

we need an experimental farm in this locality so as to learn the varieties of seed and trees that would best suit this district. We need our land irrigated, then this would be the leading district of the great Northwest. Our winters are mild and our falls are so favorable for harvesting that our No. 1 hard would go to market in the very best condition. There is a great opportunity for capitalists to start irrigation on the south side of the C. P. R. There is the Elk Water lake at the foot of the Cypress Hills that could be dammed up and would hold water enough to irrigate this whole district, and from the lake to the farms, it is easy to bring the water, as there is plenty of descent north to the track, a distance of over 22 miles. The country is thickly settled and the farmers would consider irrigation a boon.

Sugar beets do exceedingly well here. Some, last year, grew so large that every one thought they must be mangels.

We are trying to get a government creamery started and this would do well as there are plenty of good cows in the neighborhood and there should be no trouble to get plenty of patrons.

Medicine Hat, Alta. J. M. COOPER.

### Prices for Dairy Butter and Eggs are Always Low in the Spring.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

At our local stores we are only getting, at the present time, 12½c. per pound for the best grade dairy butter and only 15c. per dozen for eggs. Two or three weeks ago we received 25c. per dozen for eggs and 25c. per pound for butter. What is the trouble? Is there such an over production as to warrant such a decline? Is the law of "supply and demand" responsible, or is there some other cause? We can scarcely afford to make butter at this time of the year for 12½c. per pound. Can you suggest anything to better our conditions in this regard? At present we have no depot nor agent at our town, but will have by the time another crop is harvested. We would be glad to send our butter to Winnipeg or some other large city, if by so doing we could realize a better price. We notice several commission houses advertised in your paper that handle all kinds of grain, but none that handle general produce. Please give name of some such firm.

Midale, Sask. E. P. MILLS.

(We cannot undertake to give names of firms, but would advise our correspondent to write Sup't Wilson, Department of Agriculture, Regina, re the matter. Why not ship the cream to a local or central creamery? —Ed.)

### Alberta Crop Bulletin in Demand.

The first edition of Crop Bulletin No. 1 being a report of the principal grain crops of the Province of Alberta for 1905, was completely exhausted within a few weeks after publication. A second edition is now in the hands of the printer and will shortly be ready for distribution.

Some adverse criticism has appeared in the press with regard to the official returns of fall wheat, but it is interesting to note that Mr. L. P. Strong, manager of the Alberta Pacific Elevator Company, states that he has been mis-quoted by the newspapers. The statement which he made was to the effect that there were over 2,000,000 bushels of wheat grown in the Province during 1905, not winter wheat alone, and this statement is corroborated by the official returns which also show an increase of 350 per cent. over the 1904 fall wheat crop. This bulletin was compiled from reports received from nearly 400 threshers, and owing to the system used in collecting these returns, such must be approximately correct. The compilation of this bulletin also caused over 3,000 letters to be mailed from the Department of Agriculture.

Owing to the number of enquiries received by the Department for information with regard to weather conditions, statistical tables and general information in this connection have been added and the value of the bulletin as immigration literature is thereby greatly enhanced. Copies of the second edition of this bulletin will be mailed to any person making application for same.

The Department is to be congratulated on the despatch shown in getting out such information, as it has only been in existence a few months.

### Manitola's Fair Circuit Arranged.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The list of shows given herewith (see Things to Remember) has been arranged in circuits by the Provincial Department of Agriculture for the purpose of supplying judges in live stock at a minimum expenditure of time and money. Two judges are being selected for each show, one to place the awards in cattle, sheep and swine, and another to place the awards in horses. Where a very large exhibit of horses is expected the executive of each society will become responsible for the selection of a judge in light horses. At a few points in the province more horses are exhibited than one judge can properly examine in the time at his disposal, but these are so few that it was not considered judicious to have a second judge selected for the various circuits.

The best available talent will be secured by the Department of Agriculture and societies may rest assured that they will not be disappointed in their live stock judges when the day of their exhibition arrives.

W. J. BLACK,  
Deputy Minister.

P. S.—Owing to the fact that the management of a few shows insisted on setting their own dates, it was impossible to have them arranged in circuits.

### Things to Remember.

Alberta Stallion and Foal Show.....	May 7—8
Cattle and Fat Stock Show.....	May 7—10
Alberta Breeders' Association, Calgary.....	May 7—8
Saskatchewan Pure Bred Cattle Sale, Horse and Fat Stock Show.....	May 16—18
Winnipeg Horse Show.....	May 23—25
Provincial, Winnipeg, Pure Bred Cattle Sale.....	May 30
Jno. G. Barron, Carberry, Shorthorns.....	June 1
A. R. Ibbotson, Beresford, Man., Herefords.....	June 5
R. McLennan, Holmfield, Man., Shorthorns.....	June 7
Edmonton Show.....	June 29—July 1
Inter-Western Exhibition, Calgary.....	July 10—12
N. W. A. A. Association, Neepawa.....	July 4—6
Springfield.....	July 11
Hartney.....	July 17
Minnedosa.....	July 17
Winnipeg Industrial.....	July 23—28
W. A. A. Ass'n, Brandon.....	July 31—Aug. 3
Birtle Fair.....	Aug. 7

Managers of shows whose dates do not appear in our list will confer a favor on our readers by sending in the date.

