FARM AND DAIRY

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"Read not to contradict and to confute, nor to believe and tak sider."-Bacon.

Professor Reynolds

THE Manitoba Agricultural College has now been under the presidency of Prof. J. B. Reynolds for one month. In his new charge, Prof. Reynolds found all the physical equipment necessary to a great educational institution but lacking sadly in the spirit and the purpose which constitute the real worth of any college. It is too soon yet to expect manifestations of new life at the Manitoba Agricultural College, but those of us who know Prof. Reynolds best, are confident that already foundations have been laid for making that college a more potent force in Manitoba agriculture.

In Prof. Reynolds, Manitoba has secured a man of sterling worth. For years he has been a careful student of rural conditions. As a practical, successful farmer, he has been in closer touch with the actual problems of the farm than are most college men, and as a leader of an institution for young men, he possesses the supreme qualification of being a Christian gentleman. In congratulating Manitoba anew on its choice of a head for its college, Farm and Dairy takes this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of the character and worth of our friend, Prof. J. B. Reynolds.

Why Not Crop Rotations?

DURING the year 1914, the Commission of Conservation made investigations in Canada to determine the proportion of farmers who are following a systematic rotation of crops. The results recently published are, to say the least, startling. Of the 100 farmers visited on Prince Edward Island, only one is reported as really following a systematic rotation. In Nova Scotia there were nine, in New Brunswick 19, and in Quebec 200 farms visited, and on these, the survey reports, there are none following a short

rotation, and the plan followed by the average farmer is to leave the land under hay and pasture for from six to eight years, when it would be broken up and again seeded to grass and clover. In Ontario, the banner agricultural province, 200 farmers were visited, and of these only eight are following a rotation that can be called sys tematic. In the prairie provinces, a rotation of crops is practically unknown.

This showing is not an encouraging one. Climatic conditions, re know, often make the following of an iron-bound rotation impossible and inadvisable. The very best farmers of the land, however, all have a fixed rotation to act as a general guide, and they keep as near to it as conditions will permit. Theory and practice prove that a well planned rotation increases yields and decreases expenses per unit of production. Then why are more of our farmers not practising a rotation of crops? Frankly, we do not know.

The Commission Appointed

ROYAL Commission to enquire into agricultural conditions has been appointed. The duties of the Commission will be to take stock of Canada's natural resources and to investigate and report upon such problems as those of rail and water transportation and marketing, immigration, increased production, the placing of soldiers after the war, cooperative systems, farm credits, unemployment, and similar matters. Senator Lougheed will be chairman of the new Commission. With him are affiliated J. B. Rowland, Montreal; Wm. Smith, M.P., Columbus; Dr. J. G. Rutherford, formerly Veterinary Director-General and now associated with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company; J. C. Watters, president of the Trades and Labor Council; Wm. Farrell, Victoria; E. A. Hopkins, Moose Jaw; J. W. Flavelle, Toronto, and Senator W. B. Ross of Nova Scotia. W. J. Black, formerly president of the Manitoba Agricultural College, has been appointed secretary of the Commission.

The duties of this Commission will be heavy and some phases of the work require immediate and energetic attention. The transportation problem, for instance, is already pressing for solution, as the advantages of a large crop are being almost altogether lost to the farmers of Canada through the exorbitant charges for ocean transportation, charges that have been multiplied several times since the outbreak of the war. If we would make a criticism of the constitution of the Commission, it would be that its powers are too wide, that it is required to cover too much ground. This difficulty may be overcome in such measure by the appointment of sub-committees, but even with these committees, each with its special work to do, the committee may be a most unwieldy body. In fact, it seems to have assumed a good portion of the duties which properly belong to Parliament itself. If it performs well even a part of its duties, this Commission will more than justify its existence.

The Personnel of the Commission

ROM the farmers' standpoint the personnel of the Commission is disappointing. The Commission, we understand, was appointed primarily to investigate conditions affecting agriculture. Farmers, therefore, are the people most concerned and at the same time are the class most inadequately represented on the Commission. For several weeks we have been pointing out in Farm and Dairy that the work of this Commission could not command the confidence of the organized farmers of Canada unless their wishes were consulted in the selection of the Commissioners. These suggestions were altogether ignored. Among the eastern men on the Commission, Wm. Smith, the Conservative member for South Ontario, is the only one who is in any real

sense a facmer, but he is not connected with any of the great farmers' organizations of the land In fact the only one who has any claim as a representative of the organized farmers is E. A. Hopkins, of Moose Jaw, who is a one time president of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Asso. ciation, and is now Honorary President, but who has not been active in the work for several years. Moreover, the selection of Mr. Hopkins was made without consulting the men he is supposed to represent. In short, the farmers' organizations of Carada are not represented at all by men of their own choosing.

