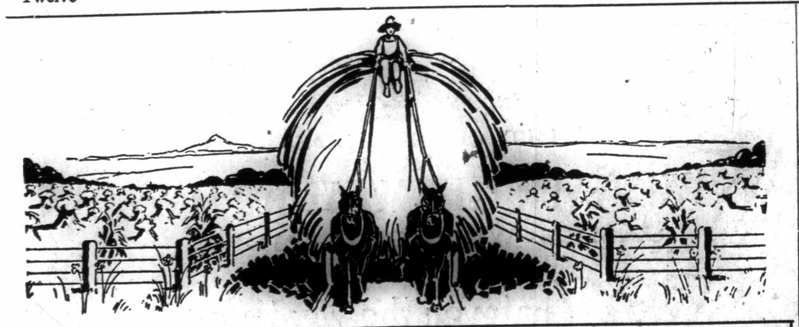

FARMING

LEARNING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

ONE of the most wide-spread and most beneficial of all movements which affect rural communities is that of the social centre. The finest gift which the year 1915 could bring to the farm population would be the institution of a rural social centre in every rural school in Western Canada, where the social centre has been tested, the effect upon the people living in that particular district of broadened sympathies, of eradication of petty bitternesses, has been wonderful, and the influence radiating from the school-house has been a power for good for miles around. People differing widely in religion, in politics, in income, lay aside all differences in the true democracy of the neighborhood social centre, and are amazed to discover how much good fellowship there is to be found there.

It does not require a tedious search to find in most individuals something for us to pin our faith to, and often all that is lacking is a suitable opportunity or environment for bringing out the pure gold of our neighbor's character. Such an opportunity for really learning to know each other is supplied by the social centre.

Forming a rural social centre presents no great difficulties, even to the uninitiated. Where there is a rural teacher with the real good of her section at heart the problem is already half solved; where the teacher is indifferent to the best interests of the section there is always some progressive spirit, who, if once started, would soon develop the social centre idea successfully.

We would like to see a meeting called to organize a rural social centre in every district which does not already possess its advantages. Games, programmes, etc., have an amazing faculty of developing themselves once started; and the people of a section will learn more of each other's good points in the organization night alone than in twenty years of the old, isolated conditions, when everybody "has too much work for games and such foolishness."

⌗ SWINE ⌗

For good bacon it is highly desirable that the hogs be pastured previous to fattening so that the animals will be well developed. The legumes such as alfalfa, clover, peas, soy beans and peanuts are very fine grazing crops because they are rich in protein, which constituent must be available to produce lean meat. Then when the hogs are being fattened for the block they should have a sufficient quantity of such feeds as tankage, cottonseed meal, shorts, rice polish, peanuts, etc.

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It is quite impossible to successfully winter pigs where large numbers of them are allowed to sleep together. It is seldom either expnsive or difficult to so arrange the pens that the pigs may be divided into lots of seven to 12 pigs each. Thee lots should be as uniform in size as possible in order that each pig will have an equal show. It is not necessary, nor is it desirable that large quantities of bedding be used, but the bedding should be changed at least once each week, and as much oftener as conditions may require.

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The farmer who has a supply of alfalfa or clover hay, will find little difficulty in working out a cheap balanced ration for his brood sows. The clover or alfalfa should be run through a cutter and thoroughly mixed with ground corn. This mixture should be wet down with skim or butter-mlik and fed to the pregnant sows twice a day. If no milk is available one-tenth of the ration should be composed of tankage. Cottonseed meal should not be fed to hogs. While rich in protein, for some unknown reason, hogs will not thrive on it. When cottonseed meal is fed, the hogs apparently thrive on it for four or five weeks, after which they sometimes sicken and often die.