### MANITOBA

#### SUMMER SHOWS.

Emerson.....	July 9—10
St. Pierre.....	July 11
Morris.....	July 13
Carman.....	July 16—17
Cypress River.....	July 18
Wawanesa.....	July 19
Swan Lake.....	July 20
Melita.....	July 17—18
Deloraine.....	July 18—19
Cartwright.....	July 19—20
Virden.....	July 16—17
Oak Lake.....	July 18
Carberry.....	July 19
Portage la Prairie.....	July 20
Gladstone.....	July 20
Birtle.....	Aug. 7
Strathclair.....	Aug. 8
Oak River.....	Aug. 9
Hamiota.....	Aug. 14
Dauphin.....	Aug. 14
Swan River.....	Aug. 16
Souris.....	Aug. 6—7
Manitou.....	Aug. 9—10

#### FALL SHOWS.

Woodlands.....	Sep. 28
St. Francois Xavier.....	Oct. 2
Stonewall.....	Oct. 3
St. Jean.....	Oct. 2
Beausejour.....	Oct. 3—4
Plumas.....	Oct. 3
Gilbert Plains.....	Oct. 5
MacGregor.....	Oct. 3
Russell.....	Oct. 5
Meadow Lea.....	Oct. 10
Headingly.....	Oct. 23
Harding.....	Oct. 25

### Is In Favor of Sample Market.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your issue of February 14th under the caption "Sample Market Rejected" you state that the Moose Jaw Grain Growers' Convention, after discussing the question of making Winnipeg an "order point" decided not to recommend it. This is not entirely correct.

The question was not discussed; it was side-tracked by Mr. Motherwell the presiding officer in a rather clever manner.

Mr. Sanderson's report which represented the opinion of the old executive was against an "order point." My own report was not directed against an order point but was intended to show that the order point in itself would not materially improve prices received by farmers unless supplemented by the presence of the farmers as organized settlers through the medium of a Farmer's Grain Company.

What was taken by the convention as simply a routine acceptance of Mr. Sanderson's report, in the mouth of the president was made to appear as an acceptance by the convention of Mr. Sanderson's findings against an order point and no discussion followed.

I made a mild protest against the statement of the president that my report, as well as that of Mr. Sanderson, was against an order point and the incident closed with a vague feeling becoming more pronounced after reflection that the president had scored another diplomatic victory.

If you will be good enough to publish the enclosed folder setting forth the aims of the proposed Grain Growers' Grain Co. and the reasons which make

such a company a necessity. My attitude towards the question of an order point and sample market, would be made clear and your criticisms in the latter part of your article would be less likely to give a wrong impression to the public.

E. A. PARTRIDGE.

### Gopher Poisoning.

The Biological department of the United States government has been testing different methods of destroying pocket gophers and recommends the use of strychnine as the most effective plan. In a bulletin recently issued the method of procedure is described as follows:

Dissolve an ounce of strychnia sulphate in a pint of boiling water. Add a pint of thick sugar syrup, and stir thoroughly. The syrup is usually scented by adding a few drops of oil of anise, but this is not essential. If preserved in a closed vessel, the syrup will keep indefinitely.

The above quantity is sufficient to poison a half bushel of shelled corn or other grain (corn recommended). The grain is steeped in hot water and allowed to soak over night. It is then drained and soaked for several hours in the poisoned syrup. Before using, corn meal may be added to take up the excess of moisture.

Dry crystals of strychnine also may be used. They are introduced by means of a knife, into small pieces of potato, carrot, or sweet potato, or into entire raisins or dried prunes. A single large crystal (or several small ones) is enough for each bait. Raisins are especially recommended because they are easily handled and contain enough sugar to disguise the bitterness of the poison.

The prepared baits are introduced into the underground runways of the gophers and are conveniently handled with a spoon. A stout dibble is used to make holes into the runways. This consists of a spade handle shod with a metal point and having a strong bar for the foot of the operator about 15 inches from the point. Having located the runway by use of the dibble, it is moved from side to side to make the soil firm about the hole, and then withdrawn. A piece of poisoned potato or raisin or a teaspoonful of the poisoned corn is dropped into the hole, which is left open. Some farmers prefer to cover the holes, but the experience of the writer is against the practice.

By this method but little labor is necessary, and the operator soon acquires skill in finding the runways. The bait should be placed in the main runways and not in the short laterals near the mounds. If placed in the laterals, the animals are likely to cover it with soil or throw it out without finding it. A skillful operator can go over 20 to 40 acres of badly infested land in a day, and, if the work is carefully done at a time when the pocket gophers are active, all the animals should be destroyed by the first application of poison.

### International Sheep Registry.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Shropshire Registry Association, held recently at Buffalo, an agreement was reached between the association and the National Records Board of Canada for the registration of pedigrees of Canadian Shropshire sheep in the American flockbook at a reduced fee, when the pedigrees are checked, verified and put in form ready for the printer by the Canadian authorities. The details of the arrangements are as follows:

1. All pedigrees received by the Canadian office shall be transmitted to the registry office of the American association for registration.

2. The owners of the Canadian sheep registered under this agreement in the United States record shall be members of the American association where said record is made, or shall pay the additional fee charged for registration to non-members.

3. All pedigrees transferred from the Canadian office to the American association shall be fully prepared for the printers before transmission.

4. For each pedigree transmitted from the Canadian office for publication in the American record, there shall be paid to the American registry office 30c. per pedigree for all certificates issued to the members of the association, and for certificates issued to non-members 80c. shall so be paid.

5. Registration numbers for Canadian certificates shall be allotted by the American secretary en bloc at one time. When these are used an additional block of numbers shall be furnished.

6. A representative approved of by the American secretary shall be placed in the Canadian office, who shall be authorized by power of attorney to sign certificates of registration; such officer to be paid by the Canadian authorities.

### A Special Dairy Prize for the Industrial.

The De Laval Separator Company have donated a silver cup, value \$100, for the highest scoring butter made from cream separated by a De Laval. The cup to become the property of the person holding it for two consecutive years, or three years in five.