

Notes by the Way.

Alberta's most southerly seed fair was held at Magrath recently. The attendance was good, and although the entries were not numerous the quality was excellent. The district of Magrath holds a splendid record for its freedom from weeds, very little grain from that district coming into the rejected class. In winter wheat R. W. Bradshaw was the winner of first prize for Turkey Red and Mr. Winterton took the lead for soft wheat. J. B. Ryrie and Bradshaw divided the money for spring wheat and Bradshaw came first on oats, the Seed Growers' Association medal going to the same gentleman. It is a noticeable fact that in Southern Alberta the soft wheats tend to improve, due no doubt to the rich soil and comparatively dry climate. Even Turkey Red is said to improve in quality and the change to "Alberta Red" is a change in more than name. There were a few exhibits of grass seeds and one sample of corn was to be seen.

The judging was done by Messrs. McKillican and Mitchell. At the afternoon meeting the representative of the seed division spoke on seed improvement and weed control. In the evening Mr. Mitchell took up the question of dry land farming and the conservation of moisture. He was followed by R. J. Deachman, of the Farmer's Advocate, who spoke of the strong necessity for individual effort in the struggle against weeds and in the improvement of western agriculture. Very thoughtful and reverential are these men of the South. Their meetings are always well conducted; the questions are carefully put; and little time is wasted in getting the meeting in motion. An efficient secretary is always on hand to take full notes of everything said, and thus the lectures can be made of service at future meetings. In fact there were many things at Magrath Seed Fair that might well be copied by other districts in this Province.

Lethbridge had an advantage in that the Seed Fair was held at the same time as the Stock Judging School. Dr. Standish of Walkerton, Ontario, took up the work with horses and Duncan Anderson, of Rugby, handled the cattle end of the business. Both of these gentlemen are fluent speakers and experts in their special line; they are doing splendid work, and it is to be regretted that more time cannot be given to these demonstrations. Great good certainly accrues from even these short visits of the live stock experts, but it takes time to fix a type clearly in the mind and unless the student follows up the work much of the benefit is lost. In view of the fact that many of these meetings are still to be held throughout the West it may be well to repeat here the rules for judging live stock given out to the students at Michigan Agricultural College:

- (1) Have confidence in your own powers.
- (2) Concentrate your thoughts on the breed and breed type of the animals you are working upon.
- (3) Do not hurry. Take time to decide. Having done so stick to it. "Be sure you are right, then go ahead."
- (4) If possible watch the class as it comes into the ring. There is often something about the style and carriage of the winner which marks him out as he walks.
- (5) Take a minute to look over the line from as near the centre as possible in order to get a general idea on conformation.
- (6) Then pass slowly clear round the ring inspecting each animal from front and rear.
- (7) Never be satisfied when judging cattle or sheep without using your hand in addition to the eye. Appearances are often deceitful.
- (8) In handling always work from front to rear. With cattle work on the right side approaching the animal from behind.
- (9) First pick out the winner of the class, then use it as your standard in placing second and third.
- (10) When the first is placed briefly sum up its strong points.
- (11) Look for breed characteristics and most common breed defects.
- (12) Pay no attention to either the men with you or the crowd around you. Your business is with the animals. Knowledge is power only when applied, and constant practice is essential in order to develop accuracy in judgement in live stock work. May the work go on and prosper until we have not only judging schools at leading towns but also at places more remote from the railway, and possibly to us may come the Live Stock Special as well as the Seed, Grain and Dairy trains, thus forming a complete course of agricultural instruction—an agricultural college on wheels.

Okotoks was the next seed fair. Some splendid samples of wheat were to be seen there for Okotoks is a wonderful fall wheat district. There was one excellent lot that lost its otherwise just deserts of a high place on the prize list owing to smut. This is regrettable. Smut can be prevented, and with the power in his own hands no farmer should neglect his opportunity.

A good example of the value of seed selection was given by one of the speakers. In a recent issue of the Farmer's Advocate, a subscriber told of how by selection he had secured an increase of twenty-three bushels per acre. Supposing every farmer with a hundred acres in crop could only make one quarter of that record what would it amount to? And if every reader of

this paper could only do one-fifth as well as "Wheat Head" would not the increased wheat production pay for all the agricultural literature used in Western Canada in addition to leaving something to the farmers themselves? We believe it would and even then there would be enough left over to foot the full bill for a better system of agricultural education than we now have in the west.