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Feed for pigs in winter should always be supplied warm. It is not desirable, however, to cook grain. If potatoes or other vegetables are fed, they had best be cooked and the corn meal or other ground grain mixed with them and fed as a warm slop. If skim-milk or buttermilk with which to mix the grains is available, and if the feed is given at regular hours and in reasonable quantities, there will be no disappointment in the growth of the fall hogs, if the housing has been properly attended to. In the absence of milk, an excellent substitute (not a perfect one,however,) will be found in digester tangage fed at the rate of 10 pounds of tankage to 100 pounds of cornmeal or other grain.

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Bruised Hogs

The packing house men have been making a study of the condition in which hogs arrive at the markets and find that a very large percentage of the hogs were bruised. The packers point out that this brusing neither takes place at the stock yards nor in the unloading at the yards and conclude that the brusing must take place at the farms, or at the local shipping points. One Winnipeg packer claimed that the loss due to bruises on the hogs he had handled in the past six months amounted to over $8,000. The packer of course inferred that this had been a loss to his business, but it is not to be expected that a middleman would bear a loss. All such depreciation must be charged up to the producer.

It is worth while considering if hog shippers cannot eliminate this unnecessary waste in getting stock to market.

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Silage for Hogs

For moet stock the value of silage in the ration has been realized for years, but with hogs silage is yet an experiment, says Clyde Ashley, of Ohio. I met a farmer in central Ohio a few weeks ago who sells a couple of carloads of 200-pound seven month-old hogs each year. He has been averaging seven pigs per sow, and the dams are wintered on corn and corn silage. For the past three years the sows have been getting all the silage they will eat during the winter months.

At the time the silo is opened for the other stock this farmer scatters a basket of silage in the regular V-shaped trough. At first the sows are slow at eat it and waste large amounts, but in time they seem to cultivate a taste for the silage. This farmer says that it acts as a conditioner and appetizer and serves to keep the brood sows in first-class shape.

⌗ SHEEP ⌗

The ability of a ewe to properly nourish her lambs is of great importance, for ewes that are inferior milkers are poor property in a breeding flock. Of course the kind and quality of food given the ewes during pregnancy frequently affects their milking qualities during an entire season, but in the majority of cases we are compelled to rely upon the quality of the lamb in determining the value of the ewe as a future member of the breeding flock.

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Results of experiments at the Wisconsin experiment station show that corn is the most profitable grain for fattening sheep. Other grains may be fed with corn to maintain appetites and keep them in healthy condition. It probably is safest, under most conditions, to start the fattening with oats or bran, then introduce as much as possible, and finish the fattening with a mixture containing one part oats, one part oil meal, and three parts corn by weight. It is always best to fatten lambs at an early age and have them finished as soon as possible. There is less danger from disease than when kept for a longer time and a young lamb fattens more quickly and at less expense than does an old one. Experiments show that lambs increase in weight from one-half to three quarters of a pound a day and from this we can see that a lamb five months old should weight 100 pounds.

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BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF LEICESTER SHEEP

How often do we hear the misleading remark (writes a Buchan farmer in the 'Aberdeen Daily Journal") that Mr. So and So has been lucky with his sheep. There is very little of the element of luck attached to the successful management of sheep. Success is invariably the result of method and application. Misfortune may come along in various shapes, but, generally speaking, we just get face value for energy expended.

Sheep have not very much intelligence. With kind treatment many of them become tame and domesticated, but all kinds of sheep are subject to the law of instinct more than reason. This being the case, we must cast about for the moet suitable conditions and environment.

Leicester sheep, being of a heavy build, are easier to keep within bounds than smaller breeds. It is of great importance to keep Liecesters from breaking fences and straying. Once they start to roam sheep have an unerring memory for the weak spot in the fence. Straying sheep spoil their wool, and as a rule they are always lean and scared looking. A change of pasture is the best cure for restless sheep. They are foragers by nature and when their feed gets tainted or scarce, they soon look out for a change.

