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EDITORIAL

Regina Exhibition and Stockyards.

The Stockbreeders' Association of Saskatchewan does well to resist the inclination of the Regina city council to let the exhibition grounds to private parties for the ostensible purpose of establishing stockyards. The city, it is true, has a right to utilize the grounds in such a manner as to reimburse its treasury for the expense it has gone to in erecting buildings for exhibition and sale purposes, and to secure a revenue to assist in their improvement and upkeep. The grounds are extensive and the city has provided all with a generosity that is seldom equalled by civic authorities towards agricultural interests. The exhibition association and the live stock associations, on the other hand, have demonstrated that the liberality of the city has not been unfruitful. The summer exhibition and the spring show and sale result in the expenditure of a large amount of money in Regina, enough we should think to make the arrangement, as it now exists, mutually satisfactory.

Should the city decide to lease the exhibition grounds for stockyard purposes, and a trade of any size be worked up, then certain it is the exhibition board and the livestock association would be under an immense handicap in conducting a summer exhibition, if, indeed, they would not have to abandon the idea altogether. Breeders have to be exceptionally careful of their stock and could hardly be expected to expose them for a week or more where there is danger from infection, against which even the new meat inspection act could not protect them. For just such a reason as this the showing of breeding hogs at the International in Chicago had to be discontinued. Nor can we recall any place in the world where breeders risk showing their stock in grounds contiguous to stockyards. It would also be degrading the natural beauties of a city that has little enough of beauty to commend it to make of its largest park a stockyards, an institution which necessarily renders the surrounding property undesirable for residential or even manufacturing or business purposes.

It may be thought that there is unnecessary alarm over the discussion, for it is certain the stockyard business will not be very extensive at Regina until Saskatchewan becomes more generally a stockraising province, and without a large supply of stock there will be no serious danger of infection at the grounds nor a continuation of stockyard business. The city naturally is anxious to foster all such enterprises, but would be well advised to accept the suggestion to have such businesses as stockyarding and slaughtering removed a considerable distance from its largest park.

Just the Year for Seed Fairs.

Some of the secretaries of agricultural societies, which have held seed fairs, report an inclination on the part of many of their members to drop the fair this year on account of the fact that not a great deal of the grain in their districts will make good seed. To recognize the futility of using frozen seed is an evidence of good sense in farming, but to drop the seed fair because good seed is very scarce is of doubtful wisdom. Seed fairs are primarily intended to bring forward the best seed in a district and to give to those who want better seed an opportunity to secure it. This year good vital seed is not a very abundant commodity in many districts, and, consequently, whatever things that is good should be brought to public notice. It is also worth considering if it would not be advisable to go farther abroad for seed

than is customary, or if farmers having good seed could not dispose of it to good advantage in those districts that were not as fortunate in escaping frosts.

Since the country last suffered so generally from adverse weather conditions we have been learning things about seed and have been improving our conditions. Formerly, it was often absolutely necessary to sow seed which was known to be not the best, and for this reason it sometimes took years to recover a position that was lost in one bad season. Now, we know that it is a false economy to use frosted seed when the best grades may be had at a little additional expense. The seed fair has done its share toward helping to an appreciation of the qualities of seed and should not be dropped, even if nothing more were done than to simply discuss the advisability of bringing in injured seed and the importance of the matter impressed upon those who are apt to regard it lightly. The man who at once secures the best seed available will be the first to recover from the adversities of the present season.

Let us Hear from the Division of Market Extension.

The letter of J. W. C., in this issue, directs attention to a problem which it would be more comfortable to dismiss if it would only stay dismissed. A supply of thousands or a million or two bushels of frozen wheat can be profitably disposed of by feeding to stock, but this season the amount is measured in several million bushels and we have neither the cattle nor the hogs to eat it all. The inevitable is bound to happen: the market is going to find itself glutted with frosted wheat and prices will fall flat. This may not be the case as long as navigation remains open and grain moves steadily to the east but the frozen crop will be the last threshed because it is least valuable and requires a long time to harden. Then, too, it is easiest kept in the straw, and to keep it in bins for any length of time is practically impossible. Perhaps it would be wisdom to keep a lot of the frosted wheat in stacks rather than thresh it and have it spoil in store. There is also a possibility of securing a market for much of our frozen wheat to the south where oats are light, the corn crop in a precarious condition and all classes of feed high priced. The country is looking for hasty solutions to its frozen wheat problem. Some time ago we remember having met an official of the Dominion Government who informed us that his work was to extend the markets for Canadian products. If that man is still in the employ of the Government he should be set to work to hunt up a market for our damaged wheat and the nearer home he finds such a place of sale the better for all, except the transportation companies.

