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FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL

Money in Manitoba Apples

The season of 1909 has found apple growing in Manitoba developed to such an extent that a ten-acre orchard has borne fruit that sold for \$450. In addition to this magnificent fruit crop considerable cash was made from the sale of other products grown between the rows of trees.

This is a practical demonstration of the capabilities of the West. Gradually it is being proven that those whose lots are cast in prairie Canada need not depend solely on cereals. At present prices wheat admittedly is a profitable crop. But consider \$450 from ten acres of apple orchard. Ten acres of wheat at twenty bushels per acre bringing the magnificent price of ninety cents a bushel nets only \$180. Only a difference of \$270! And that balance in favor of apple growing in Manitoba in preference to wheat growing. Of course this does not indicate that farmers should turn from cereal farming to orcharding. It does, however, indicate that it would be worth while to devote a little time and energy to the growing of fruit.

Have For Sale Horses in Condition

The horse outlook is optimistic. Values for drafters are expected to increase. In the season closing prices have been well maintained for all grades, and for the regular market season, which opens in a few months there is every prospect of these prices being improved. Heavy, sound, draft horses are scarce, and demand shows no sign of falling off. That epitomizes the draft horse situation in America.

Condition has an important bearing on price. More than half the horses sold by farmers are sold without any attempt being made to put them in proper selling condition,

and they sell sometimes for a good deal less than they are worth on that account. The farmer with one or more horses for sale cannot turn his time and feed into money more easily than by properly fitting his animals for market. If he sells them out of condition someone else is bound to be the gainer. It never pays to sell farm stock before it is in market condition. It pays least of all with horses, especially in a season when every prospect is for an upward trend in prices.

The Farmer Holds the Trump

The crop movement this year has some unusual features. In this country farmers are holding more grain than ever before. On the other side of the line Eastern bankers are worrying because there is less demand for money to finance the crop movement. The farmers, they say, are doing their own financing, and the six hundred millions the bankers used to figure on lending at high interest in the West is being loaned at regular rates in the East; all of which indicates that the grain growers of both countries are getting wiser.

Farmers have tried before to maintain grain values by holding back the grain, but the trouble was the farmers' corner was not large enough, conditions were unfavorable, or too many of those trying to hold were forced to sell. This year the opportunity seems theirs. North America pretty nearly controls the wheat situation and farmers, if they want to, can control the balance of supply that is going to make the price.

Planning for Good Roads

Objections commonly raised to the construction of what truly can be called good roads generally include high expense. On first thought this item appears large enough to cause alarm. However, when the saving in wear and tear of harness, vehicle and horse-flesh, as well as in time taken to cover a given number of miles with a given load are duly considered, and when the lifetime of a properly-built road is admitted, all will agree that the money is spent in a good cause. There are many items that come into play immediately after the road is completed and result in a saving of actual cash outlay to those who travel that road for weeks and months and years.

At this season it would be well for all who earnestly desire an improvement in the highways over which they travel day after day for twelve months in the year to start a campaign destined to result in action next summer. It may be that desirable new individuals can be elected to the councils, or the body of men in charge of rural affairs. Whatever is done try to have thoroughness. The life of a road, as well as the comfort in driving on it at all seasons, depends on how it is built.

A Rather Quiet Subject

Nothing has been heard lately of the projected Hudson's Bay railway. The line seems to have had a quiet summer. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy doubts whether it will ever be built at all. He intimates that if the route had any possibilities the C. P. R. would have developed it long ago. Other people are wondering if anything has come from the feverish activity displayed a year ago in getting survey work started. Some even go so far as to say we are no nearer seeing a line to Hudson's Bay than we were twenty years ago or so, when the project first took form as a live political issue. And those who *knew* last fall that the dream of the West for three decades was at last to be fulfilled are not saying anything. The silence, though rather ominous, may not be significant of declining interest in the enterprise.

Misfits No Criterion

The agricultural college is about the only educational institution we have that is expected by the public to transform into successful farmers any male members of the human family who may enter it. If a minister fails in his chosen calling, or a physician can't get patients, or a lawyer is starved out of the legal profession the average man regards them as misfits, as men who have made mistakes in the choice of vocations. But if a young fellow goes through an agricultural college and doesn't develop into the shrewdest, most successful farmer in the locality; if he fails for any reason whatever, his failure is laid at the door of the college. Agricultural colleges have had to face this kind of criticism from the start and a fair amount of it will persist along with the old idea that any fool can be a farmer. But we are gradually growing out of it. About ninety-nine per cent. of the agricultural college graduates who fail in farming, fail because their inclinations do not draw them toward the business; because they haven't the proper foundation upon which a successful career in agriculture can be reared. The law school, the theological seminary, or the medical college are not blamed for the many misfits they turn out each year with graduation certificates. Give the agricultural colleges their dues. They can't make successful farmers of every student they train, but if a boy has any inclination to agriculture there are about a thousand chances to one that he will be better off with the kind of education the agricultural college offers. Send him to one. It is not by the men who don't fit in that the worth of an educational institution is to be judged. Don't make them the basis of your calculation in estimating the boy's chance to become a successful farmer, if he has agricultural college training. It is unfair both to the college and the boy.