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SHEEP BREEDING WORK

With the object of testing the extent of inheritance of the twinning faculty in sheep, twelve. Oxford Down twin ewes were secured by the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, and bred a pedigree Oxford Down ram twin. Six of the ewes were mixed twins—one of each sex, and six were ewe twins, both females. 'From the three seasons during which the trials were conducted," says the report, 'all the twins prdouced in 1910 and 1911 were born of the ewes from mixed twins. This was not confirmed, however, in 1912. The twins were mostly mixed, and there was no case of ram twins in the three years. The ewes of the lot of mixed twins produced throughout, taking twins and inglets, together, a much higher percentage of ewe lambs than ram lambs. To ewes of the lot of ewe twins gave birth to a much higher percentage of ram lambs."

⌗ POULTRY ⌗

The way to tell whether a bird is fat enough for market is to pick them up by their legs, rume back the feathers on the haunches so you can see the skin, and if the bird is not fat it will show up thinner on the haunches than any other place.

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Hens sometimes become too fat for laying, but it is a mistake that hens do not require as much food at one season of the year as another when they are confined, and it is important to make them work for their living. A litter to throw the grain into is important the year round if the hens are yarded.

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Always dry-pick turkeys after killing them by bleeding through the mouth. The wing and tail feathers should be plucked first, as they are the hardest ones topull. Don't give them a straight pull, as that sets them; they come out easier with a twist. Pick cleanly, being careful not to tear the skin. Do not leave wing feathers on—pluck feathers.

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The shedding of feathers is a heavy drain on the constitution of the fowl because it is necesary to manufacture a new coat. The making of new feathers can be greatly aided by feeding highly protein or meat foods. The ordinary grains like wheat, corn and oats do not contain enough protein. Meat scraps from the house or commercial beef scraps are necessary if best results are to be obtained. If a fowl is thoroughly chilled and thereby weakened by late molting during cold weather, she will find it difficult to recuperate until late winter or early spring. By giving her extra care she can be started laying much earlier in the winter.

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Every breeder who has tried to produce eggs in the winter has noticed that a few pullets begin to lay in the fall and others will not lay until spring. It will be understood that winter-laying qualities, like the milking strain of certain breeds of cattle, are largely a result of selection and breeding. A good laying family will be likely to produce good layers. If this is true, and it is not to be considered true just because we believe it, we should give our attention to noting which hens lay the moet eggs during the winter, use them for breeding stock, and mate with males from another flock which we know has a good record for laying. A male with good points will give form and color to the pullets, and if the pullets are not fully up to the standard they make just as good layers.

WOMAN WINS FAME AS BUTTER MAKER

Minnesota has a woman who has opened up a new avenue of activity for women—that of professional buttermaking. This woman is Mrs. J. W. McLaughlin of Owatonna, who was for ix years sole manager of the Elgin co-operative creamery at Elgin, Minn. Mrs.. McLaughlin has won many coveted prizes. She captured first prize in the hand separator class at the State Butter Show at Northfield and twice in succession won second prize in the open classes at the Interstate Butter Show at Mason City, Iowa. Her name has gone abroad through the country and as a result she was asked to address butter makers at the National Dairy Show in Chicago in October on "Operating a Successful Creamery."

Mrs. McLaughlin is enrolled this year as a student in the dairy school at University farm, the first woman ever to take work at this school. She says she is at the school because she wishes to learn the very latest and best in butter-making methods.

THE VALUE OF COUNTY HORSE SHOWS

(J. W. Schwab, Purdue University, in Indiana Farmer.)

The county horse show does not usually begin until 10 o'clock, but before eight o'clock you can see farmers coming to town from all directions. Some are bringing their mares and colts to the show and here and their gala dressed stallions can be seen marching with snap, vim and vigor toward the barns to await their turn in the show ring. Not only can you see well fitted horses coming to the show, but there are automobiles everywhere and farmers' automobiles, too. The automobile seems to be destined to be a great benefactor to the breeding of high class horses.

