

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL

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## FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL

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FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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## EDITORIAL

### How to Grow Alfalfa

In making a start with alfalfa don't sow too large an area the first year; try an acre or so. Select the best piece of land you have on the farm, land that will not be flooded, land that is not so badly infested with weeds that nothing else will grow on it. Give it a good dressing of barnyard manure—well-rotted manure, if you have it. Work it up into good tilth. Send to one of the Dominion experimental farms for enough soil from an alfalfa field to inoculate your patch. The superintendent of the Brandon farm offers to send 100 pounds to those in the province who ask for it. Scatter it on the patch, and then sow your seed. Use a hardy strain, and sow from 15 to 20 pounds of seed per acre. Sow the seed with the drill if you have a clover seed attachment on your drill; if you haven't sow by hand, and harrow lightly after seeding. Don't use a nurse crop. Clip the patch before the weeds go to seed, tilting back the cutting bar so as to cut the alfalfa high. Don't pasture the plot, and do not cut it more than once the first year. Give the alfalfa a chance. You are growing it on soil where the plant never grew before, and some little difficulty in establishing it may be expected. But once established it is worth more money to you than any crop that can be grown.

The record of alfalfa in America shows that it increases land values more rapidly than any crop known. It has done it in Kansas and the American middle West. It will do it in the Canadian Northwest. Grow it. Do not just think about growing it.

### Sheep in Strong Demand

The sheep industry in Western Canada is on the upturn. Demand for stock for farm flocks is strong in the older settled sections, and breeders are having difficulty in meeting it. Practically every sheep breeder in the West disposed last fall of everything he had for sale, and a farmer wishing now to pick up a few grade or pure-bred ewes as foundation for a flock might have trouble buying what he requires.

There are not sheep enough in the country, and the Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders' Association advocate the bringing in of breeding stock from the East to supply demand. The movement should be assisted. What the West needs most just now is more sheep, and a few carloads of well-graded ewes could be disposed of readily in each of the three provinces. But someone will have to bring them in, and it is doubtful if our sheep breeders' associations or departments of agriculture, in Saskatchewan and Manitoba at any rate, could devote attention to a more profitable line of work than this. Sheep-raising is an industry worth fostering, and the man inclined to the keeping of pure-bred sheep could find no better time than the present to embark in the business. We need sheep now, but we will need a lot more of them within the next ten years.

### Live Stock Interests

Farmers, stock shippers and others acquainted with the live stock interests of the West promise to labor industriously until much needed changes are made in connection with the marketing of live stock. The civic authorities of Winnipeg and St. Boniface, noting the high prices paid by consumers for comparatively inferior meats, and impressed with what the producers have to say regarding the possible benefits of improved yards, an open market and a public abattoir, have promised to join forces and assist in hastening relief along reasonable lines.

That the stockmen have supplied logical arguments in a good cause is demonstrated by the fact that the government agreed to appoint a commission to arrive at something definite as to what would be the best solution of the present situation.

Whatever else these commissioners may conclude it is safe guessing that they will have no hesitation in stating that transportation and yarding facilities easily can be improved. The problem of guaranteeing fair treatment to all who bring stock in for sale, and to all who come to buy stock needs serious consideration. It is a big problem to work out on permanent lines. When the commission opens its investigation, no doubt suggestions from all sources will be most welcome. For the sake of the live stock industry it is to be hoped some remedial measures can be taken without delay.

### Split-log Drag Competition

A split-log drag competition in Manitoba is now assured. With this simple and inexpensive implement it is proposed to demonstrate that our clay roads can be kept in a highly creditable condition. Donations of one hundred dollars each from Wm. Harvey and THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE have made it possible for the Manitoba Good Roads Association to offer cash prizes of \$25.00, \$15.00 and \$10.00 each to the four municipalities first to make application to the secretary of the association at the city hall, Winnipeg. The rules and conditions were given in THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE last week.

There is nothing to prevent any municipality in the province from arranging for this competition. The constitution of the association calls for a membership fee of at least \$20 per municipality. Already there are ten municipalities represented. Others should join to share in the general benefits of the organization and to be eligible to compete for the prizes in the split-log drag competition.

### General Interest in Roads

The annual meeting of the Manitoba Good Roads Association was most encouraging from the standpoint of enthusiasm on the part of those present. All that is wanted now is to have this enthusiasm over an organized effort to improve roads in all parts of the province spread to all sections. The organization should be provincial in deed as well as in name. Organization has taken place in Winnipeg owing to strenuous efforts on the part of representatives adjacent to the city, but that is no reason why municipalities separated from the big metropolis should hold aloof. The object is to assist in constructing and maintaining satisfactory roads on leading thoroughfares and to see that intelligence is exercised in the construction of bridges and culverts as well as roads.

Reeves and councillors in every municipality in Manitoba should get into touch with this association at once through the secretary, G. F. Bentley, City Hall, Winnipeg. It may not be advisable to go to lavish expenditures in the immediate future, but it is well to be acquainted with the work that is carried on and to receive advice from the highway commissioner.

### Flax Growing

The number of questions asked regarding the growing of flax indicates that the remunerative prices of the past few months are having a tendency to induce many farmers in all parts of the three Western provinces to have flax as one of the important crops of 1910. It should not be forgotten, however, that very frequently extensive production of a crop of the prominence of flax means a depressed