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## THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

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A Weekly Journal for Progressive Farmers

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## Winkler Dismisses Jacobs

Serious Rupture Occurs Between Minister and Agricultural College Board

Last week, Hon. Valentine Winkler, Minister of Agriculture of Manitoba, announced that he personally had discharged F. S. Jacobs, Professor of Animal Husbandry at the Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg. Behind this announcement there are a lot of facts and explanations that have not been given to the public. The situation has practically reached a crisis between Mr. Winkler and the agricultural college authorities who maintain that the minister has entirely over-stepped his authority in a number of cases in dealing with college matters. On February 16 the advisory board of the agricultural college met at the college. The board consists of ten members including Mr. Winkler and under the Act the board is given absolute power to engage and discharge the staff of the college. Mr. Winkler appeared at the meeting and demanded that Professor Jacobs be discharged from the staff for incompetency and pointed out that he had not given satisfaction in purchasing cows for the minister's cow scheme.

The meeting was exceedingly hot. The ministers found that most of the members of the board were not prepared to yield their powers to him and they told him so with great frankness. They informed him that as a professor and manager of the college farm at the Agricultural College, Professor Jacobs was efficient and satisfactory and that they had no intention of discharging him because of any personal quarrels or differences with the minister. Mr. Winkler and President Reynolds, it is said, came into conflict because Mr. Reynolds frequently corrected mis-statements which Mr. Winkler placed before the board. Finding that he could not bend the board to his bidding the minister threatened that he would take the matter in his own hands, which he did a little later by having Mr. Jacobs' name struck off the pay list. The minister has no authority to discharge Professor Jacobs, but the government holds the authority to pass on the pay list, and Mr. Winkler has used this arbitrary power to override the advisory board and the President of the college in order to gratify what seems to be largely a personal spite.

**The Cow Buying Trouble**

The trouble between the Minister and Professor Jacobs arose when Mr. Winkler's famous cow scheme was inaugurated. He insisted upon Professor Jacobs taking charge of the administration of the act, in addition to his duties as professor at the college and manager of the college farm. No instructions or system was mapped out for handling the cow scheme and the first purchase of cows Mr. Winkler thought cost too much and ordered a lower price to be paid. The next purchase was the cows that were rejected because of supposed poor quality. Mr. Jacobs about this time relinquished the cow scheme in order to give proper attention to his duties at the College. Shortly after this the minister announced that he had been "let out" as manager of the minister's "cow scheme" because of the purchase of the cows that were unsatisfactory and tried to make him take the cows off the hands of the gov-

ernment. There seems to be very decided differences of opinion as to whether these cows were worth the money paid for them.

Another big difference of opinion arose when Mr. Winkler himself went into the cow buying business. He attended a sale in Winnipeg and purchased a young Holstein cow for \$550, and sent it out to the agricultural college. Professor Jacobs and his assistant, Professor Wood had previously decided that they would be unable to make any purchases at this sale. It turned out that the cow had no official record either for quality or quantity of milk. Later under actual test at the college the cow fell very far short of what any cow worth \$550 should yield. Consequently Professor Jacobs and his assistant, Professor Wood, placed a valuation of \$200 on the animal, which, naturally, greatly annoyed Mr. Winkler. For this and other differences of opinion it has been known for some time that Mr. Winkler has been determined to discharge Professor Jacobs, despite the fact that he is giving good satisfaction as professor at the college and is very highly thought of both by the staff and by the student body.

## Mitchell, Black and McMillan

It is only a few months since Professor Mitchell of the Dairy Department of the college resigned and went to New Brunswick. The chief reason for his leaving was because of trouble between himself and Mr. Winkler. As professor of dairying he was under the Agricultural College board, but as dairy commissioner he was under the Minister of Agriculture. The friction between himself and Mr. Winkler became so acute that he thought it advisable to accept another position to save himself from the same kind of treatment that has been handed out to Professor Jacobs. Professor Mitchell has a Dominion wide reputation as being one of the foremost dairy authorities in Canada.

It will be remembered that one of the first acts of Mr. Winkler after the change of government was to discharge President Black, without consulting with the advisory board in any way, tho the advisory board was the only body that had power to take such action.

For more than a year there has been no Deputy Minister of Agriculture, since A. J. MacMillan resigned because he could not get along with Mr. Winkler. Mr. MacMillan was not allowed the proper authority of a deputy minister, but was treated more as a departmental clerk, and resigned voluntarily because the position was unbearable.

From all information available it is quite apparent that Mr. Winkler is determined that he shall run the Agricultural College absolutely, despite the fact that the advisory board under the law is constituted for that purpose and is given full authority to run the college. The action of the minister is crippling the work of the college and is humiliating to the board which the government has appointed to carry on the work. Mr. Winkler knows little about the work of the Agricultural Col-



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