Time passes swiftly by and it is time for the horse show to begin. The assembled farmers, merchants and others are all interested. First they watch the splendidly groomed horses come and take their places in the ring. Then all eyes are turned to watch the judge. They are eagerly learning type, not of horses brought in from distant states, but their own or their neighbors' horses and colts. Now, it does not take very long before you can catch such ringside expressions as 'good bone," "clean hocks," "a good mover," "plenty of style," "two good ends and a middle." This ringside talk is not always optimistic. Frequently you can hear such remarks as "big enough, but lacks quality," "no foot, no horse," "underpining poor," etc.

The interest of the crowd grows steadily as the judge carefully examines the animals, than places them according to their merits in first, second, and third places and so on down the line until all have been placed.

But there is no class that creates the interest and admiration and requires the utmost skill of the expert judge as the sucking colt class. These classes range from six to eight up to 30 or more in number. Many almost perfect specimens can be found and difficult it often is to place the blue ribbon on the right colt. Often it is surprising to the ringside observer to learn how many good spring colts there are in the community. They teach a great lesson when brought together. It enables the owners to make comparisons that teach valuable lessons in breeding and feeding.

The large number of colts nearly always shown in the sucking colt classes should lead the casual obeerver to believe that the yearling and two-year-old colt classes should be nearly if not equally as large. But such a condition is generally not the case. In passing on more than 800 horses and colts in the community horse shows within the last 12 months in Indiana it has been found that the number of colts in the yearling classes generally ranges from one to about five or six head. In the two-year-old classes the number runs a little larger, usually from one to eight head. Why is it that these classes are generally so small? Experience, close observation and inquiry have told me that farmers do not generally show their yearlings and two-year-old colts because they have learned that their colts of the above ages are not large enough for age, they are under condition, feet are not in good shape and often a good colt has been injured in the wire fence.

It is a satisfaction to learn that in many communities in this state men are beginning to properly feed and care for theif draft colts. Some of these colts weigh from 1,000 to 1,200 pounds the day their are a year old. Such colts that are of good draft conformation with quality and style win in the show ring over the colt that is underfed and they frequently win over the imported colt that has always had good care and plenty of feed. Since we now have many first class imported stallions and mares in some sections of the state, there is no reason why we can't grow as good draft horses in this country as they can in the old countries. What is needed is good breeding animals. Not only good pure-bred stallions, but good pure-bred mares, too. Then give the colt enough grain to eat at all times of the year to keep it in splendid growing condition. A good grain ration for young colts after weaning is six parts oats, three parts bran and one part oil meal. After the colts get to be yearlings, add about three parts of corn to the above ration.

Do not fail to take your good colts to the horse show. Many men say that the local horse shows have been great factors in increasing the quality of the horses in their neighborhoods. Four years ago a horse show was started at Battle Ground. There was not a pure bred animal in this first show. The quality of the horses shown was not very good. This year at their fourth annual horse show the remark was very generally made at the ringside that the quality of the horses in the vicinity of Battle Ground is improving rapidly. There are many pure bred horses and colts in this community, too, as a result of these animal shows. The man who has good mares with foals should exhibit them. They will be of educational value if shown. The horse shows and fairs offer the best possible place.

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THE UNEQUAL TEAM

Often some writers say that they have observed that the horse behind is always thinner and a harder keeper and so he does more work than his mate. But does this prove anything? There is just as much difference in horses as in men. Some men are fat, work hard and eat little.

Did a lazy horse ever go in the lead? No, he has tried everything, and has found from experience where the easy place is.

In driving two horses on a wagon with a heavy load, if one horse is in advance the tongue will be inclined to move toward the rear horse, showing a side draft. Now the horse in the lead must be exerting a greater force to cause this draft.

Take a pair of balance scales and put a weight in one pan; of course this side will go down. The balance scale and the evener are the same each is hung in the centre. So whichever horse will exert the greater force on an evener will be ahead and will remain there as long as he continues to exert the greater force.

