

Farming for Profit

A Department Devoted to the

Practical Problems of Farmer and Stockman

THE CROPS AND OTHER MATTERS

Everywhere in travelling over the country, there come reports of good crops, and of grain of high quality, and with very few exceptions, all safely harvested. From Saskatoon all the way along to the Alberta border, threshing was in full swing, but when one comes further north, the aspect of the country changes, and although a large acreage is under grain, still it is evident that from Lloydminster to Edmonton the country is more suitable for raising stock, and grain is later in ripening than further east. However, while a few fields of oats here and there from Vegreville north, remained still to be cut, the major portion of the crop was either in the stook or stack. As the train approaches the Northern capital, more green feed is seen, and consequently more live stock, but when one thinks of the vast stretch of country tributary to the railway, the number of head of live stock to every farmer works out at a very low average. Around Edmonton the yield of grain is estimated at 30 to 35 bushels per acre for wheat, and from 75 to 90 bushels for oats. The average yield of green feed is estimated at 2½ tons to the acre, and has been sold in Edmonton lately as high as \$15 per ton. The hay crop in the north this year has been a very good one, while the yield from the root crop is excellent.

The Guide representative talking to one of the oldest and most experienced millers in Northern Alberta, was told that the present grain crop was the best in the past thirteen years.

Garden Truck, Etc.

Taking a leisurely survey of the Edmonton City Market, the other morning, the writer was amazed at the magnificence of the displays of garden produce, grown in the adjoining country, and brought in by farmers and homesteaders, for sale in the city. Every kind of vegetable one could think of was seen, wagon loads of fine, solid-hearted cabbages, splendid potatoes, onions, leeks, radishes and carrots were displayed for sale, and judging from the buyers crowding round the stands and wagons, a good brisk trade was in progress. Coarse grains and green feed, timothy and upland hay were all selling well, while in home-killed fresh beef and pork, chickens, eggs and butter, a steady demand was evidenced.

The Stock Outlook

The Live Stock Commissioner for Alberta, when asked if there was a good demand for stock, replied that there was no stock to be had in the province, and he was referring enquirers to the eastern stockyards. The outlook for the pure-bred stock industry looks very bright, and prices next spring are likely to rule high.

The Dairy Industry

A large business is done in dairying around Edmonton, the city boasting probably the best equipped dairy plant in the West, and the observer could see from the number of milk and cream cans lying around the stations, or being put on the trains, that farmers were going in largely for keeping a few dairy cows around the farm, and acquiring from their product a steady income all the year round.

The Fair Season

The fair season is in full swing in Alberta just now, and in conversation with one or two of the judges, the writer was informed that the class of stock exhibited was generally of a high quality, and more especially in the newly settled districts, many of which are having a fair for the first time this year. Nearly all the small towns in the great stretch of country to the north and west of Edmonton had a fair, and while it might possibly be more profit-

able to group two or three of these small districts together, and make one good show, still the local country fair is doing good work in its way, in fostering and building up the mixed farming industry. All the judges speak very highly of the displays of grains, grasses and vegetables put on exhibition at these small fairs.

Progressive Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture and the Board of Agricultural Education, under the minister, the Hon. Duncan Marshall, will open the Alberta Provincial Schools of Agriculture at Claresholm, Olds and Vermilion, on October 28. The aim and work of these schools, which are in a very special sense the institutions of the farmers of Alberta, established for the training and fitting of their sons and daughters for their business of life, will form the subject of a special article in these columns, in a subsequent issue.

The Fairs and Institute branch of the Department will again hold short course schools in different parts of the Province during the coming winter, as well as their usual institute work, a special feature of the latter being the Women's Institute work, which is receiving special attention, and is being taken up with enthusiasm by the women on the farms in Alberta.

The Seeds and Weeds Branch have done a great deal of splendid work this

of a flock, or increasing their present holdings, the executive of the Manitoba Sheep Breeders' Association has decided to bring in a number of young grade ewes, from the western ranges, for distribution (at cost) throughout the province. These will be the best young ewes procurable, one or two years old, and personally selected by a member of the executive.

It is not the intention of the Association to derive a profit from the sales, the object being merely to assist the farmer to secure what he needs at lowest price by shipping in full car lots, and distributing from some central point. The Association is prepared to take applications at the following rates:

- (a) Full carloads (220 head) delivered to any station in Manitoba, either to an individual or to two or more clubbing together, at \$7.00 per head.
- (b) Less than car lots, but not less than 12 head, delivered to any station in the province at \$7.50 per head. If two or more purchasers require delivery at one station they agree among themselves as to choice of stock. A deposit equalling 25 per cent. of price must accompany the application, balance payable upon delivery of sheep, about October 20.

The Association reserves the right to refuse all applications and return deposits if applications total less than one

the larger shows in the East or West, and by winning boars.

In purebred Leicesters Mr. Mackay has a large number of matured rams and ram lambs, also a very select bunch of ewe lambs and breeding ewes, and quite a number of good rams suitable for use in grade flocks.

