

Farmer's Advocate

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EDITORIAL

Hog prices are going up. Is it because of scarcity or greater demand for hog products!

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Judging by appearances there will be a bigger war between Congress and Senate at Washington than between Congress and the trusts.

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To make assurance doubly sure the government assures us that insurance companies will surely be investigated. Sure!

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When you hear of the revolution in Russia being settled be sure to notice which one it is or your knowledge of modern history will need tinkering.

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The teachers of public schools have begun to complain. The wonder is that there has not been more expressed dissatisfaction on the part of teachers, parents and scholars.

Will the Embargo Be Repealed?

Canadians whether west, east or centrally located will watch with interest the efforts of a considerable faction of old country politicians and cattle men to secure the abolition of the British embargo on Canadian cattle. The supporters of the measure have so far advanced their case as to have introduced in the British parliament a bill to repeal the law of 1896. This bill is in the hands of Thos. Cairns, Newcastle, and Mr. Hamar Greenwood, York, a Canadian by birth and education, and is backed by strong representation of cattle feeders. As we said before the disposition of the embargo is essentially within the jurisdiction of the British government but as it has so direct a bearing upon the Canadian cattle raising interests the British treatment of it will be closely followed. The bill which proposes to abolish the embargo is slated to come before the house of commons on the 6th of April for debate upon its second reading and there is quite a general impression that it will carry since the present personnel of the government party is so decidedly representative of the farming and commercial classes who are more generally politicians of expediency rather than of tradition in which respect the present house of commons differs widely from the average. Difficulty however is expected for the bill in the house of lords, who are more conservative in their views and more strongly wedded to the theory of the unalterableness of British laws.

The Wealth of the People.

Canadians would not be true to the traditions of their forefathers if they were not thrifty and saving. As a nation we have been economical and as individuals there are few examples of extravagant living to be found in the whole population. Added to these facts is the reputation of Canadians as business men, yet we are not a people of great private fortunes. This does not imply that the thrift and intelligence of the people are misdirected but rather shows that as compared with most new countries natural and acquired wealth is more equally distributed. The statements of the banks for January show that the total deposits of the public amounted to \$521,222,298, an increase of nearly seventy millions over the same month of 1905. Besides this amount in the chartered banks, there are the large public deposits in the post office and government savings banks which amount to nearly another two millions or in all a deposit in the savings banks of almost one hundred and twenty dollars

per capita. This is a showing decidedly above other countries and about seventeen dollars higher than Denmark which comes nearest to Canada in individual savings.

It further enhances the interests of these statements to know that banks consider the farming communities as the great source of savings deposits, and the commercial and industrial interests as the chief borrowers. Thus it is seen that not only is the wealth which farmers originate and spend upon their necessities and luxuries used in the building up of commercial bulwarks but the greater part of the expansion of industrial life is made possible by the surplus savings of the farms.

Alberta Fat Stock Show.

We have at hand the prize list of the Alberta Provincial Fat Stock Show to be held in Calgary May 7, 8, 9, and 10 and of which C. W. Peterson, Calgary is manager. Rule 5 states that all animals entered in the purebred classes must be recorded in records recognised by the Alberta Department of Agriculture and rule 7, ages of animals will be computed from the actual date of birth.

The Live Stock Associations have arranged a uniform rate of \$2 per head for cattle and 75 cents for sheep and swine properly crated.

The prizes are good, but there are hardly enough of them, only two in each section for pure breeds. In classes 1 and 2, if sufficient money could have been secured, it would have been well to have had three prizes in each section. The grade classes are well provided for, and rightly so. Sheep and swine are also well looked after; although we still think as last year that it is a mistake at a fat stock show to offer a prize for a barrow over nine or ten months old. The fat stock show is practically a show of the products of the live stock man finished for the market and it seems hardly consistent from the educational point of view for a live stock association to endorse such a class, as the packers do not want the barrow over eight or nine months old, neither is it a profitable pig for the farmer to raise, judged by all the feeding experiment data available. We should like to have seen it stated in the rules that any female showing evidences of pregnancy be at once disqualified. We are glad to note that a judging competition for farmers and farmers' sons is to be held. Single fare on the railroads in the province is the rule, and for people outside the province a single rate also may be obtained, provided they obtain a standard railroad certificate from their home station agent.