BELGIAN REFUGEES FLEE FROM HOMES

An interesting picture taken at Rosendaal, Holland, showing Belgian refugees, who fled from their homes at the approach of the German army. As they passed through Rosendaal, which is on the Belgian Dutch frontier, they wrote their names and destination on the fences and walls of the buildings as a guide to their friends and relatives from whom they had been separated.

BELGIAN SETTLERS FOR SASKATCHEWAN LANDS

Strong hopes are generally evinced that some arrangement may yet be evolved which will render possible the settlement of Belgian agricultural refugees on Saskatchewan lands, says a Saskatoon message. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished, their ability as farmers being proverbial. However, there appears to be many heavy obstacles in the way, particularly at this season of the year. Nevertheless, it is confidently believed that some solution of practicable character will be forthcoming eventually.

USING THE MANURE

There are some arguments in favor of hauling manure directly from the stable as made. Time is money, and we have less to crowd us in winter than when spring work presses. And if one's fields are so situated that they do not wash when the heavy storms come on, still further argument may be deduced in favor of this practice. But if one's land is hilly and subject to washing by floods, he might far better allow the manure to remain under cover where it will preserve its rich qualities than to allow these to go floating down stream. Fertility which drifts down the river does nobody any good.

YOU CAN HELP

It was evening, and the shadows were
falling on the hills,
The sun was gently sinking in the
West,
The cows were coming homeward, the
birds with little trills,
Were calling one another to their
nest.
The farmer from his labors was trudging slowly home,
His thoughts were all of one who'd
gone away,
The lad whose sunny presence was far
across the foam,
And even now was battling in the
fray.

The open door he entered, his wife
was in the hall,
An open letter in her trembling
hand,
Her eyes were red with weeping, she
leaned against the wall,
Her frame was quivering so, she
could not stand.
'They've shot him, John, they've shot
him!" the weeping woman cried.
"They've killed our Jack, those
devils over there."
The old man took her in his arms to
comfort her he tried,
But down his cheeks there coursed
the tear drops rare.

And thus it is, my children, in many
homes today,
That fateful letter comes to break
the hearts
Of parents fond and anxious, of
mothers old and grey.
From many thousand eyes the tear
drop starts,
So let us all endeavor to help with all
our power,
To those folk whose homes are destitute and sad,
And remember this, that even in life's
dreariest hour
A single word of kindness makes
one glad.

FOREST FIRES AND SOIL FERTILIY

Experts state that forest soils have lost and are losing much fertility owing to foreet fires which, doing apparently little immediate damage, rob the soil of accumulations of humus. In many sections land is being cleared for farming, and, where such forest land has not been burned, there is a large percentage of vegetable matter which provides considerable fertility and a good texture. Moreover, as this soil has a greater capacity to absorb and retain moisture, it is less likely to be washed and gullied under heavy rains. For these reasons, in addition to the damage to standing timber, authorities agree that wood lands should be very carefully safe-guarded against fire.

RUTS IN THE ROAD

"Keep out of the ruts and save the road," reads a sign frequently seen along fine eastern highways. Usually it is within the power of the driver to keep out of ruts and in time to wear down the high places and so make the road smooth. Unhappily too many drivers give no thought whatever toward using the road in such manner as will benefit it rather than destroy it. We believe it a test of high citizenship when a man seeks to keep his wheels out of damaging ruts just appearing in a road. It reveals a man who is thinking of the ones who will follow him and that is the finest test of high citizenship. Incidentally, the man is preparing to make his own way smoother, for he will likely return again over that road. Automobile drivers can do much to make roads wear evenly all over if they will give a little thought to their driving. Wide tires on wagons will help. We know one enthusiast who has equipped his wagon with eight-inch tires. He declares the result is a saving in power, and that wagon is surely a road smoother. Let us keep out of ruts, of the mind and of the road, as far as we can.