Crows Condemned Again.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have read with interest an article in your paper on "The Crow Nuisance," and I readily agree with the writer that these birds are getting to be a great nuisance. It is true they help to eat up the dead animals and kill the gophers. But the hawks, owls, badgers and coyotes readily do this. The badgers are experts at weeding out the gophers. It is true they leave holes, but these would be there whether there were crows or not. I think that crows do more harm to small wild game than the sportsman's gun. They are great destroyers of prairie chickens, ducks and wild pigeons. These have become nearly extinct and the crows and other birds of prey are largely responsible for this.

Crows are also great destroyers of rabbits, which afford much sport for the sportsman, and song birds, and of the latter we have far too few already. Of course the owl and hawk do their share of this destruction, but they are not nearly so numerous nor so stealthy in their methods as crows. I have seen them, time and again, in the spring sweep down upon small rabbits or unsuspecting birds and kill and eat them. They never find a nest of any kind of bird but what they rob the nest and in many cases kill the owner of it. Last spring there were more crows around than any time before, and I found many nests. They continued to be thick all through the summer and all. I think something ought to be done to reduce their numbers, and have no hesitation in saying that the sooner this is done the better.

Souris, Man.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Things to Remember.

Entries close, Saskatchewan Cattle Sale... Mar. 19.
 Entries close, Stallion and Foal Show, Calgary, Apr. 5
 Entries close, Alberta Fat-stock Show... Apr. 5
 Entries close, Saskatchewan Fat-stock Show... Apr. 16
 Entries close, Saskatchewan Horse Show... Apr. 16
 B. C. Pure-bred Sale... Mar. 21-22
 Alberta Stallion and Foal Show... May 7-8
 Pure-bred Cattle Show, Calgary... May 7-8
 Fat-stock Show, Calgary... May 8-10
 Horse-breeders' Association, Calgary... May 7
 Cattle-breeders' Association... May 8
 Saskatchewan Judging Schools—Prince Albert and Kirkella branches... Feb. 21—Mar. 31
 Saskatchewan Pure-bred Cattle Sale, Horse Show and Fat-stock Show... May 16, 17-18
 Winnipeg Horse Show... May 23-25
 Inter-Western Exhibition, Calgary... July 10-12
 Birtle Fair... Aug. 9

It Sticks.

Dear Sirs:—I thought I would stop some of my papers as I get three farm journals, but I would not like to do without the Farmer's Advocate. Enclosed find my renewal subscription.

Pilot Mound.

PETER CRAM.

In the south and east the ground hog has lost his reputation as a prognosticator.

MARKETS

Last week witnessed quite a sharp decline in wheat prices, but with the opening of the present week there is a firmer tone. Some Chicago dealers think the bottom has been reached, claiming that the recent decline has practically crowded out all the holders. Others think that American prices will have to descend yet to an export basis.

Thompson Sons and Co. say:—"It can readily be recognized that the United States Markets are gradually adjusting themselves to World's conditions, and in the meantime their action has a weakening effect on the wheat trade all round. Whatever may have been the aggregate yield of the United States crop for 1905 it is evident there is a fair sized surplus from it over domestic requirements, and this surplus must either be carried into next crop season or exported. Farmers are marketing the surplus at a greater rate than merchants and millers want to take it. Owing to local conditions in the United States wheat trade, prices over there were kept up during the fall and early winter months from 6 to 8 cts. per bu. over a free export value, and so long as the wheat marketed was absorbed by current requirements and the replenishing of millers' stocks, the visible stocks did not show the increase which was looked for from the size of the 1905 crop. But by Jan. 1st., the surplus began to show itself and

