

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. *

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

VOL. XXXVIII.

WINNIPEG, MAN., AND LONDON, ONT., OCTOBER 20, 1903.

No. 584

Editorial.

Siftings.

"Indian Summer" has been a reality this fall, and work on the farm has progressed with great activity.

Our methodical farmers are now utilizing all the time they can spare from the field in fixing up their houses against the severity of the winter.

The implement shed is a matter which should receive attention now, and if one has not been already built, now is the time to build one. A temporary, sod-roofed, open shed is better than nothing, if only for the reason that the machinery will be found all together.

The Souris Plaindealer says: "A party of Indians are encamped at Whitewater Lake, drawing out the cattle that perished in the storm. They are skinning them and drying the meat. There will be joy and festivity in the tepees for some months to come."

The Whitewater people may look forward to the full enjoyment of the company of the Indian during the winter. "Where the carcass is there shall the eagles be gathered together."

Here is another paragraph from the Souris Plaindealer, giving news of an opposite character: "A company of Galician farmers at Sifton have purchased a modern engine and separator, and expect to have it working in their settlement in the course of a few days. Many of the Galicians have excellent crops this fall."

While the degeneracy of the Indian is brought out in the former, the progress of one of the humbler sects which have invaded his territory, and along with others are driving him fast "towards the setting sun," is pleasantly shown here.

Not a bird that comes to the country but earns its living from the people. In one way or another they earn their right to live. Most of our song birds are insect eaters, and it is questionable whether we could live on the earth were the balance of nature not kept in equilibrium by the carnivorous order of animals, and plants. Wholesale destruction of any species of our habitants is always more than questionable policy.

A writer in the Stonewall Argus says he noticed four threshing outfits at work on four adjoining farms. His comment is: "No wonder help is scarce. Is this close grouping in the interests of all concerned?"

Banking up the house is a job to be attended to before freezing up, and it is one of those jobs in the doing of which it is well to take time by the forelock. When frost comes in November it comes to stay, and even our latest "reliable" weather-prophet does not lay down an arbitrary date on which we will summon its approach. It is left uncertain, so you had better make the banking of the house certain.

Get the bees into their winter quarters, and use plenty of straw in roofing them in. Do not omit, however, to leave a means of easy ingress to the habitation, for a few visits of inspection may have to be paid them before the prairie blooms again and the fragrance of the flowers brings them forth from their seclusion.

While the thrifty housewife is busy getting the last of her fruit and vegetable preserves cooked, labelled, and stored in the security of the cellar, see that the potato pit is secure from the weather and the peregrinations of your own and your neighbors' cattle and pigs.

If the children have walked to school during summer and fall, and the distance be too much for them in winter, make some arrangement for their conveyance which will be reliable. Do not trust to sending them there on a bad day and going to meet them on a bad night. Such haphazard arrangements lead to absence from school and growing up in comparative ignorance. Make your children's attendance at school a part (and a vital part) of your religion.

The harvest past, the bitter blast
No more it can affect us;
We'll house the kine, the sheep and swine,
And make the stove protect us.

Jack Frost may bind the earth, and find
Some further tricks to play us;
But out we'll bring, while sleigh-bells ring,
The team that won't delay us.

And off we'll go; skim o'er the snow
To the girl so dear and sweet;
The sleigh-bell chimes may cease betimes,
When the sound of wedding bells greet.

What though it snow, and freeze and blow!
There's much in the winter to cheer.
With a broom or a gun, we'll have lots of fun,
And nothing at all to fear.

Those who happen to have frozen grain this year can profitably convert it into "the needful" through the medium of the steer or sheep. Although beef and mutton prices are extremely low at present, such should not discourage winter feeding.

Vegetables of all kinds have figured conspicuously at the fall fairs this season. Those who farm without a garden miss a great many healthful table luxuries which can be had at small cost. Now is the time to prepare for next summer's garden. Lay out a plot and get it plowed.

In the Territories good lambs have been offered for \$2.00 per head, and yearling wethers for \$3.25. At such figures there is good money to be made feeding for the early spring trade.

The amount of hay stacked in the ranching districts this year is, owing to wet weather, far below the amount desired. This, along with the low price of beef, which in many cases will prevent sales being made, must certainly terminate in a shortage should the winter prove extra severe. Many ranchmen are still putting up hay.

That wheat has made most of this country what it is, no one will deny, but whether it will continue to be the mainstay of farmers is another question. In the older-settled districts of Manitoba there is, undoubtedly, a growing tendency in favor of mixed farming.

We have been pleased to notice that other publications have taken up our idea of a Dominion Exhibition for Winnipeg. It's a good thing; roll it along. A gigantic show held under Dominion patronage would do much to develop this country. It must come within the next two or three years.

A traveller through Assiniboia during the last few weeks could easily realize that there was anything but a crop failure in that territory. The average farmer will have as much wheat as last year.

Wheat prices, like some politicians' statements, are inclined to vary. The former, however, is regulated largely by the amount produced, the latter by what is necessary.

Lumber Combine Inquiry.

When the commission appointed to investigate the alleged lumber combine met a short time ago, a dispute arose among the legal fraternity as to who should pay the cost, the outcome being an adjournment for two weeks. It is to be hoped when the case is resumed that the Government will allow nothing to stand in the way of its being proceeded with. The general opinion is that a lumber trust exists, and if so no effort should be spared to have those who are responsible for it duly punished. Thousands of farmers in this country need lumber for building, and the enormous cost of securing it in many districts seriously retards the development of the country and the improvement of the farms. It is, undoubtedly, the duty of the Federal Government to take every step in their power to throw light upon this question. The letter from Nomad in our last issue shows what some manufacturers are trying to do in the Pacific Province, and the present status of the trade on this side the Rockies is but little more satisfactory to the consumer. Let the investigation be fully gone into at once. Turn on the light; let us have the facts.

What We Want.

It has been a busy season on the farm, and all have had sufficient work to more than keep them busy, but the great rush will soon be over, and then we want every reader of the "Farmer's Advocate" who has learned anything during the past season in regard to soil cultivation or the production of crops to send along a few notes for publication, so that others may be benefited. Experience is a great and good teacher, and the practical lessons that we learn should be of great value to others. Our columns are not only open to farmers or stockmen who are prepared to relate the result of any investigation or report anything of an agricultural nature that has been learned, but we will be glad to award such monetary or other considerations as will repay correspondents for their time. We are not looking for elaborately-written articles. Send in the notes and we will do the rest.