

Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

December 9, 1908

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Vol. XLIV. No. 846

EDITORIAL

Science of Agriculture

Farming is a trade, a business and a science. One must know and faithfully practice the trade to attain even an elementary success. To make much more than a frugal living, under any except the most favorable conditions, he must understand something of the economics of agriculture and bring business methods and business judgment to bear upon his occupation; while, to attain a broad, full scope of success, the farmer must be not only a capable, thrifty worker and a wise business man, but he must also understand the science of agriculture. He must know not merely what to do, and how to do it, but he must know the why of things, else he will be nonplussed when changing times and conditions call for departure from the beaten paths.

The science of agriculture is not all confined to books. Much is expounded and discussed in weekly issues of such journals as THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE. The reading of these, and of such books as are therein recommended, will acquaint one in time with the cream of the teachings of agricultural science. There are scores of farmers, who, starting with an ordinary public-school education, have in this way learned more of agricultural science than many an agricultural college graduate possesses. Their knowledge may not be so broad, but their understanding is practical, being developed in keeping with their own experience. Join the progressive class. Read, study and reflect upon the contents of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and persuade your neighbor to do the same. It will lead to a higher plane of business success, and a far deeper and more delightful interest in your work.

Personalities in Business

A correspondent, whose letter appears in another column, takes exception to our editorial, "Two Men" on the ground that we approved and endorsed the methods of one man and condemned those of the other. Nothing could have been farther from our intentions; we stated a few facts that have been constantly coming under our observation, leaving it to our readers to form their own conclusions as their local conditions and peculiarities of temperament dictate.

We suppose it is not necessary to remind our readers that we have persistently advised care and business methods in marketing grain and in other farm operations even to a greater degree than Mr. Langley has noticed.

Also in the editorial "Two Men" the underlying inference is that a man should not relax his business methods but the point is raised: "how should business methods be practised?" Our remarks do not approve of one system more than another unless the truth of the matter compels each man to approve or disapprove of either method. We would not even suggest that all men should follow exactly the same course. The manner in which a man conducts his business is as much a matter of temperament as of ability. Not all men are able to put an elevator man upon his honor, while others, as Mr. Langley

indicates, have not,—shall we say,—the nerve, or at any rate have such a dislike of checking a man up that they have no alternative but to put the elevator man on his honor. Other men by their mere presence and manner of going about, at once set the elevator man on edge, and prompt in him dishonest intentions. Often a man cannot realize why he should be the victim of the unscrupulous acts of another, while his neighbor escapes. This is one of the mysteries of commercial intercourse which it is idle to worry over. All a man should do under the circumstances is to adhere as closely to the mere formalities of trade as possible, neither becoming antagonistic nor yet endeavoring to be cordially familiar, but above all things give the impression that he is trusting the elevator man to a greater degree than he cares to admit to himself. In any event, let it be borne in mind that the facts of transactions in trade do not prove that there is one way, and only one way, of treating the man who weighs in grain and makes out the storage tickets.

This paper is not valuable to the average farmer simply because of its progressive editorial policy, superior agricultural news service, the large variety of subjects treated upon and the general excellence of its whole make up, but because more practical farmers write for it upon everyday problems than to any other paper in Canada. It's easily worth \$1.50 a year to get fresh thought and new ideas every week. It is also worth while to get neighbors to indulge in a little mental recreation.

The Money Supply in Canada

In striking contrast to the financial conditions of a year ago is the money situation at present. Deposits in banks are piling up faster than money can be loaned, although bank loans, of course, demand the best of security. During the month of October, bank deposits in Canada increased \$11,362,879, while the business of the country required in current and call loans \$3,322,014 more than the month previous. The large increase in deposits is attributed to the fact that the crop movement put money in the hands of farmers and farm laborers, which was, in turn, deposited in the banks. Naturally one would think that large supplies of cash in the banks would make bankers comfortable, but such is not the case; interest must be earned on ninety-six millions of capital and six hundred and four millions of deposits. Last year the shoe was on the other foot, everyone wanted money and were willing to pay good interest for it. Strange also, the scarcity of money in Canada last year was attributed largely to the fact that Canadian banks were loaning in New York, but this year foreign loans are six millions larger than last year. These figures lend strength to the opinion that the scarcity of cash last year was due very largely to people putting it out of the uses of trade owing to lack of confidence, and this will also explain the very rapid increase in deposits apart from the returns from crops. One must not, however, ignore the fact that millions of bushels of wheat have gone to British and foreign markets, the payment for which has not been altogether in merchandise.

The People and the Elevators

Regina was, on the 26th ultimo, the scene of a very earnest discussion. Members of the executive of the Grain Growers' Association met with the premiers of the three prairie provinces to confer upon the proposition of Provincial Government ownership of internal elevators. The most direct result of the conference is to give the premiers the chance of securing a plank, already sawn, edged, dressed, and kiln-dried for their platform, which means that before Government ownership of elevators becomes an actuality, the proposition will have to be brought into the realm of practical politics.

Just in what manner the plank will be framed into the platform of either political party is a matter of conjecture. There is the opportunity of one party seizing it with the object of making a structure much to the fancy of a large element of the farming community, while the other party at first timorously ridicule it; and later, through heat of discussion, wax warm in denunciation. In any event, if the plank were so used, it is certain that the question would not be decided in cool reason, but judgment would be influenced by party attachment and political emotion.

There is another manner in which the problem of "what shall be done with our elevators" may be decided by the people in cool reason without entangling it with other political issues to the injury of either party, or with a dubious verdict of the people, and that is by a plebiscite. There should be no serious difficulty in the Provincial Governments submitting a proposal to inaugurate a system of Government-owned elevators to the people, and the people having but one issue to decide upon would be in a position to render an intelligible verdict.

This also is in line with the more advanced understanding of representative government. People who are giving political science careful study, are beginning to insist that the whole people, rather than their elected representatives, should have the final decision in matters of this kind.

One thing is certain, and that is, that whether the governments seize the proposal as a plank, or submit it for public majority, the approval of the people will be responsible in some measure for the final outcome. The credit of the success of the scheme would be too much to lay at the feet of any party, and the burden of the defeat of it would be too great a load for the ambitious politician to carry. The people will decide.

Not a Case of Lion and Lamb

Uncertainty exists in the minds of those responsible for higher education in Saskatchewan as to whether or not the colleges for training recruits for the various professions, agriculture included, should be grouped under one central head. The chief concern seems to be that the profession of agriculture would suffer by comparison with the advantages which other professions offer. Close contact between students of the "learned professions" and those of agriculture is believed to result in the latter turning with scorn upon their chosen calling and adopting some other vocation. This condition of affairs has invariably occurred where various colleges of different professions are grouped under our faculty and the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has, on different occasions, called attention to this unfortunate circumstance.

But Saskatchewan would like to remedy the evil without the expense and inconvenience of maintaining an agricultural college separate from the university and in this ambition she is amply assisted by natural and social conditions. In the States, where the agricultural students suffer by association with the young people from the cities who are taking other courses, the social conditions are quite different. Every college there has students who come from cities of considerable size who, with others from smaller cities