At the same time the financial, transportation and labor interests are all represented by men of whom they would approve. J. W. Flavelle's relationships with railway, banking and packing interests are well known. Dr. Rutherford is employee of the Canadiar. Pacific Raily Dr. Rutherford is an Senator Ross is largely interested in a steel corportion, and his connection with foreign railway ventures suggest where his sympathies would be in any difference of opinion that might arise between the farming and the railroad interests. In fact, the transportation interests seem to be exceptionally well represented. Labor, too, because of their superior organization, got a representative after their own heart on the Commission in Mr. J. C. Watters. The great majority of the Commission are certainly not in sympathy with the farmer nor are they qualified to deal sympathetically with his peculiar problems.

The failure of farmers to get adequate represcatation on this Commission should cause all of us to ask ourselves seriously, why it is that the opinion of the independent farmers organization of the country, almo 75,000 strong, apparent counted for nothing in the selection of this Commission. We believe the great lesson to be learned from the incident is the necessity of closer and at organization among all vis live on the

A Free Fair

ANSAS, the land of big wheat crops at automobile owning wheat farmers, has had given the first free fair on record; or perhaps would be safer to say, the first large free i on record. Over 175,000 people attended the fair. Not one of them paid an admission is There were no tiresome waits for tickets at t wicket, no heated discussions as to wheth Johnnie or Jessie should be classed as child or adult and pay for their tickets according The usual booming "Please buy your tick here," was nowhere heard. Everybody wall right in to the fair held at Topeko, Karsas, a so successful was the fair that its managers confident that in 10 years, all of the great fa of the continent will be on the free-entra

The promoters of the free fair idea arguet a fair is an educat nal institution, and should free to the public, even as our schools are h It so happens that the Kansas law gives per sion to counties to levy a tax of one-quarter on the dollar to support the county fair. brought in \$23,000 for the fair at Topeko. special grant for prize money added \$5,00 the fund. The sale of stall permits, and so it met the rest of the expenses. If the free is as desirable as the managers of this one it is, the day may be near when large far will not be a burden when fair day comes an -at least not so far as getting them past wickets is concerned.

Peter McArthur is contemplating the pl that might be derived from the ownership traction engine-the satisfaction of pushing mobiles into the ditch. We all know just Peter feels about it.

Studies in Almost All Abortion

Dr. W. L. Willi REEDERS and d Bing advice reg given herd it is con ther it may be due t the food, such as cases recorded, so f where the cow has been ately after aborting examination made, t dearly due to contag so far as we have se been proved by post-ation. Bed food and lower the resistance render abortion from probable. Under the believe it prudent to tions in cattle, wh singly or in groups unless otherwise prothe fifth to the seve curring earlier it of servation and is class

frequently classe So far as investig mortem examination least practically, if always accompanied of the "exudate of tion," with abortion space between the afterbirth.
The Prevalence

The organism of

Occurring after the s

tion has also been a the digestive tract, in by post-mortem exam ganism does not cau ocated elsewhere the Even the infection is not always cause a severe before breed vent impregnation ility. If less sever nancy, or the calf alive and more or le fection in the uters carry her calf full t tained afterbirth. A ion, premature birt hirth and sterility us as largely identic contagious abortion contagious auctinguish between a death and expulsion young) due to con.
The infection, the o tion, may exist in the cause abortion, pre-tained afterbirth or ause no recognizab but its presence mi nace, and later tive or may reach a spot (the cavity of hen cause serious h

ontagious abortion mated according to pted by the indivi of its presence. If rved actual abort more than 25 anis include three or i dd to the abortio ences of the presen he premature birth

Dr. Williams is a ble authority on we lie authority on we lie investigations on ave recently been porm. This article and blow are from a grepared by Dr. Willia lusions will be of interest of the state of t