

Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

January 23, 1907.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Vol. XLII. No. 748

EDITORIAL

That the tariff is not yet satisfactory to the West is best evidenced by the protests of its representatives.

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Shorthorn men should cheer up. The champion British steer for 1906 was a member of the family of reds, whites and roans.

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The whole gospel of beef cattle raising and an improved agriculture is included in the two words, "Clover" and "Corn."

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Saskatchewan is to have a university in the near future, as is Alberta. In each case our fair sisters will do well to appoint a strong man as head of the house (university).

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Organization has become necessary in the business world and it has accomplished much for good in the world of labor. It is no less necessary for farmers.—PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

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If a farmer devotes all his energies to production and none to distribution, he can be sure that some one will take advantage of his shortsightedness, and make him pay the penalty in smaller returns.

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It would appear from the statistics of the fat stock shows that the Doddie (A.-A.) and Shorthorn men should be fast friends. The intermingling of the blood of their beasts produces stuff of high quality.

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That a farmer should make two blades grow where one grew before is only half the story. The quality of the blades and the condition under which they are marketed are more important than the mere increase in numbers.

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The agricultural colleges have lecturers on farm bookkeeping; some have experts who give lectures on economics. Why not men to give instruction in practical business methods of co-operation in the marketing of the products of the farm?

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The experimental work of the Ontario Agricultural college and the popularity of that institution with Ontario farmers is one of the best pieces of evidence that our query, *Should the Dominion experimental farms be abolished?* is not illtimed.

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It would appear that many of the so-called reductions in the tariff for the ostensible benefit of the farmers, are really increases, as witness threshing outfits. Really Mr. Fielding, it would be hard to acquit you of double dealing with farmers; perhaps though it was an oversight on your part.

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For the farmers to get the sympathy and support of the consumers, it is essential that the former must be able to assure the latter that prices to them will decrease rather than increase. The farmer cannot be said to have mastered the science of marketing if the prices to the consumers are to be increased.

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Technical education is a matter for the provinces, just as much as that given by common schools and universities; consequently we see no good reason for a Dominion department practically usurping what is undoubtedly a provincial matter. The Dominion farms have not kept pace with agricultural progress in recent years, because the control of the local farms was exercised by one afar off and necessarily out of touch with the needs of the provinces such farms are supposed to minister to.

The Evolution of a Pirate.

The evidence of a witness in Saskatchewan, before the Grain Commission, that railway freight conductors had been tipped to spot cars, is not remarkable for its divulgence of a rank abuse, but that it emphasizes the fact that humanity possesses a trait of mind that dictates secrecy, and that however much employees may hate their bosses they are quick to imitate their worst vices. The case cited in evidence is but one of thousands. The practice years ago became so general that it assumed the dignity of a custom in many parts, and railroad men experienced golden days. Few men, however, point with satisfaction to such an act. The thought that they had practically been made to pay a premium for a service to which they were entitled, and that in paying the premium they possibly took an unfair advantage of their neighbors, was calculated to dictate silence. There may also have been that feeling of elation which comes over a man when he has accomplished his end, no matter at what cost, and as a victor he cherished in his heart the knowledge of how it was done. Whatever the motive which prompted secrecy, there was not a man who indulged his desire for a car to the extent of a five or ten dollar tip, but what would rather have obtained it justly or by the sheer force of his right arm. But the more surreptitious and clandestine method superseded, and the employees of the railway, copying the example of their employer, debauched the honest producers of the country's wealth. The railroad authorities as individuals probably deplore such a condition of affairs on their roads, but the difference between the conductor or engineer holding a wheat grower up for a tip, and the general manager of a system bluffing a municipal corporation into bonuses, exemptions, favored sites, and other forms of "velvet," is only one of degree, with this to justify the lesser pirate—that he has been set the example by his employers.

Jeshurunitis.

Reasoning from a wide knowledge of human nature and with the example of a certain case in Holy Writ; namely Jeshurun, who "waxed fat" and "kicked" many men, argue that farmers were never in a better position than they are at the present time.

