

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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namely, the money value of a crop of trees. Some of the Governmental forests report an annual income of as high as fifteen dollars (\$15) per acre. If Canadians expect forestry as a scheme to go, the money-making part of it must not be forgotten, and the supervision of the work needs to be given to persons holding higher qualifications than party heeled. The O. A. C., Guelph, has turned out several men well equipped along horticultural lines, who could doubtless be made use of in this work with benefit to all concerned.

The question of compulsory education was brought up in the Legislature recently, and not before time. There is a great need for such a law, not only for ignorant parents, but for some who are fairly well educated themselves, and yet deny their children even the rudiments. Tar and feathers are *ultra vires* in this 20th century. If there is at any time justification for such heroic treatment, it would be in cases where parents, either from sheer carelessness or love of money, keep children at home from school entirely, and thus allow them to grow up in comparative ignorance. Ignorance produces crime in the majority of cases, so that a vigorous compulsory education by law will not be out of place in the Province.

Provincial Hail Insurance does not seem to make much progress through the Legislature. Spoon-fed people never amount to much. The exercise of paternalism by a Government paralyzes individual effort and often demoralizes the beneficiary. Government Hail Insurance would open the way to all sorts of roguery, and would not be conducive to early rising in seeding time. It would discourage grass seeding and cattle breeding, place a premium on laziness or incapability, and be a distinct encouragement to one line of farming, namely, exclusive grain-growing, and that would be retrogression. There are lots of legitimate avenues for Governments to work and aid the people of the farm, such as agricultural colleges, farmers' institutes, and agricultural societies, preservation of our timber, farms, etc. I notice that the stock men are arrayed against the measure, and they are the bulwark of the legislature. It seems to me that there is no real reason why the people's companies can not attend to their own business with results satisfactory to every one. J. W. Mitchell.

### N.-W. T. Farmers' Institute Meetings.

A HINT TO ONTARIO FRUIT PACKERS.

Through the joint efforts of the Territorial and Dominion Departments of Agriculture—the former arranging places and dates and advertising the meetings, and the latter furnishing the delegates—Farmers' Institute meetings were held throughout the greater portion of Alberta and Assiniboia during February and March. On the whole, the meetings were well advertised and the work well planned, the country being divided into suitable sections for the different delegations to do their work advantageously; and those whose duty it was to plan and advertise the meetings deserve much credit for the very efficient work they did.

The places of holding meetings were not limited to points along the railway, but included outlying points as well, as the accompanying list will show. The delegation of which the writer was a member covered that section of Assiniboia lying along and including a belt fifteen to twenty miles on either side of the C. P. R. between Moose Jaw and Wapella, the following being a list of the meetings held, together with the attendance at each:

Moose Jaw, 40; Marlborough, 25; Lumsden, 50; Wascana, 35; Balgonie, 30; Davin, 23; Qu'Appelle, 100; Fort Qu'Appelle, 75; Abernethy, 50; Indian Head, 75; Sintulata, 65; Wolseley, 60; Ellisboro, 45; Grenfell, 75; Broadview, 50; Fitzmaurice, 25; Fairmeade, 60; Wapella, 40; Hillburn, 65. Total attendance, 988; average, 52.

The members of the delegation and their subjects were: T. G. Raynor, B. S. A., Cultivation of the soil, and composition of common feeding stuffs; D. Drummond, Live stock, including horses, cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry; J. W. Mitchell, Our markets and their demands, mixed farming, and dairying.

Satisfactory as the meetings were from the point of attendance, they were still more so when judged from the standpoint of interest manifested by those present. The plan adopted at all of our meetings, and which worked most satisfactorily, was for each delegate to speak briefly, by way of introducing his subject and referring to what he regarded as the most important points, and then invite questions upon and free discussion of the subject under consideration. The discussions were most earnest and hearty, and could not fail to prove valuable, for they brought out and helped to clear up many difficulties, while many suggestions were made which will furnish material for reflection and future investigation. When one pauses to think for a moment, it seems quite patent that a fair share of the time of Farmers' Institute meetings should be given up to discussion and the asking and answering of questions, the delegates speaking briefly to introduce their subjects and bring out the most salient points, and then acting as directors of and participants in the discussions. In this way only can the real object of such meetings be attained, for local conditions and local and individual difficulties can hereby be brought out and discussed, and the priceless experience and observations of farmers of the locality brought to bear in solving many knotty problems. An exchange of ideas amongst the farmers is one of the by no means least valuable features of an Institute meeting.

The country seems ripe for Institute meetings, and they should, and doubtless will, become a fixed feature of the work of the two Departments of Agriculture in their efforts to aid in the development of the agricultural interests of the Territories. My reasons for saying that the country is ripe for Institute meetings are that the conditions under which we have to work—the peculiarities of soil and climate, the weed pests, etc.—are now fairly well known, and the farmers are in a position to state these and their individual difficulties, and to discuss them intelligently. One could not fail to be impressed with the truth of the foregoing while listening to the discussions at our recent meetings.

#### THE USE OF MANURE.

One fact which we elicited from the farmers at our various meetings was that even in the Northwest manure can be used to good advantage. There was some difference of opinion as to the best methods of handling and applying it, but all the progressive farmers advocated returning it to the soil, and not casting it aside or burning it. Besides its fertilizing value, it seems to have the effect of causing a grain crop to mature earlier. To the truth of this, several farmers attested strongly.

