

Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

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May 9, 1906.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Vol. XLI. No. 711.

EDITORIAL

There must be no truce in the war against weeds.

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The picnic ham is rather a misnomer, seeing that it is a shoulder cut.

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The cultivator, light harrows or the Breed weeder is a good watering pot for a growing crop.

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The same principle must be observed by every farmer in selecting seed grain, as in breeding live stock.

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If the dry weather holds during the Spring time, why not conserve moisture for the wheat by harrowing it.

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It is interesting to note how satisfactory the large purchased samples of grain from the Brandon Experimental Farm was to the buyers.

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Even in England, they seem to have come to the conclusion that the tendency of their school system is to disqualify a boy for country life.

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We believe in total prohibition of weeds, they are such heavy drinkers, and, like their human prototypes, do a lot of damage to innocent parties.

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Color and hardness alone are very poor indications of actual milling value.—The Cereal-ist, in 1905 report of the Dominion Experimental Farms.

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It would seem that increased protection was not really needed by the lumbermen, as since March 1st lumber has gone up \$3 per M. at Regina, according to the West.

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At a meeting of the Co-operative Small Holdings Society held in London, Eng. recently, several speakers stated that the telephone was one of the best agents for preventing the exodus of farmers to the towns.

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Sow crossways of the plowing and you will make a better job of it, besides the land will be levelled and easy to travel over with the binder. Unevenness or holes in the land invites standing water, weeds or grain maturing more slowly than the general crop.

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Native wild barley, skunk grass, *Hordeum jubatum*, is well known as a weed pest, especially in native pastures and hay meadows; to add to its many sins, Prof. Bolley states, that on it, wheat rust spores are produced in great abundance.

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All our tests show that the farmer may hope to procure very noticeable results by simply following the well known principle of selection by grading to form and weight quality in seed. Rust shrivels the seeds of those mother plants which cannot resist it. Mother plants which are able to produce plump, well formed, heavy seeds during one rusty season have been found able to transmit this quality to the following crop.—BOLLEY.

The Railways and Stock Killing.

Concrete examples help to fix in mind the objects of certain laws. Since the amendment to the railway act in 1903, farmers have been groping mentally to try to discover in what

instances they may recover damages for stock killed upon railways, and what conditions excuse the railway companies from liabilities. A recent decision by Chief Justice Dubuc of Manitoba together with the comment by Mr. Justice Killam in our April 25 issue make the act more plain. Chief Justice Dubuc's decision was given in connection with a suit to recover damages from the C. P. R. for a cow killed upon their tracks and as the railway passes through a "settled" and "improved" locality it was supposed that there were ample grounds for damages. Sub-section three of section 199 of the act, however, states that "whenever the railway passes through any locality in which the land on either side of the railways are not improved or settled and enclosed, the company shall not be obliged to erect and maintain fences, gates and cattle guards unless the board (railway commission) otherwise orders or directs." By this we are to understand that unless a farmer has his land "enclosed" he is not entitled to recover damages for stock which stray upon the tracks from his fields and are killed or injured. This applies only to stock which gain access to the track from the fields, not from the regular road crossings.

At first sight this may appear a hardship for the farmer but redress is provided for him as Justice Killam points out in the following comment: "In any case in which parties think that this protection (fences, gates and cattle guards) should be afforded they should make application to the board". Justice Killam comments that the board has asked parliament to amend sub-section three of section 199 and in making the amendment we would suggest that the word "and" which precedes enclosed be struck out and the word "or" inserted, also that the word improved be entirely struck out, as terms settled and enclosed would cover the intentions of the act.

What Utter Rot!

Agricultural Lobbyist in the *Mark Lane Express* of April 9., referring to Mr. Cairn's anti-Embargo bill says: "The bill never had a chance—it never had a chance with a man like Earl Carrington as Minister for Agriculture. The resignation of his portfolio was a price too big to pay for the conciliation of Sir Wilfred Laurier."

