

due to progressiveness of settlers in the district. As F. W. Green said, the farmers of the Canadian West represent some \$300,000,000, or more, of money value. He did not say, however, that they had made this huge sum from crops produced since this became an agricultural country. The increase in land values has helped greatly in bulging their purses.

### Presentation of the Case

In presenting the resolutions to the government the spokesmen of the big delegation were careful to make matters clear. If they made any mistake it was in going too fully into detail. Much of what was embodied in the memorials is general knowledge—at least it is known by almost all who are interested in the welfare of the farmers of Canada. Under these circumstances was it necessary to weary Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other members of the house with the reading of columns of data and details, continuing the conference until the premier passed some of the resolutions without more than a mere reference, because of the lateness of the hour?

That frequently is a weakness with delegations in presenting such cases. They seem to think that the men to whom they are talking are not possessed of any facts, and that they must hear them given by a member of the delegation. Had only half the time been spent in presenting memorials at Ottawa, perhaps the premier would have dwelt on some of the problems at greater length.

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The farmers of Canada are well organized. In proportion as they leave party politics alone will be their power. Farmers of the West, with a few men like E. C. Drury, president of the Dominion Grange, in the East, cannot be denied. The good work will continue. The executive of the Canadian National Council of Agriculture will be heard from and their demands will not always go unheeded.

### MY OPINION ON SOME MATTERS NUMBER 27

#### POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF VISIT OF BIG FARMERS' DELEGATION TO OTTAWA

After reading what has transpired at Ottawa in connection with the visit of our 500 Western farmers, augmented by three or four hundred enthusiasts from the older provinces of the eastern part of the Dominion, it is difficult to guess what will be done. Unless agriculturists of the East have changed wonderfully in the last few years, I am constrained to believe Sir Wilfrid when he says that the more radical spirit of the West pervaded all that was done. In fact, it could not be otherwise with such a majority of the delegation coming from the prairies. It is noteworthy, however, that Easterners who were on that delegation were right in line with the resolutions submitted. Evidently a few at least have concluded that the West is right, and that legislation asked is only fair and just.

However, I used to know the Dominion Grange and its work. A couple of decades ago it was strong. Many farmers benefited from it. Like many other farmers' organizations, it died a slow and natural death—no, it retained a spark of life, which has again been fanned to good effect during the last two or three years. The men responsible for bringing it back to new life are largely of the independent class, as far as

politics is concerned; and, further, they are progressive. But, do they represent the great army of farmers in Ontario? In my opinion they do not. Of course, they represent the views held by men who really are independent, and want to figure out what really is needed in order to give the farmer a fair show.

The situation developed is very interesting. The government know that the farmer delegation is entitled to action in accord with suggestions offered. They also know that certain other interests will oppose tariff changes. Sir Wilfrid and some of his strongest colleagues have set views on the matter of government ownership and control. Perhaps they will arrange for government ownership of both the Hudson Bay Railway and terminal elevators. There is little danger, however, of them agreeing to government operation of the railway. In my opinion they dare not leave the big terminal elevators as they have been for many years. It is quite likely, therefore, that before this session closes the elevator question will be satisfactorily settled. They may also have proposals regarding the Hudson Bay Railway that will meet with the approval of those most closely concerned. It is my opinion, however, that more than one campaign will be required in order to remedy the tariff according to the demands recently made at Ottawa.

"AIRCHIE McCURE."

## Horse

### Influence of Climate on Size and Quality of Draft Horses

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Darwin, I believe, was the first to show how animal life changed in form, shape and vigor under different climates and on different soils. The Clyde horse coming from the valley of the Clyde, the Shire from Lincolnshire, the Belgian draft from Flanders and Holland, and the Percheron from France, all were evolved, so to speak, from the luxuriant pasturage of their various districts. The breeders selected what they considered best, but the best were there before they could pick them out. If the above named districts were stripped of their horses, and ponies substituted, I believe a dozen generations of careful selection, plentiful feeding and pasturage would again produce the big, thick stock. It is very unreasonable to expect imported stock to produce here in the prairie country, on different feed, in a climate having fifteen hundred to two thousand feet more altitude, with a fourth of the rainfall and less than a fourth of moisture in the air, the same class of stock they would bear at home.