#### ONTARIO APPLES.

Just a word, in conclusion, to our Ontario brethren. At several of our meetings—in fact, whenever the question was referred to—it was complained that many of the Ontario fruit packers have been acting dishonestly by filling the middles of the barrels with a quality of apples quite inferior to that at the ends, and inquiries of our merchants elicited the same complaint. Even should the new Dominion enactment fail in any respect to compel honesty in the packing of fruit, it will not pay to trifle with the Manitoba and Northwest markets; honesty, rather, will be found the best policy. There is a proverb, "Once bitten, twice shy," and while good Ontario fruit is in high favor here, yet we can and will purchase elsewhere rather than have deception practiced upon us. What I have said does not apply to all, or even the majority, of the Ontario fruit packers and dealers; but the trouble is that one dishonest man brings his fellows into disrepute.

Another point: The freight upon a barrel of apples being equal to or greater than its selling price in Ontario, it will never pay us to import inferior fruit: for the relative prices of poor and good fruit to the consumer are so nearly equal that while a barrel of poor apples would cost the consumer \$3.50, say, a barrel of choice fruit would not cost him over about \$4.00. Which is he likely to want, and which will it pay him to purchase?

J. W. MITCHELL.

### Manitoba Estimates for 1901.

At the last session of the Local Legislature the following estimates relating to the Agricultural Department for 1901 were passed:

To Agricultural Societies and Farmers' Institutes	\$17,500
Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association	5,000
Brandon Summer Fair	2,500
Portage la Prairie Fair	2,000
Agricultural statistics	1,000
Commission of agricultural education	1,000
Diseases of animals	1,000
Noxious weed inspection	2,000
Dairy school and dairy instruction	8,500
Dairy Association	250
Pure-bred Cattle Breeders' Association	250
Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association	250
Horse Breeders' Association	250
Horticultural Society	250
Poultry Association	250

To the Sheep and Swine Breeders' and Horse Breeders' Associations there were re-votes of \$200 each, the grant for 1900 not having been taken up.

The estimates show an increase of nearly \$2,000 for dairy school and dairy instruction, to cover the cost of inspectors, salaries and expenses. A cheese and a butter instructor are to be appointed for the summer months.

### The Quarter-Section Mixed Farmer.

H. A.'s letter puts one side of the question, and puts it well. I note he dates from the Territories. Now, any one writing from the Territories is very apt to lose sight of one thing, and that is, that to get a true view of things, one should not deal with present conditions, which are temporary, but with things as they will be. This is particularly the case in a question like the one under discussion. Owing to the alternate-section principle, there probably is not a quarter-section farmer in the Territories who has not the advantage of free pasture on vacant railway or other wild lands. In considering whether 100 acres is enough to "mixed-farm" upon, the proper way to get a clear view of the matter is to erect an imaginary fence around the 100 acres, and to confine the farmer to that 100 acres for everything. Not a load of wild hay, not a stick of fuel or building timber, not a day's pasture, must be credited to the free range. This is what it is already coming to in some districts. When you have done this, then size up your 100 acres on this basis; and the closest figuring and most economical and industrious management can only produce something like a bare living. The result will be a vast number of small farmers just struggling along. They cannot expand beyond a certain point without the free range. They will be able to keep a few cattle, a few hogs, a few hens, and raise a few bushels of grain. Now, H. A. apparently doesn't want to see enterprising farmers, who want to make money, but idyllic farmers, who will be satisfied with living a quiet life within a narrow circle. There are two sides to the question. H. A. has put one. I will try and put the other.

Take your 100 acres, first from the wheat-grower's point of view. H. A. says wheat-growing is a failure if a man can do on 100 acres. I can't agree with him. Let us figure on 100-acre farm for wheat. Remember, he has no free run of any kind. Now, take the Regina soil. He will need three horses. They will need something to eat. To grow oats, hay, etc., will take up a part of the 100 acres. He must either buy butter or have some cow pasture, and a horse pasture is not a bad thing. Without going into details too closely, I think if the wheat-grower has 120 acres out of the 100 available for wheat, he will not be doing badly. At the least 40 acres of this should be in summer-fallow. That leaves 80 acres of wheat. Out of that he has to pay a year's expenses, live, raise a family, and provide for old age. Now, the man who is content to go through life on nothing else but 80 acres of wheat per annum, in a country where the seasons are precarious, is easily pleased. If you take the mixed farmer, he is in a worse plight. The native pasture soon runs out. If he has to provide pasture, winter fodder and everything else on 100 acres, without assistance from the free range, he will make a fair living in good years, with the best management, and in dry years, when all descriptions of feed are short, he will come out at the small end of the horn.

It all depends upon the way you look at it. If you want farmers who are content to be in a small way of business, under conditions that only admit of his going to a certain very limited point, then 100 acres is enough. If you want prosperous farmers, 100 acres is too little. What I mean, in a nutshell, is that I don't want to see a great grist of small farmers who are contented with being small farmers, and who can't be anything else, but farmers who will be in a position to make something. There is an immense amount of arable land in the Territories, and I think the half-section and not the quarter-section farmer is the man we are looking for in the Territories.

Carnduff, Assa.

J. H.