the Visible Supply began to increase at the rate of about 2,000,000 bus. per week, just at the time of year it usually begins to decrease. Traders on the United States speculative markets have been slow to acknowledge the changed situation and have held up prices in these markets in almost a wonderful way. But gradually the weight of increasing stocks and the fact of Europe having no necessity to come to the United States for wheat at their prices, has worn down prices in these markets so that in the two months to this date there has been a decline of 6 cts. to 8 cts. per bushel, whereas in the Winnipeg market which is governed this year wholly by the value of Manitoba wheat for export, the decline is only one cent on cash wheat and 3 cts. on May and 2½ cts. on July. Unless European prices advance or unfavorable crop prospects develop, the United States prices will doubtless decline a little more for they are still about 3 cts. above export value, and so long as they continue to ease off it will have a dull basis, however, the whole trade will get into a healthier state, and then the future of prices will be governed more closely by demand and crop prospects. We do not consider there is much danger of lower prices worth speaking of, and any development in conditions likely to lead to shortage in the coming season's crops would quickly advance prices.

In our local market Manitoba wheat has been fairly firm and moderately active. The continued easing off in the United States markets has influenced our prices to decline, but only to a slight extent on 1, 2, and 3 Nor., while No. 4 wheat and Rejected (smutty) are unchanged and a good demand obtains for these low grades. Prices are 1 Nor. 73½c., 2 Nor. 70½c., 3 Nor. 69c., No. 4 wheat 67c., spot or March delivery, futures are March 73½c., April 74½c., May 75½c., July 76½c. All prices are for in store Fort William and Port Arthur.

CALGARY GRAIN INSPECTION.

During the month of February 264 cars of grain were inspected at Calgary, including 94 cars of wheat, 153 of oats and 15 of barley.

LIVERPOOL PRICES.

March 2.—Wheat spot, nominal, futures quiet. March 6s 7-8d; or 9½c. per bushel; May, 6s 6½d; July, 6s 6½d or 97 1-5c. per bushel.

OATS—No. 1 white... 33½
 No. 2 white... 33
 Feed oats... 32
 BARLEY—Malting grades... 39
 No. 3... 38
 No. 4... 34

MILLFEED, per ton
 Bran... 15 00
 Shorts... 16 50 @ 17 00

CHOPPED FEEDS—
 Oats and barley... 21 00
 Barley... 18 00
 Oats... 25 00
 FLAX... 1 06

HAY, per ton (cars on track),
 Winnipeg... 5 50 @ 6 50
 Loose loads... 6 00 @ 7 00

BUTTER—
 Manitoba creamery bricks,
 Winnipeg... 27
 Creamery, in boxes... 24 @ 25

DAIRY BUTTER—
 Tubs, choicest... 21 @ 23
 Second grade, ground lots... 15 @ 17

CHEESE—
 Manitoba... 13½
 Ontarios... 14

EGGS—
 Fresh gathered, Winnipeg... 23
 Pickled eggs... 21 @ 22

GREEN VEGETABLES—
 Potatoes, (farmers' loads)
 per bushel... 65
 Carrots, per bushel... 90
 Beets, per bushel... 60
 Turnips, per bushel... 65
 Onions, per bushel... 1 50

LIVESTOCK.

Cattle—Good demand for good cattle; poor stuff not wanted. Choice steers, 1,000 over 3½c. to 4c.; choice heifers 1,050 over, 3½ to 4c.; choice cows, 1,100 over, 2½c. to 3½c.; fat bulls 2c. to 3c.

Hogs—Choice 150 to 250 lbs. 6½c. per lb.; usual trades, stags, 3 to 3½c., off cars Winnipeg.

MONTREAL.

Prime beeves, \$4.65 to \$5.25; good cattle, \$3.50 to \$4.50.

CHICAGO.

Beeves, \$3.80 to \$6.30; good prime steers, \$4.35 to \$6.30; stockers and feeders, \$2.75 to \$4.75.

Hogs—Mixed and butchers, \$6.10 to \$6.35; good heavy, \$6.25 to \$6.37½; light, \$6.10 to \$6.27½; bulk of sales, \$6.20 to \$6.32½.

Sheep, \$3.25 to \$6.10; yearlings, \$6 to \$6.25; lambs, \$5.25 to \$7.

BRITISH CATTLE MARKET.

Canadian cattle in London are steady at 10½c. to 11c.; Americans are 12½c. per lb. Refrigerator beef continues weak and slow at 8½ to 9c. per lb.