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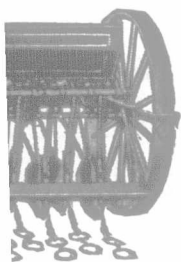
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Farmer's Advocate

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February 6, 1907.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Vol. XLII. No. 750

EDITORIAL

The Live Stock Associations convene at Brandon the third week of this month. Make it a point to be on hand.

That was a capital suggestion of John Mooney at the Agricultural Societies' convention, that a superintendent of fairs and institutes should be appointed for Manitoba. The other provinces have such an official and find he does useful work.

The University of Manitoba has become alarmed by the application of the Brandon college for degree conferring powers. It is hardly likely that the legislature will grant the request.

If one university be properly constituted and run, such should be ample for the province.

The refusal of a member of the Grain Exchange to make a pact with a concern which he suspected to be a bucket shop does him infinite credit.

Up to date we have not seen or heard any valid excuse offered for the Federal Government retaining an employee of the Grain Exchange in its employ.

The Grain Exchange vainly tried to prove to the Grain Commission that the Canadian Grain and Stock Company was a bucket shop concern.

In a democratic country such as this, it is hard to understand the point of view which thinks a 100,000 bushel dealer (middleman) entitled to a jot more consideration than the 1,000 bushel farmer producer.

For the Old Country man who wants some hunting and shooting, the farm orchards and tree plantations will be just the thing. Rabbits are far too plentiful and are doing an immense amount of damage.

The new word, "cobalted," does not mean that a person is iron or metal-clad, but rather that he has been shorn. It sounds nicer than flim-flammed, but there is little difference in the after-taste. In both cases it is bitter.

The killing of another Shorthorn bull in an Argentine quarantine, on account of tuberculosis infection, has resulted in our Old Country confreres making another onslaught on the tuberculin test. Some chaps will persist in donning a robe which when worn characterizes them either as "knaves or fools".

The evidence before the Grain Commission shows that farmers will do well to ignore the advertisements of grain and stock firms appearing in the daily papers, except such as also appear in the agricultural papers, who it would seem exercise a more rigid censorship of their advertising columns.

Beware!

It is most unfortunate at this time, just when the Grain Growers were pressing home their evidence of unfair treatment by the grain trade towards the farmers, that a bone of contention smelling to high heaven of politics should be thrown into the agricultural arena, merely to show the public that there has been an undercurrent working in the affairs of the Grain Growers' Association of Saskatchewan. The conduct of the conventions of grain growers at various points in Saskatchewan has in the past been exemplary, temperate in discussion, fairly econ-

omical in expenditure of time, and withal held under perfect control. The controversy recently appearing in the public press takes the form of letters from Messrs. Millar, Motherwell and Partridge. The grievance of the two former seemingly is that the farmers were a little hasty in taking up the matter of prosecuting some members of the Grain Exchange, instead of waiting until the Grain Commission was all through, and that the latter was the instigator. Under the circumstances it appears to us that the Manitoba Grain Growers are quite well able to take care of themselves; but as to enlisting the Saskatchewan men, they also have a convention the latter end of the month and can then endorse or repudiate the action of their executive, when the little family squabble can then be fixed up. We did not intend publishing these letters, but as such are now public property through the daily press, the letters are inserted. It is rather too plainly evident that the newspapers are not at all averse to seeing disruption in the ranks of the farmers, a consummation devoutly wished for by the Grain Exchange. We do not wish to see such disunion, believing it would wreck the cause of the farmers; hence we cannot endorse the action of Mr. Partridge in introducing the matter on the floor of the Legislature of Manitoba through a mouthpiece, thus giving a political tinge to the agitation against the alleged unfairness shown by the Grain Exchange towards the farmers.

THE DEFINITION OF A BUCKET SHOP.

An office where people may gamble in stocks, grain, or other things which are bought and sold on the exchanges. The bucket shop uses the terms and outward forms of the exchanges, but differs from the exchanges in that there is no delivering and no expectation or intention to deliver or receive securities or commodities said to be sold or purchased.