MAIL CONTRACT

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on Friday, the 8th January, 1915, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, three times per week each way, over Calgary Rural Route No. 4, from the Postmaster General's pleasure.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Calgary, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

D. A. BRUCE,
Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
Calgary, 27 Nov., 1914.
52A.—2,500-26-9-12.

Edward Wade J. Archibald Wilson
Gavin Jack
Wade, Wilson & Gavin Jack
Alberta Stock Yards
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Calgary Office Phone E5858; House Phone M6047 Wade; House Phone M3438 Jack; Gleichen Office Phone 35.

"TIZ" FOR ACHING, SORE, TIRED FEET

Good-bye sore feet, burning feet, swollen feet, sweaty feet, smelling feet, tired feet.

Good-bye corns, callouses, bunions and raw spots. No more shoe tightness, no more limping with pain or drawing up your face in agony. "TIZ" is magical, acts right off. "TIZ" draws out all the poisonous exudations which puff up the feet. Use "TIZ" and forget your foot misery. Ah! how comfortable your feet feel. Get a 25 cent box of "TIZ" now at any druggist or department store. Don't suffer. Have good feet, glad feet, feet that never swell, never hurt, never get tired. A year's foot comfort guaranteed or money refunded.

ROYAL YEAST
MAKES PERFECT BREAD

WIRE FENCING AND TREES

Occasionally, in running wire fences, it is necessary to attach the wires to trees. In doing this, it is bad practice to use staples to attach the wire directly to the trees, thus ensuring that the wire will become over grown and imbedded in the wood. Not only is the tree thereby ruined or injured but, further, it is impossible to remove the fencing without cutting either the wire or the tree.

A better way, protecting both the tree and the fence, is first to nail to the tree a strip of wood about four inches wide and one inch thick, of a length to suit the height of the fence. The wire fence can then be stapled to this strip. This will secure the fence and will not interfere with the tree growth.

WHAT'S THE USE?

Marjorie—"Will I get everything I pray for, mamma?"

Mother (cautiously)—"Everything that's good for you, dear."

Marjorie (disgustedly)—"Oh, what's the use then; I get that anyway."

POULTRY AND LIVESTOCK

FREE. We will give free to any person interested in stock or poultry one of our 80 page illustrated books on how to feed, how to build hen houses; tells the common diseases of poultry and stock with remedies for same, tells how to cure roup in four days; tells all about our Royal Purple Stock and Poultry Foods and Remedies. Write W. A. Jenkins Mfg. Co., London, Canada.

TENDERS FOR INDIAN SUPPLIES

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and marked on the envelope "Tender for Indian Supplies," will be received at this Department up to noon, on Tuesday, 5th January, 1915, for the delivery of Indian supplies during the fiscal year ending the 31st March, 1916, duty paid at various points in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Forms of tender containing full particulars may be had by applying to the undersigned.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority of the Department will not be paid.

DUNCAN C. SCOTT,
Deputy Superintendent
General of Indian Affairs.
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont., December 1st, 1914. —71251

BEFORE DECIDING
SEE THE BIG
CASH OR CREDIT
W. S. LOVE Mgr.
FURNITURE CO. LTD.
318 8th Ave E

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTHWEST LAND REGULATIONS

THE sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter-section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. Applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for the District. Entry by proxy may be made at any Dominion Lands Agency (but not Sub-Agency), on certain conditions.

Duties—Six months residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres, on certain conditions. A habitable house is required except where residence is performed in the vicinity.

In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter-section alongside his homestead. Price $3.00 per acre.

Duties—Six months residence in each of three years after earning homestead patent; also 50 acres extra cultivation. Pre-emption patent may be obtained as soon as homestead patent, on certain conditions.

A settler who has exhausted his homestead right may take a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price $3.00 per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate 50 acres and erect a house worth $300.

The area of cultivation is subject to reduction in case of rough, scrubby or stony land. Live stock may be substituted for cultivation under certain conditions.

W. W. CORY, C.M.G.,
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.
N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.—64388

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Office: Alberta Stock Yards, Calgary, Alta.