farmer and his family has been neglected to such an extent in many districts that this lack has generated a feeling of repulsion against farm life. The Farmers' Club meets this need. Not only do farmers and their families gather and have an enjoyable evening, but people from the towns and villages are willing to help and in a short time a desirable feeling of friendship develops between rural and urban citizens. Help the Farmers' Clubs; they will help you.

### The Meat Boycott

Boycotts as a rule are not at all desirable. High prices of meat brought down the wrath of the working classes to such an extent that an organized effort was made in many cities to hit the packers and compel a lowering of prices. They decided on a boycott and agreed not to eat meat for a stated time.

Self-denial sometimes results in good to the person most closely affected. Perhaps those who take part in the boycott will benefit in this instance. It would seem that some attempt will be made to assure reasonable prices. At least the United States government has opened an investigation. In the meantime local retailers will suffer much from lack of business.

But there is another viewpoint. Perhaps much good will result to mankind in a demonstration that too much meat is being consumed by the average citizen. If vegetable diet develops sound systems and gives