The last sentence is so utterly foolish, that it is a pity it was allowed space in a first class journal. It seems that the fool stay-at-home Englishman, who thinks Canadian loyalty is a purchasable commodity, is not yet as extinct as the Dodo! A man who undertakes to discuss Imperial politics, should get outside the lobby at least, once in a while!

More Ways of Waste.

A correspondent advises beginners with some capital not to spend it too freely in buying first supplies. The injunction is just as essential to success in the business world as is the observance of the decalogue, if one would reach the highest development in spiritual life; and probably the first is violated with as much impunity as the latter, notwithstanding, business success is probably the greatest aim of humanity.

When a person converts all his available property into cash or receives a good round sum as his share of an estate, or even when the receipts of a car of wheat are received, the total sum is apt to look ample for all needs for many months. At such times one will part with a dollar with less discretion than at other times he would spend a nickel if it were among the last of his change. We have frequently been astonished in the course of our acquaintance with farmers to see the immense roll of bills they have carried about loose in the pockets of their overalls, especially during late fall and winter. There seems to have been a long period when one has not had two quarters to rub together and when

crop receipts have come in, there is a reaction and a determination seems unconsciously to have been made to make up for past privations and financial inconveniences.

Needless to say, there is many a dollar spent when the pockets are full that would accomplish ten times the good later in the year when the cash supply has become depleted. Some farmers, but their numbers are all too few, have adopted the method of putting their money in the banks and of paying by check. The system has every modern business principle to commend it. It first provides a safe keeping for cash, it reduces the temptation and tendency to "fritter" away good money, and by using the check system one gets a receipt for every dollar expended.

The waste of the West is not confined to the waste of wheat alone.

Not a Spring Fancy.

Spring burst forth with such a prodigality of sunshine and balmy air that winter is practically already forgotten, and with each spring's promise of fulfilment of expectation comes a fuller assurance of the brighter prospect of making of this once "lone land" a goodly place in which to live.

That farmers are conservative is traditional, yet despite this imputation of conservatism, we are making progress toward higher ideals of life, better methods and saner living. In the potentialities of the next decade there are wonders, especially in the increased production of wealth by the bringing of new lands under cultivation. Circumstances incident to this will be the making of the country a better place in which to live. One of the most cheering signs of the times, is the fact that so many farmers are preparing to make the best out of life. What is known as success and moneymaking are still objects of attainment, but are not the ultimate aims in life. They are being sought now more as a means to an end than the end itself. People are learning that the value of money lies in the use to which it is put, and the best use to which to put money made on the farm is in making the farm home a place of comfort and solid enjoyment.

The next decade will witness abundant evidence of this statement. Dwelling places will be made homes in the fullest sense of the term. The exteriors will be embellished with trees, vines, shrubs, flowers, grasses, paint, etc., while inside the telephone, electric light and power, current periodicals, etc., will be among the ordinary adjuncts. In farm life there will be more recompense for the strenuous efforts that are required to carry the work on successfully.

The mental attitude toward farm life is changing, the luxuries of yesterday are the necessities of to-day. This revolution has originated largely from the interior of the family. The time has already come when no feasible convenience is considered too expensive for the lady of the house, and the male portion of the family are not slow to recognize the value of innumerable small comforts and luxuries, formerly supposed to belong only to the plutocrat of urban communities.

Everyone can do something toward the betterment of conditions. Beautify the farmstead by removing or covering up blotches on the landscape, subduing weeds, planting trees, leveling or grading roads. Life in the country might easily be made a process of idealizing nature, from which would result a fuller life, a lovelier home and a community potent for good and a pride to the nation.

The Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan has introduced a bill concerning the grants to be made to Saskatchewan agricultural societies. It is proposed to make a grant of \$1 for every paid up member from fifty to one hundred and fifty where the objects of the society are being reasonably fulfilled. For each institute meeting up to two, a grant of \$10; each experiment \$5; seed grain field competitions \$100; each day of live stock judging competitions \$16.