

EDITORIAL.

The most prosperous farmers are those who do not attempt to farm more land than can be thoroughly cultivated with the capital and help at their disposal.

The farmers who are constantly on the outlook for something new to try are not likely to be heard from as the most successful men. It is better to specialize along one or two lines and secure every thing that is in them.

Keep the spuds, hoes and cultivators going as much as possible at this season of the year, and thereby hinder the weeds from forming their seeds, to be troublesome next year. Cultivation also enables the soil to retain its moisture, as well as to allow a free circulation of air about the roots of the plants.

Prices for rooms in Chicago are now very low. In some parts of the city quite distant from the Exposition, rooms are renting for 50c. per day for two persons. This is in private families. There are many such localities. Farmers would do well not to defer their visit till larger demand stimulates prices.

Many a farmer is going behind financially every year by trying to raise wheat only. The longer he continues the worse he will be, as impoverishment of the land is sure to follow, while dairying is certain in its action, always leaving a quantity of cash in the house, as well as enriching the soil year by year.

Do not allow your cows to be hurried home from the pasture by dogs or thoughtless boys, or the result will be less of milk, which will be wonderfully decreased in cream richness, and is liable to be poisoned by fever brought on by undue exertion and nervous excitement. It is not safe to give such milk to little children.

Separator milk is not quite as valuable for feeding as ordinary skim milk. This is rather a recommendation for it than otherwise, as it shows that its fats have gone into the butter. However, the deficiency when fed to calves can be made up quite cheaply by the use of oil-cake meal made into porridge and mixed with the milk.

The fence problem is one that is receiving considerable consideration. Farmers that have old rail fences—can save off the time of purchasing new material by constructing out of the old a good substantial patent fence, of which there are several good ones to choose from. The old rails that are not fit to go in again will pay for the work of building, if converted into fire wood for the summer season. Every farmer that adopts this plan will experience a period of good nature every time he passes that way.

One of the most convenient methods for a farmer to pack summer eggs for later use is in boxes in some dry substance. The use of salt, bran, oats or dry earth are very good. Coal ashes, wheat, chaff, etc., answer very well. A layer of packing material is put in the bottom of the package, a layer of eggs, set on end, is put in so as not to touch each other, then a second layer of the packing substance is put on sufficiently thick to keep the layer apart, and so on until the box is filled. Nail up tightly, and date package and place in a cool, moderately dry place, where there will be little variation of temperature; turn the package bottom-side up every four or five days, and the eggs when wanted will come out nice and fresh.

In sections where early and short strawed varieties of peas are grown, farmers will find some difficulty in keeping the land clean and rich, because the ground is so thinly covered, and the lack of straw to return as manure. This difficulty can be easily overcome by plowing the pea fields quite shallow as soon as the crop is removed, and sowing two or three pecks of buck-wheat per acre, to be plowed under as soon as it comes into blossom, which will be in a very few weeks after sowing. The land may be plowed deeply this time and left till spring, or just deep enough to cover the green manure, which soon decays sufficiently to be cross plowed. Twice plowing is preferable if time will allow, as the effect on the mechanical condition of the land will be highly satisfactory to those who try it. The plowing in of the crop is greatly facilitated by rolling round and round the piece the same way that the plowing is to be done, and by using a heavy chain hung from the end of the double-tree to the beam where the coulter is attached. It should hang so loose that the loop will be almost covered by the falling furrow.

Institute Workers.

With great pleasure we submit the finely engraved likenesses of the three men to whom, in great measure, is due the success of the farmers' institutes in Manitoba:

The President, James Elder, of Virden—by his clear judgment and unbiased devotion to principle; the Vice-President, S. A. Bedford, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm at Brandon—whose very name is an inspiration to higher ideals in farming; the Secretary-Treasurer, R. E. A. Leech, of Brandon—by his untiring energy and push.

PRESIDENT ELDER.

James Elder, "Hensall Farm," Virden, President of the Virden Farmers' Institute, and who for the past two years has been President of the Manitoba Central Farmers' Institute, determined at the last annual meeting, owing to failing health, to resign from this responsibility and tax upon his efforts. But the unanimity with which the members demanded his service compelled compliance with their wishes, and he was again elected president for the ensuing year.

Mr. Elder is one of the most intelligent and successful farmers in the province, is a clear and practical speaker on agricultural topics, and articles from his pen are always highly appreciated by readers of the *ADVOCATE*, for which he has been a contributor for some years. He was born on May 6th, 1847, near Hensall, Huron Co., Ontario; farmed on the same place, on what was known as the London road, about half way between Exeter and Hensall; moved to near Virden, Manitoba, in the spring of 1884, and settled on "Hensall Farm," which had been bought without seeing it in 1882 from the C. P. R. Co., broke 160 acres in 1884, and 140 in 1885. In religion Mr. Elder is a Presbyterian, in nationality a Scotchman, and in politics an Independent Liberal, bound to no party, and refusing the dictation of either party's wire-pullers. He is, in fact, a staunch Manitoban, with great faith in the ultimate greatness of this western land.

VICE-PRESIDENT BEDFORD.

Mr. Bedford was born Feb. 1st, 1852, County of Sussex, England. Emigrated to Ontario in 1863, and removed to Manitoba in 1877, and took land near Thornhill, in Southern Manitoba, the same year. In 1880 he married Minnie, daughter of J. F. Bolton, of Newboro, Ontario.

From his arrival in this Province, Mr. Bedford's energies have been directed largely towards encouraging emigration to Manitoba and the Northwest, both personally and in the interest of colonization companies. He was instrumental in settling large numbers in the Pembina and Rock Lake districts.

