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Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

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August 8, 1906.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Vol. XLI. No. 724.

EDITORIAL

The farmer with lots of coarse feed and a bunch of steers or hogs to feed off the coming winter or some fresh cows to milk, is not worrying much over a rust scare.

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Some farmers believe that the practice of drawing manure straight from the stable to the land helps one to get a weedy farm.

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The occasional patches of fodder corn that dot the rural landscape serve to show where the chaps live that will feed their live stock well the coming winter.

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Now is the time when the village implement man gets the 'bark rubbed off his knuckles as he puts new binders together for the coming harvest; he does not forget to use the oil can, however.

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It is becoming a more difficult proposition every year for fair managers to secure attractions that will attract and that are clean, especially in the big places, where places of amusement are going all the year round.

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Farmers flocked like bees around the Grain Growers' Company's tent to listen to Ed. Partidge. It is an encouraging sign when one farmer will listen to another's suggestions or advice, such as it should be, and is the sign of the times and a broader spirit.

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"Whether is it better to buy from a neighbor privately or at auction, a proved horse or mare for cash or short date note, or an unknown, untried one from the dealer at double the price on long time and big interest?" This question is not yet settled in some farmers' minds.

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The raucous throat notes of the thirteen hundred series of C. P. R. Moguls may not be as beautiful to the poet as the nightingale, but such are fully appreciated by farmers with cars of wheat to go to the lakes, and also we should think be sweet music to the shareholders in the great corporation.

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Van Horne says we "should abolish our stupid immigration restrictions"; of course the C. P. R. ex-president is only looking at the question from the standpoint of the railroad builder, not from that of the nation-builder. He practises a different doctrine when importing Clydesdales or Shorthorns though.

* * *

The farmers between Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie must be great beef eaters or Englishmen if their partiality for mustard is to be judged by the yellow color of their fields. A man from St. George's country differs with the last suggestion, he says they must be from the land of cakes judged by their tolerance of thistles. Now really which is it?

* * *

Moonlight scene in front of the colonade.—A well known stockman is seen gazing up at the Industrial's buffalo which has recently been dipped, although in very strong solution, and was heard to soliloquize as follows: "After totting up our wins this year shouldn't wonder but what Sir William might feel like giving Sunbeam such a dip, it ought certainly to kill the mange." We do not vouch for the accuracy of this story.

* * *

A farmer, who is also a business man suggests that in considering the purchase of a farm, and when deciding between an improved farm ad-

jacent to markets, and virgin prairie some distance therefrom, it is well to take into consideration the cost of breaking and backsetting, fencing, building, also the extra cost on every pound of inward and outward freight (the latter may be expressed in cents per bushel on the price of wheat) before deciding that the wild land is the cheaper, and therefore to be preferred. This strikes one as a commonsense idea and the proper way to look at the matter!

* * *

Steps in the satisfactory marketing of the farmers' wheat are seen on scrutiny to constitute a process of evolution; the first improvement was the coming of the fanning mill and scales to the farm, which helped to stop some of the thinly-disguised robbery of the early nineties, then came the loading platform and commission men, by which farmers were enabled to escape the clutches of the many of local elevator chaps, later on, came the dividend-paying farmers' elevators, what will be the next step? We may not all be agreed as to what form it will take, but the improvement and evolution is bound to go on.

The Country Moves Far Faster Than the P. O. Department.

One cannot travel over the big extent of country in Western Canada, noting the rapid settlement of the country without being impressed with the fact that this great paying department of the public service is not quite as wide awake as it might be.