Higher Tariffs!

Pursuant to its usual custom the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in convention at Toronto the last week in September declared itself convinced that the country needed higher tariffs. The ostensible and very laudable object of higher tariffs is to establish manufacturing plants to employ labor which in turn buys the products of the farm and factory. But while this constitutes a most commendable theory it entirely breaks down in practice for it does not take into consideration human selfishness and avarice. The advantage which high tariffs gives manufacturers in the home market is not used to build larger factories, to employ more men, to buy more products, but rather is used to enrich those who are protected so that instead of enlarging the home market, high tariffs contract it. Manufacturers might give us a sign that protection benefitted "the people" by selling articles made in protected shops for less than they are offered by foreign manufacturers.

This is really what protection is professed to be able to do and what is expected of it by the consuming classes who support it. The misfortune in connection with our trade and tariffs is that we require a certain amount of protection to prevent our manufacturing industries from falling into the hands of those who are wedded to the higher protection principles which our manufacturers court. We do not want to be used to help Americans develop a trade in Europe, Australia, South America and the uttermost parts of the earth. Even now, however, there is a suspicion that we are over secure.

To Students at Agricultural Colleges.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

It is quite opportune now to address a few words to agricultural college students, and to their preceptors, for the latter are students only further advanced, for to many the month of October means the beginning of a wider experience as the result of a start in college life.

It may be stated now and finally, that it is a real asset in after years for the young men from the country to have attended an agricultural college. One of the main contributing reasons for placing such a high estimate on the young farmer's attendance at an agricultural college is the fact that opportunities are there afforded him not to be had elsewhere, in becoming intimately acquainted with the peculiarities, abilities, and qualities of other young men, who some day he must work with or strive against for place and power. Right here it may be well to utter a word of warning regarding the present-day tendency to divide the student body into sections, or units termed literary societies or fraternities, etc.; a course which can only have detrimental effects by increasing the tendency to upishness, snobbery and sectionalism, besides tending to the dissipation of a lot of valuable energy on unworthy subjects. To me it seems that, apart from advice, to study hard and acquire knowledge, the agricultural student needs to study his fellows, and thus lay a foundation for a course in practical politics. Granted that such is desirable, and there can be no question that it is legitimate, college presidents and principals will do well to limit the number of societies in their particular colleges to two, or at the most, three.

Wherever and whenever a lack of virility and breadth of view is evidenced by a college head, or in the faculty, and concurrently an extra amount of individuality in the student body there are almost sure to be clashes, sometimes harmful to the students or the institution, sometimes beneficial to one or both. The writer well remembers one such occasion during a phase of his college life, due to a temporary failure on the part of the faculty and the head to diagnose quickly individuality and forcefulness in some students, qualities entirely devoid of vice or malice, which had been developed naturally in the strife to obtain bread in the market place. Fortunately, this failure had only a temporary prejudicial effect, the latter results being distinctly beneficial to all concerned, the college was quickened into new life and the students broadened as the result of a wider horizon, all a possible outcome because the strife of not more than a decade ago, was the result of conditions, not dispositions! The point I wish to make, and I commend it to faculties and students, is *foster the development of individuality to the limit*, but to avoid its degradation into selfishness, by the careful nurture of a college spirit.

I well remember Dean Henry, the doyen of agricultural college heads, who, though a great man, yet had defects, expressed in the following sentence, so quaintly full of conceit, uttered to one of the younger members of his corps of professors and lecturers; it was, "Let me mould you;" to the college student I would say, "let none mould you, but profit by example!" Noth-