

THE PRAIRIE.

(ILLUSTRATED)

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ERNEST BEAUFORT, Manager.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1890.
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THERE is a very old, and at the same time a very true saying, that "what is everybody's business is nobody's business," and to nothing is this more applicable than to the ranching community. There are several very big questions, and a hundred and one lesser ones, which require looking into. These questions should not be left to individual parties to look after, for a number of reasons, the most important of which are, first, the expense, and, secondly, as we said last week in reference to prairie fires, very few people like to run the risk of incurring the enmity of their neighbors. We can give a case in point: A few months back a valuable mare, the property of a certain settler a few miles from Calgary, was badly lacerated and almost ruined through being cut by a neighbor's barbed-wire fence. He would not bring an action against the owner of the fence, because his neighbors "would be down on him." And yet that man would have been fighting in the interests of the whole community. There are a number of matters which require looking into—the law as regards stock, stock accommodation to be provided by railway companies at different points, railway rates, prairie fires, depredations of cattle by both white men and Indians, and so forth. All these matters could be better dealt with by a body incorporate. Any cases to be fought should be taken up by a stock association. The association would act for the good of the whole district, the expense would be divided, and there could be no question of personal enmity. The number of cattle which stray and which are stolen every year is almost inconceivable, and the amounts paid for the recovery of the same tot up a very large sum. There are very few farmers

in the country who would not willingly and gladly pay an annual subscription, which would enable the association to have a detective riding over the country. There is scarcely a farmer who is not out hundreds of dollars, and the bigger ranchers thousands, through strayed and stolen cattle. Several such associations exist in the country, and are doing good work, and there can be no question that the Calgary district has urgent need for one. All that is required to bring this matter to a head is for a few of our leading stockmen, when in town, to meet together, draw up a scheme for the formation of such an association, and afterwards call a meeting of every farmer and rancher in the district.

FOR COOL impudence and official high-handedness and insolence, commend us to the action of our precious masters at Regina, who have in their hands the power of giving or withholding a glass of whiskey required by a sick man. The facts of the case are well-known to our readers—Mr. A. J. Ellis, who is recovering from a serious illness, was ordered whiskey by his medical attendant, Dr. Mackid, the application was backed by one of our leading citizens, Mr. G. C. King, J. P., and the application was REFUSED by our thick-headed rulers at Regina. Yet every saloon in town has a stock of all kinds of spirits,—how is this acquired? Is any stronger argument required to show the idiocy and rottenness of our liquor laws? What have our prohibition friends to say about it.

LITTLE or no interest is being taken in the municipal elections of 1891, which is much to be regretted. Calgary calls for a good mayor and good councillors, and it is the duty of the electors to see that such men are returned. We hear Councillor Reilly intends running for mayor, and as Dr. Lafferty has not expressed his intention of not running again, it is presumed that he will again offer himself for election. But, however worthy a person a mayor may be, he is only one, and however hard he may work in the interests of the town, his efforts will be futile unless backed up by a good council.

NEWSPAPER men are generally supposed to be the one class who are always at logger-heads, but Calgary would seem to be a beautiful exception to the rule. Society here, otherwise, appears to be in a somewhat disorganized condition. Doctors differing—at least one or two differing from the majority,—one doctor expelled from the medical society of the town, and socially ostracised; then again the feeling between the Bench and the Bar does not seem to be the most cordial. Then the guardians of the peace don't seem to love one another. Dear me, dear me, what are we coming to? Let us hope that good old yule-tide will change all this.