

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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## Editorial.

### Siftings.

A bridge is about to be built across the St. Mary's River, Southern Alberta, at a cost of \$40,000.

The Birtle Eye Witness reports twice the number of threshing outfits within twenty-five miles of that town as compared with last year.

Regina citizens are gratified over the prospect of having the C. N. Railway reach their city next year. They are alive to the importance of having railway competition. The Territorial Capital has a bright future in store.

Kansas City is the only point of any importance in the United States where there is an increase in wheat shipments over last year.

The new crop of wheat from the Argentine Republic will not begin to move until about February, but favorable reports coming from there are said to have a depressing effect on Liverpool prices.

The Swift Packing Co., of Chicago and Kansas City, have declared a thirteen per cent. dividend for the last year.

According to an estimate of the wheat crop of Germany, made by the grain trade of that country, 160,000,000 bushels may be expected, as compared with 174,000,000 last year. The rye crop also shows a falling off equal to nearly twenty-five million bushels.

Since live stock from the Argentine Republic has been excluded from British ports, steamers are being prepared for the purpose of carrying on an extensive dead-meat trade. The dressed-meat interests of Chicago already assert that this step on the part of the wily traders of the Platte country is effecting their business, and greater things are feared.

An American exchange says that if any one man owned all the grain wasted in one season by the farmers in a single State, his name would stand high in the catalogue of millionaires. This might also be said of this country. The amount of grain wasted around some threshing machines on the open prairie is amazing.

The farmers of Kansas are having trouble this year to get cars enough to take their wheat to market. The trouble is that threshing throughout the State is done in a comparatively short period, and everybody wants to market at once. These Kansas grain-growers could afford to take a leaf from the books of their craftsmen in this country, and build portable granaries.

Old Country methods are generally considered as being pretty slow, but at Blockley, in Worcestershire, an experiment was recently carried out, which to equal it would make most Canadians hustle. At 8.30 a.m. a portion of a field of wheat was cut, and thirty minutes later sufficient of it had been threshed, ground and baked in cakes and loaves to make a present to the King and others of the Royal household. It looks as though John Bull can hurry when he will.

### B. C. Market for Territorial Sheep.

During the last few years sheep-ranchers in the Northwest Territories have not been receiving the returns which their labors deserved. The price of wool has been low, very low, and the figures to be obtained for sheep or lambs for the block have not been encouraging.

In regard to the wool question, it has been pointed out by some who have given the subject careful attention, that the low price was due largely to the growing practice of manufacturers to introduce shoddy into so-called woollen goods, thus doing away with the necessity for large quantities of the genuine article. It was with a view to restricting this fraudulent practice that a bill was introduced during the last session of the Dominion Parliament, making it necessary that goods designated as "all wool" be found absolutely free from any substance other than sheep's wool, that had not been previously used in the manufacture of cloth. This bill, unfortunately, did not become law, but it is hoped that after another session it will have a place upon the statute books.

Of recent years no special effort has been made to secure better markets for sheep intended for slaughter. This has probably been due to the general opinion that markets for live stock are not to be developed, and that such matters always adjust themselves. The letter from Nomad, however, which appears in another column, throws a new light upon this subject. British Columbia markets lie at the very door of the sheepmen of Alberta and Eastern Assiniboia, and yet it is certain that the ranchmen of the States to the south have been in a great measure commanding the mutton markets of the cities and towns of our great Pacific Province. Is it so that they have a better class of sheep, or can they produce mutton more cheaply than their Canadian competitor? Certainly not. Then why should so many sheep be crossing the boundary, and even paying a duty to enter this Canadian home market? The "Farmer's Advocate" has been always an ardent supporter of closer inter-provincial trade throughout this Dominion, but it is seldom that the opportunity for developing a trade with a sister province has become more apparent than between the Northwest and British Columbia. We believe that the importance of improving the market for Territorial sheep across the mountain demands immediate attention, and we would suggest to the Territorial Sheep-breeders' Association that a good live man be sent across to investigate the situation. If British Columbia farmers can be shown that there is good money in finishing range sheep for the market, it ought to be done, and if the butchers of that Province can be induced to buy larger quantities of Canadian and less American sheep for slaughter, the sooner will sheep-ranchers on the eastern slopes of the Rockies feel that the industry of their choice is to be saved. If the Association or any of its members desire the names of the leading butchers in the principal cities of the coast, we shall be glad to furnish them, or do anything else in our power to facilitate a better trade relationship both east and west of the provincial boundary.

With an irrigation system practically established, and the sugar-beet industry well begun, the next thing to claim attention in Southern Alberta is prospecting for petroleum. Prospecting has been going on in the country between Cardston and the Rockies for some time, and it is said with fair prospects of success.

### The Manitoba Agricultural College.

Since the last Provincial election in Manitoba nothing has been said in public by members of the Government regarding the establishment of the agricultural college. It is generally understood, however, that the necessary plans are under consideration, and doubtless before long the agricultural public will become enlightened as to the location of the institution and the personnel of its staff. These are matters belonging to the initial stages in the carrying into effect of the act passed at the last session of the Provincial Legislature.

The location of this institution is an important matter: important in its bearing upon the future usefulness of the college, to the Province, and more especially so to the particular locality in which it is to be placed. There are, no doubt, many places in the Province where it could be placed to splendid advantage, and do good work. It should, of course, be centrally located, and have good railway connection. Delegates from the different points have, as is well known, made the merits of their district known, and it remains for the Government to decide.

Even more important than the location is the selection of the proper man to fill the position of dean, or chief director, and just to the extent of his ability to fill the position will the college in its early years be successful and claim and hold a popular place in the favor of the agricultural masses. This will be, doubtless, the most difficult position on the staff to fill. It will require a man who is, first of all, thoroughly conversant with agricultural conditions in the Province; one who has lived here, has the confidence of the people, and has a correct idea of the line of education which will be suitable to and most readily appreciated by the young men who should benefit by it. It took the Ontario Agricultural College nearly twenty-five years to become generally popular with the farmers of the old sister Province, because its course in the early days was lacking in practical application to the every-day affairs of the farm. Fifteen years ago her professors as speakers on agricultural subjects were not sought for throughout the Province; to-day they are wanted everywhere, because they are doing a work that the people can understand. They are finding out what the people need to know and are anxious to learn, and they are giving a course which is being appreciated. American colleges have had a similar history, and it remains for Manitoba to take advantage of this experience and have a course of study arranged to begin with that will interest the people.

As to who this chief of staff should be, we have no interest to serve, other than that which is best for the college, but we see no one at present in sight superior to S. A. Bedford, Superintendent of Brandon Experimental Farm. We have no assurance that Mr. Bedford would accept this position were he offered it, but in our opinion it would augur well for the future of Manitoba Agricultural College were a man of his integrity, judgment and practical ability identified prominently with the initial stages in its establishment. No man appreciates more fully than he the need of agricultural education in Manitoba. Fifteen years as Superintendent of the Experimental Farm, closely in touch with the various problems that confront the farmers of the Province, has qualified him for the position in question as nothing else could. He is also a man of