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# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

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No. 598

## Editorial.

### Convention Whispers.

No one can say who's who while the ballots are being counted—Anonymous!

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A grain of wheat is rather slim diet for stockmen.—G. H. Clark.

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The stockmen's banquet amazed the Ottawa contingent.

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Establish a horse-breeding farm in connection with your Agricultural College.—W. S. Spark.

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Straws show which way the wind blows! Stockmen seem inclined to rename the C. E. F. Agriculturist—President Grisdale, Manitoba Agricultural College.

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If ladies understood the fascination of bee-keeping—farm life would be all bread and honey.—Supt. Bedford.

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Professor Grisdale is not yet expert in roping range steers.—The Editor.

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As Secretary of the Horse-breeders', the Cattle-breeders', the Sheep- and Swine-breeders', the Agricultural Societies, and the Dairy Associations, George H. Greig is an extremely busy and versatile man.

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There was a National Record landslide.

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The lady reporter of one of Winnipeg's dailies is an expert judge as to the salient points in addresses and speeches. The associations are deeply indebted for such useful advertising.

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Provincial autonomy and expert judges are essential to the Territories' welfare.—Dr. Elliott.

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Statistics may not lie, but they are mighty deceptive.—Geo. Steel, M.P.P.

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Manitobans will soon be beef hungry, according to the member for Lakeside.

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Mayor Sharpe laid the foundation for a political career by a course in henology. His Worship knows pressed fowl when he sees it.

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The Provincial Weed Inspector poses as an authority on stockmen's pedigrees and morals.

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Deputy-Minister McKellar undertook to score up an ideal Manitoba stockman, but overlooked the regions of the valuable cuts.

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President McGregor, Neepawa, went under the table early in the banquet—his chair collapsed. G. S. G. is a heavyweight.

\* \* \*

Assistant Live-stock Commissioner Ketchen finds that Manitoba ozone makes him light-headed.

\* \* \*

The man of the hour is George H. Greig.

### The Farmers' and Breeders' Convention.

The meetings called by the secretary of the live-stock, dairy and kindred associations brought out a gathering of the backbone and sinew of the country never before excelled.

It was indeed fitting that Canada's great agricultural city should open her doors to the sturdy yeomen of the plains, in view of the fact of the approaching Dominion Exhibition.

These meetings were of manifold character, the special features being the attention given to organization and education. First and foremost was the nationalization of breed societies and records, a project on which all the sometime warring factions united for the good of the cause—that of live-stock husbandry. The elections for the various offices are of little moment to the outsider, especially when we consider the increasing number of men able to fill the positions. Lobbying, if done, was sub rosa, and the impression one gets is that never before was such harmony exhibited, nor such prospects in view. The detailed reports of the meetings, to be found in another column, are sufficient evidence as to the work done, and yet even these do no more than indicate the vast amount of work performed by the secretary. Mr. Greig has, undoubtedly, demonstrated beyond cavil his fitness for the position he now holds, and it is only to be regretted the Provincial Department of Agriculture is not alive to the fact that assistance rendered the Dominion official will not only help the agriculture of Manitoba, but also the Local Government—unity is strength, and we are of the opinion that the Provincial Government has nothing to lose and everything to gain by a more generous assistance to the interests represented at the conventions.

The speakers mainly relied upon were from the East, reinforced by that doughty champion of the farmers from the N.-W. T., Dr. Elliott, Commissioner of Agriculture. Our meetings would seem incomplete without Supt. Bedford, and he was on hand to advise and inspire to greater and renewed effort.

The bell wether of the Eastern flock was the Agriculturist of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and as evidence of his growing popularity we cite the spoken desire of many Western stockmen to see him take the Presidency of the Manitoba Agricultural College. Messrs. Spark, Ketcher and Clark made their initial bow to the Manitoba and Northwest farmers this season, and have not only been the means of diffusing a vast amount of useful knowledge, but have themselves benefited by contact with the vigorous Western mind. It is an axiom, that the nearer the northern limit of cultivation a grain or fruit is grown, the better that fruit or grain, so it is with men, and although the visitors in complimenting the breeders had in view the proprieties of the situation, they were undoubtedly impressed with the evidence of agricultural progress everywhere to be seen. While we have much to congratulate ourselves upon, it must not be forgotten that much yet remains to be done.

We suggest that the stockmen give more tangible assistance to the secretary in procuring suitable live stock for future meetings, and that less score-card and more comparison judging work be done. There is a slight tendency for the card to bulk too largely in the minds of beginners, and it is placing the cart before the horse to attempt to use the score-card to back up a decision arrived at by comparison. The Winnipeg meetings we submit have passed the score-card stage. There is, however, scope for the use of the score-card

at the meetings in the outlying districts, where elementary work has yet to be done. To summarize, the meetings held at the fine Cockshutt building, so kindly loaned for the occasion, were the culmination of a campaign of education along agricultural lines, the like of which the West has never before seen. Edmonton, Lacombe, Macleod, Medicine Hat, Oxbow, Yorkton, Indian Head, Neepawa, Brandon, and, finally, Winnipeg, were the points favored. Bigger things are in the air, it being stated by Mr. Greig that there is a strong probability that the C. P. R. will—which corporation has, by the way, always endeavored to meet the wishes of the live-stock associations—erect a building suitable for winter fair and fat-stock show, live-stock sale and other purposes, in time for the 1905 convention.

### The Library and the Buying of Books.

The ambition to obtain knowledge and culture is not confined to the townsman, and we find nowadays on the farmer's table magazines, papers and other forms of literature dealing with general topics, or the agriculturist's special work, all of which are sedulously conned under the evening lamp.

The bookmakers have risen to the occasion, and by various means bring their wares either in single volumes or in sets to the people's notice.

Unfortunately, the buyer does not stand to profit from the purchases to the extent he thinks he will at the time of making the purchase, and it is a common thing to find in many houses expensive sets of books, the pages of which are never turned. An exception may be made, perhaps, for a good standard dictionary or encyclopedia. A short time ago the writer fell in with a band of men exploiting the country with a sort of home-doctor book; expensive to buy, and so loaded heavily with technical terms as to render it out of place except in an M. D.'s office. Yet, big sales were being made daily. For the home, a standard work on nursing would be of far greater value to a farmer's wife. The ambition in any person to possess a library is most laudable, yet economy and common sense need to be practiced in book buying as in the purchase of implements.

Farmers, as a rule, do not purchase implements with a view to making a collection. Farm tools are bought to be used, and books should be bought for the same purpose, and bought only when the need or desire is felt. The artificial stimulus of the agent it will be better to overcome. Unless a book or books are bought to meet a need, such will be shelved and practically wasted.

The book agent has been held up to ridicule for years, consequently people have not treated him seriously—a neglect to their own hurt. Books usually handled by the travelling agent are inferior in matter, style, composition and letterpress. Standard authors can be bought at almost any price, consequently are within the reach of all. It is a mistake, usually a costly one, to purchase sets, especially on the credit or time system, such as are advertised in the press. We believe in buying books as some housekeepers buy furniture, piece by piece, instead of complete suites, thus meeting the needs arising from time to time. A single book, such, for instance, as a seventy-five cent Shakespeare, will, if read, give better satisfaction to the owner as he views it on his library shelves than will the twenty-dollar set. The sting from extravagance is bound to be felt at some time, and the number of tomes on a person's shelves is not a fair criterion as to the literary tastes or breadth of vision of the owner.