The Agricultural Sign Board.

Every indication points to an inclination on the part of farmers to engage more generally in mixed farming in spite of the low prices of stock products and the unsatisfactory condition of the dairy industry. Experience shows that an extensive system of specialized farming invariably brings some reverse, and, that just as soon as a reverse comes people are anxious to adopt a general system regardless of its inducements. Probably out of a diversity of resources it is blindly hoped something will prove a reliance. At any rate there seems to be more avenues of escape from the monster of debt through general than through specialized farming. The necessary untoward circumstance to drive farmers to change their methods has arrived, or its shadow is lengthening, in the fact of depleting fertility and the increase of weeds. A few years ago it was drouth and frost, and before that again lack of markets.

Looked at superficially the prospects of the mixed farmer are not particularly bright, either from the standpoint of economical production of products, or the convenient marketing of the same; the latter being the greatest bugbear. The situation is not without its promise, however, as a general production of any particular commodity

tends to create a market for that commodity. Probably this has been the great drawback to mixed farming in late years, the amount of any particular product produced in a given district has been so inconsiderable that the expense of marketing it has been proportionately high, and the total of most of the products of mixed farming such as butter, cheese, poultry products, horses, beef, pork, etc., have been so small that dealers have not depended upon them, but have bought similar goods from outside points. With the desire to follow more diversified lines will also come a readiness from dealers to assist in placing before the producers just what the consuming market demands and this phase of the mixed farming industry is the one that is giving the great results to-day. We are coming to the days when originality, and efficiency, and thoroughness count in farming and they are the price of success.

Poultry Illustration Station for the West.

The large yearly importations into the West (\$100,000 in 1905) of dressed poultry, and the price the consumers pay for the same has drawn attention to the field for extension in the poultry industry. Up almost to the present time, few of the Western poultrymen grasped the situation, and frittered their energies away on the holding of poultry shows in which the non-utility breeds got more encouragement than such should have. The Manitoba Poultry Association, which is now quite strongly tinctured with utility ideas, made requests for fattening stations and two were started, at Morden and Virden, and to speak technically died in the shell.

It is hard to enthuse the farmers over poultry, when seven and eight cents is the summer price for a dozen eggs in country towns, and that not always cash. The Territorial creameries in Alberta solved the problem by collecting eggs as well as cream and as a consequence the farmers netted 20 cents a dozen for eggs; consequently the Farmer's Advocate is of the opinion that in Alberta illustration station work would not be wasted, and that that province is entitled to two or three stations, the industry is on its feet there; and educational work along poultry lines would be timely and beneficial. In Saskatchewan and Manitoba, provinces more given over as yet to cereal growing than mixed farming, the poultry industry is on a different footing, and as is to be expected is a bigger infant industry in the older of the two last mentioned provinces. Unfortunately in neither province is the industry at all organized and it is a question how far the government should go in the matter, it cannot be expected to father the poultry industry but should do educational work, especially along the lines of organization, which is, we believe, the desire of the Minister and the aim of his officers.

It is to be expected that a modern poultry plant will be established in connection with the Manitoba Agricultural College and therefore the Red River Valley district will be amply supplied thereby. Other parts of Manitoba, however, need attention and we throw out the following suggestion re location of the illustration stations for Manitoba. Why not locate one on the ground of each of the following societies, the Southern Manitoba Agricultural and Arts Association at Killarney; the Western Agricultural and Arts Association, Brandon; the North Western Agricultural and Arts Association at Neepawa? Each has suitable grounds, high and dry and with a good sunny exposure, and are not under control of the provincial department of agriculture, so that no clashing of authority need follow; not only so but the benefits of such location would be twofold, first being suited to the work, second an advertisement for the stations and an educational attraction of considerable value for these fairs, which bring visitors from considerable distance.

Each of the towns mentioned is a well known center for enthusiastic poultry breeders, who could