He has held the position of Inspector for the Scottish Ontario, North British Canadian, and Canada Northwest Land Companies, and for some years had 400 families of different nationalities under his care. Was elected by acclamation a member of the Northwest council for Moosomin district, September, 1885. Mr. Bedford followed farming on his own account in Oxford County, Ontario, and at Thornhill, Manitoba; he also managed a large farm at Fleming and Moosomin, N. W. T.

In 1888 the Dominion Government purchased what is now the Experimental Farm, lying two miles from Brandon on the north side of the Assiniboine river, appointing Mr. Bedford Superintendent; and, as President Elder remarked at the late Institute Convention, "the Dominion Government never made a better appointment." Kind and courteous to a degree, an undefatigable worker, and an enthusiastic experimentalist, Mr. Bedford's efforts have indeed been crowned with success; for where chaos and weeds held possession, now order and neatness prevail; avenues nicely gravelled and lined with trees, experimental plots, systematically laid out, testing the grains, grasses, fodders, trees, shrubs and flowers in all their varieties; and specimens of the several breeds of live stock, all in the pink of condition. But not only in the success of the farm itself, but what is perhaps of more importance, is the interest manifested by the farmers throughout the province in the work of the farm, as attested by the increasing amount of correspondence, and the great number of visitors who annually inspect the farm.

SECRETARY-TREASURER LEECH.

The Manitoba Central Farmers' Institute is to be congratulated on securing for a second term the services of so able and energetic a person, for what is perhaps its most important office, as R. E. A. Leech.

Mr. Leech is a large and successful farmer, owning about 2,100 acres of Manitoba soil, of which 1,100 are under cultivation and 750 in crop this year.

Mr. Leech takes a prominent part in all the public institutions of his district, and is one of the pillars of the Methodist church.

Born in Lansdowne, Leeds County, Ontario, on June 25th, 1859; emigrated to Manitoba in the spring of 1879, with no capital, locating first in the vicinity of Rapid City, but subsequently settling down on his present magnificent farm about four miles south-east of the city of Brandon.

Fighting the Horn Fly.

The farmers of this country are becoming so familiar with the habits and effects of the Horn Fly that comments along this line are unnecessary. By a letter from the pen of C. H. De Lafosse, of Corsicana, Texas, in the *Breeder's Gazette*, we must conclude that this new, very annoying pest has not by any means reached its worst stages. He says: "I am a native Texan, and have been in the stock business all my life; have seen all manner of cow and horse pests, from the old big black fly down, but have never seen anything to equal these flies. They bite the cattle from daylight till dark, and roost upon them at night. They do not affect the horn, as some seem to think; they bite where the skin is thinnest, where they cannot be reached by the tail. If these flies continue here (and I believe they will) and some way is not devised to destroy them, they are going to be a greater curse to the stockmen than the army worm is to the cotton planter.

One of the most reasonable remedies that has been proposed is given in the *Breeder's Gazette*. Prepare a stick as large or larger than a man's thumb, whittle a knob at one end, wrap a rag firmly around the end of the stick and tie firmly with a stout cord well wrapped around so as to clinch down behind the knob, and your weapon is a swab to apply the medicine with. An old paint brush will answer as well. Now, the remedy which has been successful in keeping them off for a week at a time is: Crude cotton-seed oil, say one gallon; common pine tar, one pint, thoroughly stirred together over a gentle heat (be careful, it easily boils over and does not stop after it is taken off). Apply this thoroughly, rubbing it well over places where the flies congregate most thickly, and the animal is safe for a week or so, unless washed off by the rain.

Another remedy is given by J. P. Braswill, of Brenton. Take kerosene, spirits of turpentine, sulphur and crysalic ointment, mix them well, and rub or sprinkle the mixture on the animals. I would suggest that a little tar can do no harm and will make it more adhesive.

Whoever does the milking, be it man or woman, boy or girl, can apply either of these preparations whenever needed, and no loss of time or trouble to the farmer need result.

Weaning Lambs.

The season of the year has arrived when lambs should be weaned, and in order that no stagnation in their growth should take place, it will be necessary to give a little supplemental food at this time. A small quantity of bran, oats and oil-cake answers the purpose very well for a grain ration. The lambs should be taught to eat this kind of food before weaning, by constructing a pen in the pasture with creep-hole entrances for the lambs, so small that the ewes cannot go through. The sides and top of the entrances should be provided with rollers, to enable the lambs to pass through without tearing the wool from their bodies. For lamb pasture there is nothing better than second growth clover, which will be in prime condition by the middle of August. If no clover is available, a field of rape joining a grass field will make a good substitute. Care should be taken not to allow them in the rape while it is wet, or bloating is apt to result. The ewes should be placed on rather scanty pasture for a couple of weeks, so far removed from the lambs that the bleating of either may not be heard by the others. The udders should be looked to for a few days, and if noticed to be distended should be milked out, and well rubbed with goose oil if swollen. When properly dried they should be put on good feed to recruit and get in condition for winter.

In marketing farm produce of all kinds, be very careful to offer it in the most attractive and neatest form. There is no part of a farmer's work so remunerative as this. Such finished products as ripe fruits and butter require special attention.

Wm. T. Ault, a farmer living near Hillsboro, Illinois, gives his experience, in the *Rural World*, in feeding hogs wheat. Having a good supply of the cereal, which was worth 60 cents per bushel on the market, he concluded to test its feeding value. Putting up thirty-six head of good-sized pigs, he had his wheat ground or cracked fine and soaked in water. This was fed until the hogs were fat, when he sold them at market price, and on figuring up he found that his wheat had realized in the form of pork \$1.40 per bushel. Lately conducted experiments have proven that soaking chop for hogs is unnecessary.