Rural Highways

The suggestions advanced by Mr. Iverach in another column of this issue on the subject of road building are worthy of consideration. The charges he makes against our system of piecemeal work have been substantiated in all the older settlements of Canada, and the claims for methods of more substantial road building also have many examples to illustrate the economy of such a system.

Probably everyone agrees that a system that would give us more substantial roads with greater expenditure at first hand would be preferable to the present spasmodic attempt to construct highways; but the enormous mileage of roads that is laid out before a municipality presents so large a problem if all are to be made permanent that it seems almost impossible of accomplishment; hence little is done each year and an attempt is made to forget the problem until it arises again the following summer. The public mind seems to be in a state of waiting until some one comes forward with a scheme for road building that will be at once feasible and insure some sort of permanency to the results of work and expenditure of money. The conviction seems to be present that past experiences in other countries will not apply in this new land of ours, and to a certain extent this is true, for our conditions of settlement and methods of opening up the country are exceptional. In the first place we have been allotted too much road space, and besides, roads have been projected upon municipalities before there were settlers to drive over them; add to this that it is confidently expected that a railway will be built through each alternate

section and we have the positive problem of road building. But it is no use denying that we must have better roads as the country becomes older, and while some parts of it are in more particular need of them than others, all must set to work on the problem. Suggestions might be obtained from other parts by the provincial Governments and a policy of road building laid out which would at least show that the public men of the country are cognizant of the need of highways through the rural districts. Ontario has set an example in this respect by appointing a good roads commissioner and by assisting county councils in building main arteries throughout the country. The western provinces have got to come to such a practice sometime—and why should they delay it?

More Light being Thrown upon the Grain Business.

Many farmers have heard from sources reliable or unreliable that they, the producers, were being preyed upon by many grain dealers, and that the grain trade was handled and manipulated in such a way as to get the most money out of the farmer's product, irrespective of the fact that it might be to his hurt. Other farmers have become convinced of this fact and as a result of their belief asked the Dominion Government for a commission to investigate and probe the matter to the bottom. A commission was appointed and has up to date done a lot of good work, and appears to be fairminded and determined to get all the information possible; this was evidenced recently when a witness endeavored to bluff them out of an examination into the books of record of his business, but they insisted and doubtless made the examination.

The farmers are dubious, and have been for some time, as to the influence of the Grain Exchange on prices of grain. That organization however, claims that since they took hold the grain business is done better than before, and that the farmers benefit thereby. Years ago the few elevator or mill men made their own prices at the local markets, irrespective of the quotations on the world's markets, and the farmer had to take the local price and be content; all of which is true enough, as those who have been in the West a few years know. As a result of this coming together of the grain men in an organization, it is claimed that the farmers got a better price than they used to get. That the increase in price is due to the philanthropy of the Grain Exchange is doubtful, rather it would appear that organization foresaw so soon as farmers organized and studied their journals, that then they would have to give the producer "a square deal" by paying the legitimate prices for his grain, based on the prices as obtained from the markets of the world. Competition in business nowadays is keen, if permitted to go on, but the volume of the grain business done was not sufficiently large to permit of profits being wasted; hence it was decided to pool receipts. Even this could not satisfy the insatiable greed which dominated some members of the grain trade, and as the farmer did not furnish sport enough, the next move was to start to deal in options—in other words to start gambling in wheat. Some of the brighter minds among the farmers saw the effect that such gambling might have on prices, and protested; but to no avail. This dealing in futures or options was designed to gratify and increase the human appetite for gambling, by which it is hoped to get something for nothing, and as the plucking of the farmers under the old methods was too laborious and so unscientific as to bring protests and cries from the victims, the easier method of selling futures was resorted to. Now the excuse for selling options is, stripped of all quibbling, to enable a man to sell his wheat and get the proceeds and then take a small percentage of the receipts and