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FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL

Electing Councillors

Who will be chosen as councillors, reeve, etc., in your municipality or local improvement district at the forthcoming municipal elections? As a rule, there are several men aspiring for office. It is strange how men clamor to get into the limelight. Stranger still, however, it is to note that not a few when they are elected prove to be little better than useless, and still are voted in year after year. The result is that really competent men refuse to offer themselves.

In many countries elections of all kinds have developed into a contest in vote-getting—not a matter of selecting the best man available. Corruption in legislatures and laxity in municipal government are the results. Further, good men will not allow their names to go on the ballot.

When voters consider a man's real worth and his ability to handle the affairs of the municipality, and not the question of whether or not he is a jolly good fellow, there will be a change in the calibre of the men elected to office. Consider this point before you vote this year, and you will have men representing you of whom you will not be ashamed.

Farm Accounts

The man who keeps books and knows details about what is going out and what is coming in is the man who makes things go. When the matter of keeping accounts is broached to the average individual he commonly says he doesn't want to know where the money goes. Down deep in his heart, however, he does want to know; but he does not care to go to the bother of making a start. He does not realize that it is no trouble—at least none worth while.

One thing worth noting is that the person

who makes a start at bookkeeping, with a view to showing his financial dealings from time to time, seldom gives it up. It is soon considered the most interesting book in the home. In addition, it forms a diary of business transactions, and shows wherein operations are not giving satisfactory returns.

Perhaps most farmers refuse to open account books, because they consider they are not sufficiently trained in bookkeeping. This need be no barrier. One large day book can be made to meet all requirements. Accounts can be opened in various sections of this book to show the turnover in farm crops and in live stock. A maintenance account, in which is shown what is required to keep the house running, and an equipment account in which is entered items of expenditure for more or less permanent equipment in and around the home, also may be found advisable. Sometimes also personal accounts, in which each member of the household finds out what sum is required to keep him or her going, are kept.

Any person with ordinary education can keep all the books that are necessary. Try it, beginning January 1, 1911, and you never will be without it in future.

Our Christmas Number

Our annual Christmas box to old subscribers, as well as to those who only recently have decided to have THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE on their list of weekly arrivals, comes out on December 7 in the form of a large and well illustrated number, including several interesting and instructive articles and stories that will be appreciated by all who love good reading. We know that old subscribers, remembering former special issues, realize that the number is worth keeping in their collection of books and magazines, and also that extra copies make suitable Christmas presents for friends or acquaintances. New subscribers, however, may not grasp the real significance of one of our Christmas numbers until they see it. Therefore, we advise now that orders be placed at once for extra copies. Better value for twenty-five cents is not found elsewhere.

None of our readers can do better service to their neighbor than by telling them about THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE and what it has to say in special numbers, as well as in the weekly issues. Every farmer knows he should read a reliable agricultural paper. If you happen to be the one who puts him in the notion of getting one of the best he will thank you ever after. Let him know about the special Christmas number. It may be an inducement to subscribe without further delay. Timely articles are prepared by competent writers, and no pains is spared in an endeavor to please those who look it over or read it carefully.

Harmony Between Departments

There should be more hearty co-operation between the federal and the provincial department of agriculture in Manitoba, as was suggested in the evidence submitted to the Technical Education Commission at their sessions held in Winnipeg recently. How this co-operation can be brought about is a problem. Since it has now been lacking for two or three years it is just possible that no one in either department feels like broaching the subject to those in authority in the other. The ministers in charge of each department should have sufficient interest in agricultural work to leave nothing undone that would ensure harmony among the several officials connected with both departments and concerted action for the betterment of farming conditions.

Strictly speaking, the provincial department should have charge of a great share of the work. Agricultural societies are provincial institutions. Through them the various lines of action must be carried into effect. But throughout Canada the Dominion department has carried on laudable work that can reach the people best through these agricultural societies. The federal department is acting through the societies in other provinces without serious overlapping of operations. Why not so in Manitoba?

The greatest good to the agricultural public can be accomplished only through friendly co-operation of the two departments. The sooner steps are taken to revive former harmonious relationships, the better for Manitoba's farming industry.

Suggestions From Laymen

The season for conventions and annual meetings is approaching. At all of these there is a danger that a few men will have the whole say. Why not suggestions from the layman farmer? He is not obliged to remain unheard because he does not happen to have been elected to office. Sound suggestions through agricultural journals frequently are received with approval by those in authority.

The annual convention of the Manitoba Union of Municipalities, to be held in St. Boniface toward the end of this month, will be fraught with the usual important resolutions and discussions, and some that are not so important. If the laymen give their suggestions to the man, or men, who represent the municipality, he is only doing his duty when he passes these suggestions on for serious consideration. The delegates to such conventions are supposed to find out what is needed for their respective communities, but, of course, action, if properly taken, goes along the lines of the general weal of the province. Among the laymen we frequently find men who