To those who wish to get into sheep Mr. Mackay offers something special in 150 high-grade Leicester ewe lambs at just about mutton price, also 300 head of young grade breeding ewes, and rams to mate with them if desired, or he can hold them and breed to good rams at any time customer wishes.

Mr. Mackay is still offering a few young Shorthorn bulls out of good milking dams and got by the best dual-purpose sires obtainable.

PRESERVING FENCE POSTS

Wood-rot, in all its forms, is due to the action of fungi working under suitable air and moisture conditions. In fence posts these conditions are most favorable at or near the surface of the ground, and hence it is there that decay first starts. Some woods, like the cedar and tamarack, are more resistant to fungus attack and may last, as fence posts, from eight to ten years. Unfortunately, however, the supply of these woods has grown very scarce and the farmer is faced with the alternative of importing durable material at a high price or of applying preservatives to the common non-durable woods which grow in his own wood lot. As the latter alternative is not only cheaper, but also much more effective, it is of considerable economic interest to the farmer to know how these wood-preservatives are applied.

Creosote, a "dead" oil of coal, is perhaps the best preservative for this purpose, as it does not dissolve out of the treated wood, when in contact with moist earth. It costs from eight to fifteen cents per gallon.

There are two methods of applying the creosote, but before either method can be applied, it is necessary to have the posts well seasoned, if the best results are desired. This seasoning is best accomplished by peeling the bark from the posts and then stacking them in loose piles in the open air for several months, so the amount of water in the wood may be reduced to the smallest per cent. possible.

The Brush Method consists in applying the creosote like a coat of paint to the lower portion of the post, up to a point six inches above the ground line, the creosote being first heated to one hundred and eighty degrees Fahrenheit. Two or more coats may be applied, time being allowed between each application for the creosote to soak into the wood.

What is known as the Open Tank Method, while more expensive, secures deeper penetration and gives better results, especially when the posts are split or checked. The creosote is heated to boiling point in a metal tank, and if such is not available, a simple and effective apparatus can be made by boring two holes about two feet apart, in the lower half of one of the staves of a water-tight barrel, and screwing into these holes two pieces of iron piping three to four feet long, which are connected by a shorter vertical pipe with two elbow joints, thus forming a complete circuit somewhat resembling the handle of a mug.

The barrel is then filled with enough creosote to cover both upper and lower pipe holes and a fire is kindled under the lower horizontal pipe, which heats the creosote in the pipes and creates a circulation which continues until all the creosote within the barrel is at boiling point. The posts are then placed in this boiling liquid for about five hours, after which they are immediately transferred to another barrel of creosote, or else the fire is put out, and they are allowed to remain in the tank until the creosote becomes thoroughly cooled.

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One-day-old Colts Belonging to R. J. Donnelly, Foxwarren, Man.

summer, and it is gratifying to note that their efforts in combating the farmers' greatest enemy, the weeds, are meeting with the success and appreciation such work merits. In a few cases prosecutions have had to be resorted to, and convictions obtained, but this recourse seems to be the only remedy to make a certain class of careless farmers realize that there is such an ordinance in Alberta as the "Noxious Weeds Act."

The Provincial Legislature is at present in session and several vital measures concerning the farmer, notably the Alberta Elevators, Good Roads and Cheaper Money for the Farmer, will probably come up before the session closes. To quote the leader of the opposition in a recent speech, "Agricultural credit, next to good roads, is vitally essential to the development of the farming industry of the Province of Alberta."

MANITOBA SHEEP SALES

Owing to the lively interest in sheep-breeding that has developed in the Province in recent years and the keen demand for young breeding ewes from those desirous of laying the foundation

full carload. All applications must be in by October 8.

SALES BY A. J. MACKAY

A. J. Mackay, the well-known breeder of Macdonald, Man., has recently made the following sales: One yearling Shorthorn bull to Wm. McKenzie, Welwyn, Sask., and the following in Berkshires: One yearling boar and two young sows to Steve Tomecko, Lipton, Sask.; single boar to Jno. McKenzie, Baldur; trio of spring pigs to Frank Clough, Raymore, Sask.; boar to Geo. Fletcher, Tisdale, Sask.; boar to F. H. Witters, Okotoks, Alta.; boar to T. J. Taylor, Cartwright, Man.; boar to Jno. R. Hume, Souris, Man.; pair of spring pigs to J. H. Voysey, Spy Hill, Sask.; boar to Jno. W. Thompson, Plumas, Man.; sow to Geo. W. Thurston, Macdonald, Man.; boar to J. K. McLennan, Gladstone, Man.; trio to J. Harold Shier, Haniota, Man.

In Leicesters he has recently shipped a ram lamb and three ewe lambs to Donald McCaskill, of Gladstone.

Mr. Mackay still has for sale a few spring farrowed pigs and about fifty of July and August farrow. These are nearly all from sows that have won at

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