Jeshurunitis, attaching the name of the first real radical kicker to the conditions which recur with measured regularity, may be an evidence that those afflicted with it are not threatened with starvation, but it is no guarantee that their rights are not being infringed upon. The larger the bone a dog may have found, the more persistence the rabble pack employs in its pursuit of the industrious forager, and so it is with the farmer when he has grown a large crop, and with the horde of middlemen whose pursuit but stimulates their appetites.

Farmers may have grown good crops and are free to admit that they have, but the railroads, elevator companies, coal miners, lumbermen and others have managed to introduce a continuous array of objects for the exercise of the farmers' pedal extremities. Would anyone say that the reason for the kicking out in Saskatchewan, where there is scarcely fuel enough to keep the stoves warm, and where much of the crop is buried in snow which will probably melt and set up rot in the wheat before it is got out, is from the effects of sheer exuberance of spirits or of over-abundance of flesh? To fail to recognize another's need is, we believe, a more reprehensible trait than the thoroughly manly, independent practice of lousy kicking.

The Tyranny of a Fixed Price.

No other one condition of our intricate commercial contraption grates upon the senses so much as the obtrusion of the fact that whether we buy or sell the price is always fixed. The

remarks of Mr. Carson of Lauder before his local Grain Growers' Association, and which the farmers of Lauder unanimously requested us to publish, fairly reek with indignation at the remembrance of the fact that the distributors of wealth find it part of their business to decide as between producer or manufacturer and consumer what money value shall attach to commodities of trade.

This resentment of arbitrary price fixing is at the bottom of our abhorrence of the trusts, and probably conversely the power to arbitrarily fix prices and demand observance of them may be the only sweet drop in the cup of the trust magnates, since money for its mere intrinsic value is of no consequence to them. We care not so much what the cost of an article may be, but we do like to know that the same article can be bought for more or less money at some other place. It is not so much that the retailer of a certain article charges us about twice what the manufacturers get for it that makes us chafe, but that all the retailers charge this enhanced price. The public abhors a monopoly, and to show their disgust for its practices rack their brains to invent some scheme to roast the perpetrators of monopolies in their own ovens.

Danger Ahead.

The words of caution uttered at the annual general meeting of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, by the late general manager, Byron E. Walker, now president, are worthy of serious consideration by all thoughtful members of the trading community, whose financial stability is entirely dependent on the progress and prosperity of the farming industry. The principal danger to-day undoubtedly lies in the undue inflation of land values all over the West by the great land-owning corporations, emulated and outdone by some real estate men and speculators, who combine to foist upon newcomers lands on which they have secured options by a small cash payment, for a very heavy increase in price, the whole of which increment they seldom fail to exact in cash. As an example of this we have had brought to our notice an instance in which the C. N. R. have transferred to agents for a nominal cash payment, blocks of land which said agents are retailing to settlers at an advance of two dollars and upwards per acre, and exacting not only this increase but nearly one half the complete purchase price in cash within the first two years.

The newcomer is thus handicapped at the start, and in the majority of cases forced to commence the dangerous and financially unsound system of purchasing implements, live stock and the necessities of life "on time," which obligation he cannot hope to begin to liquidate for at least a number of years from the date of his commencing operations.

With the present enormous influx of settlers, and the consequent multiplication of the aforementioned instance many thousands of times, it is easily apparent that the evil must become chronic at no late date unless a remedy be found. Failing a cure a period of great financial stringency in trade circles is inevitable, with the result of a shortening of trade credits all round, and the closing down of the weaker concerns.

The rumored right of pre-emption to homesteaders to purchase an adjoining or near quarter section of land should serve as a much needed check to the premature rise in values and at the same time serve as an added stimulus to the Government's energetic immigration policy.

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The University of Manitoba has reached a crisis in its history. It has dawned on some that the University was not created for the colleges, but for the people. The fight is now between the Moderns, clothed with breadth of view and a desire to advance and meet the needs of the people, and the Ancients, in old ideas and a policy of let good enough alone. The issue is never in doubt.