The pasture here is not so plentiful, so they will not grow as big without extra attention. The air is clearer, therefore we needn't worry about wind or lung troubles; and it is dry, therefore the quality of bone and sinew will be unsurpassed, also the texture of the feet. The dryness of the air will tend to reduce, and in time will ruin the feather but will serve to produce somewhat finer hair on the body. There are on the prairie some districts where sufficient lime is not to be found, therefore the stock will never be able to grow enough bone if kept there.

I believe the above ideas have never been advanced, and I wonder thereat. I fancy we would do well to overlook, to quite a degree, lack of quality in our mares, picking the big, roomy stock, even if coarse, and feed the young well, depending upon the climate to give quality. I am sure the future will see four drafters rejected for lack of substance for one that is turned down for lack of quality. All the tendency is to superior quality. Look at the cayuse and broncho. Never had horses better wearing legs and feet. A few generations of Western living will put good feet and legs under the softest-legged stock in the world.

In a general sense, the sire should be looked to for shape and style; the dam for size and constitution. Very few know the very great in-

fluence feed and thrift in the dam have on the unborn foal. The brood mare should not be fat, but pretty nearly fat. She should be fleshy and sappy, almost lazy. I bred a carriage mare eight years old, of thirteen hundred pounds weight, to a Standard horse of eleven hundred and fifty pounds. She was in correct health and the produce weighed at maturity twelve hundred and fifty pounds. The same mare produced at the age of fifteen, sixteen and seventeen, when down in flesh and not thriving, to the embrace of a first-class eighteen hundred-pound Clyde, three foals that will not be above thirteen hundred and fifty at maturity. The colts had equal care and feed. The difference was all made before weaning and mostly before birth. The mother lacked strength in the last cases. The Clyde colts should have taken on a quarter more size at least. My neighbor bought a 14-hand yellow, pot-bellied, eight hundred-pound cayuse mare for \$25. He breeds her to heavy stock and keeps her right, for he is a stockman. Her foals mature at twelve to thirteen hundred.

Some years ago at lambing time I had three hundred of all breeds to look after. I could tell at a glance by the look of the ewe what the lamb would be like. Little thin Merino dams gave narrow-headed weaklings, while strong, fat Shrop and Leicester crosses dropped big-headed, fat, sleepy, lazy lambs that grew into little sheep right away.

In conclusion, I advise, look for size in your breeding females. Get all the quality and size you can in your sire, and you can depend on the climate bettering your quality right along, although it will somewhat lessen the size of the hoof.

Man.

A. A. TITUS.

### Training the Farm Colt

Professor M. W. Hooper, of Cornell University, contributes an interesting article on horse training to a reading course which that institution is sending to farmers. From the article the following quotations are taken:

"The colt should become familiar with man while young. He should be taught subordination at the very start, and not be allowed to become wilful or headstrong. The usefulness of the future horse will depend much on his courage and fearlessness, and it is to promote these that the colt should become familiar with man at as early an age as possible. If taken in time and properly handled, he need never know fear. A colt should never be frightened. Too many persons thoughtlessly try to make the young colt show off by doing something to startle it, by running at it, throwing sticks, 'shooing' it and the like, which should never be done if a reliable animal is to be developed. Teach the colt useful lessons only. Because colts are bright and very susceptible to training, they are often taught tricks and allowed to become mischievous—to bite, rear, kick, or anything else that may seem cute. These very things later become a great annoyance and are very hard to overcome. One should not make the mistake of trying to teach a colt too much at a time. He should understand each lesson thoroughly before a second is attempted. On the other hand, colts should be worked continuously day by day, and not simply at the convenience of the trainer. The trainer should be gentle and firm at all times and go through with whatever is attempted.

"The foal should be taught very early the uses of the halter; first to lead, then to drive. But, even before haltering, the youngster may be taught to 'stand over,' to have his foot raised, to back, and the like. In handling the colt, be careful about the ears, the back of the forelegs and the flanks, as these are often very sensitive. Catch the colt by putting one hand under the neck and the other under the hams or around the buttocks. Never catch a colt around the neck only. If this is done, the colt will go backwards and perhaps fall; but instead catch him around both ends as described. Then if he attempts to go forward press back with the hand under his neck, and if he attempts to go backward press forward with the hand that is around the buttocks. Colts caught in this way will let