We know the department labors under a heavy disability in its distance from that part of Canada where tremendous development is taking place, but it needs an intelligence section or officer who shall be quicker to see the needs, in fact foresee, and make recommendations so that the congestion noticed at some general delivery wickets at the larger centers in the western country is avoided. As it is we do not believe that the department, is at some points, adequately manned to meet the great inrush of new settlers, in fact at such points as Edmonton, Regina and Calgary, from personal inspection it is seen to be the case. In such centers, especially where land offices are located, the department should make provision by means of extra help, so that the wickets may be kept open from eight A.M. to nine P.M. The trouble is that too many of the big departments in their zeal for their work forget to some extent that the creation of such departments was for the public convenience and not to give employment to a few officials. It must be very gratifying to the Postmaster-General to be able to point to a paying department and a surplus, but the public convenience is the first thing to be studied, even if the department only manages to pay its way. The supplying of post offices to the newly settled districts is also very slowly attended to, as is the changing from stage to railway mail routes. The excuse offered by the department for the latter is that the contracts with stage drivers are made, so that rapid changes cannot be made, if so it is time, different contracts were made terminable in a reasonable time, say in two or three months. Any wide-awake official ought to know that when a railroad is being built through a stretch of country, that the letting of a long (3 years or more) contract at that time for staging the mails shows the officials or the department to be lacking in ordinary business foresight. The people tributary to many branch lines in the West have had to put up with a long wait for a decent mail service, when the railroad has been giving a passenger service for months; there is need for more elasticity in the P. O. Department, and if it is short handed let it take steps to remedy that lack. In these days, settlements such as those between the main lines of the C. P. R. and C. N. R. should not have to drive twenty, thirty or more miles

for mail, which even then can only be had weekly. The country as a whole does not benefit by any penny-wise policy which helps maintain the deadly isolation of the newly settled districts, a post office should be located in townships as soon as the Interior Department reports the lands as entered for homesteads.

The Crop Estimates.

One thing strikes the observer of Western conditions and that is that there is not as much concern among the wholesalers, bankers, loan companies and kindred ilk with regard to the wheat crop as we were accustomed to witness in other years. There seems to be a settled feeling that a good crop is a foregone conclusion. It is no longer feared that there is a possibility of a general failure over the wheat belt, and that while some localities may suffer, the general average will be satisfactory. The concern for the crop is mostly confined to the dealers, the farmers having learned that no amount of worry can add one ounce to the yield. Press representatives and the dealers' agents have been sending in reports of promise of unparalleled yields, so that the general public is more or less at ease. The tone of the reports seems to be prompted by a desire to "boost" the country and as far as that goes no one can complain, but the actual truth about the crops is what every one desires and what is most beneficial in influencing prices to the point where they actually shall rule. We have no object in endeavoring to effect the bull side of the market, however much good that it might do the majority of our readers, but we are anxious that glowing reports should not result in bearing prices at the expense of the producer, hence we have kept an observant eye upon the country and have received reports from the most trustworthy sources as to general conditions, and we are loath to state that these estimates of the yield for 1906 have been very much exaggerated. Summer fallows and breaking where they have not made too rank a growth promise a fair crop, while stubble land will yield light. The hundred million bushel estimate we contend has little promise of realization and many of our informants in the country are of the opinion that it will not equal last year's total of eighty five million bushels.

A Damaging Admission of Packingtown Conditions.

While the world is denouncing American meat-packers for disregard of cleanliness and sanitation, the packers and their apologists asseverate that the companies have been making efforts to improve their methods, and that cleanliness has always been their motto. No doubt they have tried to improve. No doubt, when it did not promise to reduce profits too seriously, they did take pains to ensure the wholesomeness of their products. The conditions found in the packing plants of Chicago may be no worse, either, except in extent, than those that might be discovered in the abattoirs and factories of some other countries. It must be remembered, also, that civilization's standard of decency and sanitation is yearly rising. What is intolerable to-day, would have been treated with complaisance fifty years since, before bacteriology had aroused public fear of disease. It is admitted that a slaughterhouse is a difficult place to keep clean, and a brutalizing place in which to work. No doubt there is the greatest difficulty in getting any but a low class of men to perform certain phases of the operations. All these facts may be advanced in partial extenuation of those responsible for the disgusting conditions until recently prevailing in Chicago. But these same facts merely emphasize the need of revolution in the business. The greater the temptation for the packers to drop into ruts of carelessness and filth, the more imperative the need for a spur to force them out of it. Strict