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Mr. Marsh Visits the West

Mr. George F. Marsh, who is well known to Farm and Dairy readers from having written a special series of articles about alfalfa, which were published in these columns during the early and late spring months, has recently returned from a trip through Western Canada, taking in amongst other places, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, Moosejaw and Regina. He returned by way of Fort William, and called a few days ago at the office of Farm and Dairy. The first greeting being over, we asked—"What did you see out west that you liked better than home?" "That trip made me much better satisfied with old Ontario," he replied. "The west is a great country, but you must not overlook the fact that it has its disadvantages."

Our editor having a few years ago spent some months in the West, travelling it from Winnipeg through to the coast, and making many side trips from the main line of travel, is tolerably familiar with conditions in Western Canada, and could appreciate many of the remarks passed by Mr. Marsh, some of which were not altogether complimentary to the west. Believing that Farm and Dairy readers would care to know something of Mr. Marsh's impressions gained while on his trip, we shall give them here to some extent. Those of our readers who are planning to take in the harvest excursion this year will find it interesting to make special note of what Mr. Marsh has to say, with a view to proving his impressions in their own experience.

IMPRESSIONS OF HOMESTEADING

Settling down to give us the benefit of his trip, Mr. Marsh said: "The homestead business did not appeal to me at all. Consider the chances one takes when homesteading! Some strike it rich, I know, but I shall tell you of a college friend of mine that I visited out there. He is one that we may term as 'having struck it rich.' He was formerly from Exeter, Huron Co., Ont. A few years ago he took his family and his family of little ones out on the prairie. Of late years he has trailed it 25 miles to the station; just now, new railway construction has placed a station three miles off on one side of him, and four miles on another side. This railroad will shortly set him up in fine shape. He will win out with 800 acres of good land."

"But let me tell you a little more about this friend. The first year he was out there he was 80 miles from a railway station, and he teamed his lumber for his house that 80 miles, and hauled coal that distance in the winter time, with the thermometer registering 60 degrees below zero. Supposing he had required a doctor for his family: Had he been in Ontario it would have cost him \$20 out there it would have been \$100. Before a man goes west he should consider these things. And then to live out there it costs a lot that one does not at first recognize. For example, it takes an awful time to go any place; the distances are great. It costs so much to travel anywhere; a livery is very expensive, making it so that one does not care to travel much that way."

A COUNTRY FOR MONIED MEN

While on this strain, Mr. Marsh said that the country appealed to him as being one especially adapted for men with lots of money, who would do things on a big scale, use steam plows, and be able to escape the hardships which the ordinary man must out there endure. He showed us a post place for men with small means. The friend about whom the foregoing deals, is located about 100 miles west from Saskatoon. In addition to other difficulties, he had a large problem to solve in getting water. He dug two very deep wells somewhere between

80 and 90 feet each. From the first he got no water at all, while with the second he got but a meagre supply, and will require to supplement it before he can accomplish more work. "I visited another friend near Carbon," continued Mr. Marsh. "He is only 60 miles from Calgary. People talk about high prices for produce out west, but you imagine my surprise when I found that he was getting only 15c. a lb. for his lettuce. In Calgary the price ruled at from 35 to 40 cents. It struck me that they seemed to have the nose around the farmers' necks out in the west more than is the case in Ontario. The farmers out there will probably make out well in time, but then as to their life—I consider it awful in some respects."

LAND VALUES LIKE FAIRY TALES

"Real estate values, in the cities especially, out west seem like fairy tales. Much of the farm land is priced as high as \$25 an acre, the lots at this price being several miles from the railway."

"The only thing with the people out there is the almighty dollar. In this regard it is bad enough with us in Ontario."

"A fellow gets a new idea about the prairie land when one sees it. I was surprised to find that it grew no hay save in the sloughs. In a district supposed to be a hay country, out of the Calgary set out by the only once in three years, setting two years old hay, and then they get only one ton to the acre. They tell about pasturing animals out all winter."

(Continued on page 6)

Cattle Struck by Lightning

When animals are struck by lightning the shock usually kills them instantly, but where they are milky struck and they continue to live, they are usually in a partially paralyzed condition. But cases are known of the shock to the nervous system and they naturally lose control of certain parts of the body or limbs.

There is great danger of live wire falling from electric lines onto wire fences. This will charge the entire fence with electricity, and if an animal comes in contact with it, it is usually instant death. The writer recently observed a case of this kind where the entire fence surrounding the small paddock was charged by a fallen wire during an electrical storm. Three cows were killed in their track while coming in contact with the fence. A cat attempting to jump through the fence was instantly killed and roared while partly through the fence.

Where an animal has been shocked by lightning or electricity, and has not been killed, it is advisable to administer to it such ingredients as will have a tendency to loosen up the bowels. It is advisable to give a laxative, stimulant and tonic.—Dr. David Roberts in *Kinland's Dairy Farmer*.

Water for Live Stock

An abundant supply of pure water should be one of the first things to be secured in stock farming operations. One should ever be satisfied with stagnant surface water, such as is often found in ponds, neither should he well be located where it will catch rain drainage from the stable or lot. A period of drouth is a good time to secure a well that is to be relied on for not only is the soil easier to handle when wet, but there is no chance of water to interfere with sinking a well to a proper depth.

The time lost in hauling water or driving stock to neighboring streams should not be encouraged, as it represents money, and sends animals so watered are too frequently stunted and neglected with reference to a proper water supply.

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