

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Journal

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### EDITORIAL

Clover growers report their crops looking well, while the indications are that the hay crop will be short. The inference is that the soil is about tired of producing surface rooted crops, but quickly produces a crop that goes to the subsoil for most of its sustenance. Every clover field should be a sermon these days.

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The question which arises in the minds of the wheat growers when they read those semi-annual financial reports of the C. P. R. is why should not the railway companies invest a certain amount of their revenues in grain storage plants along their routes and so furnish an easy outlet for grain other than that through elevators whose owners are chiefly concerned in getting possession of the grain at low prices and light weights. This grain storage question is one that will not down and the army of those who are constantly on the outlook for a solution of the problem is ever on the increase.

#### Haying with Care and Without It.

Like many another thing we characteristically make our hay with too much haste and too little care. Every teamster who feeds his horses upon the baled hay of the country will substantiate that statement and our excuse is that we have too much to do and too little help to do it with. This also is true, but compromises and practices that are adopted purely as expedients often become fixed customs through habitual use. Our haying methods instance this condition. The prevalence of fine weather which usually accompanies haying tends to make us careless of the treatment we give the grass. The injury that too much bleaching may do the quality of hay is not noticed so long as it does not interfere with work or until greater care demonstrates how much the quality of the hay may be improved by handling just at the right time. Hay is becoming yearly a more valuable commodity in Western markets and until tame grasses are more largely grown to take the place of the wild hay it is likely to be worth growing and giving the best of care in handling. The better value of well cured hay for home use is also a considerable inducement to devote more care to its handling.

In the making of hay from the wild grasses there is less inducement to take pains to handle it so as to preserve its quality, for the reason that exposure to the weather does not appear to destroy its quality to such an extent as it does with the cultivated grasses, and, the wild grass hay being short and fine is much more tedious to handle than the tame hay. There is a nice point at which a man must stop in handling hay. Too much handling and care increase the expense beyond the increased value in the quality and too little care results in not getting full value for the necessary work of cutting and stacking.

In this issue we publish letters upon handling hay by men who have had considerable experience and whose practices do not appear to us to be too elaborate, even considering the cost of labor in a country such as ours. We do not, however, expect or advise that every person who makes hay will adopt absolutely the suggestions given in other columns, but they should be studied and where they are an improvement upon present systems and where they are practicable should substitute the more indifferent systems that have prevailed.

#### Vindicating His Prowess.

A few years ago a collection of shacks named Carson City out in a neck of the woods in the sage brush country in Nevada sprung into importance and received prominent mention in every newspaper on account of its being chosen by two noted pugilists as a meeting place to measure their endurance and skill. A similar visitation by the goddess of fame has befallen one of our own small provincial hamlets. Headingly by name. Two men born with the determination to demonstrate to the world their skill in the masterly art of wrestling, selected the little hamlet, up the Assiniboine river, as the scene of the critical encounter of their lives. Our genial, exuberant, diplomatic chief weed inspector, Mr. Robert O'Malley (Irishmen never, never shall be slaves!) chafing under the restraints of the entanglements, political and otherwise, which hampered him in the work of turning under crops of flourishing weeds, sallied forth in search of a foe upon whom to exercise his pugnacious skill and found his antagonist in a man of finance. Bets were arranged and forthwith there flocked to the champion of Ireland's prowess trainers, mascots, press agents, photographers, rubbers and all the subsidiary dignitaries of the pugilistic ring. The man who had assumed the serious obligation of keeping purged from foul infection the fertile farms of Manitoba had received a more sacred "call." The proud name of Ireland's sons had to be vindicated upon the mat of the wrestling ring. What mattered it that the man who kept a clean farm met his neighbor, whose chief crop was weeds, the seeds of which found a lodgment upon the immaculate farms of his neighborhood, and forthwith there ensued divers references of a derogatory nature concerning the ancestry of each?—The chief weed destroyer, the referee in such matters, was "in training"! Out along our national highway an enterprising tobacco company discovered an old stable ensconced in a field of flowering mustard, painted the building blue and set upon it the sign of "the weed" as if in derision of the noxious weeds act, and the chief weed inspector, Mr. O'Malley was "in training"! Necessarily the problems which demand the earnest thought of our agricultural experts must remain unsolved until the supremacy of the representative in the fields of the department of agriculture had settled a momentous question. Principal Black and his staff had sat up nights and sweated through gruelling days of summer's heat, ever with the thundering appeal ringing in their ears, "Where can the hired man wash his feet?" but a surcease came when Mr. O'Malley went "into training."

"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey," Where weeds accumulate while men are at the fray.

#### The Virtues of Paint.

Certain seasons of the year are peculiarly suited to the performance of certain work. What we have in mind now is painting. Not the exercise and development of that delicate talent that so readily discriminates in color, but the rough and ready covering of exposed woods with a mixture of oil and solids—the painting which is more essentially utilitarian. Painting commends itself upon two important grounds: first, it is economy to preserve wood by the use of paint, and second, it exercises a wholesome effect upon character to grow up or to come in daily contact with cleanly, well-preserved surroundings. The former of these advantages strangely enough is not the one that most commends the painting of woodwork about buildings to the average man. He more frequently recognizes the value of painting for the difference it makes in appearance, and the effect of external appearances upon the mind is an extensive enquiry. Although the appearance of fresh paint periodically upon the house, barn or outbuildings is not an absolute indication of neatness or thrift and of good

citizenship, for many people possess these attributes without the means of giving evidence of them in painted buildings, still it is so often associated with people of this type that it comes to be a badge or signet of their characters. Upon children, too, it has often been noticed, especially where there is a degree of permanency about the home, that where paint prevails there neatness, thoroughness, courtesy and thrift are prevalent characteristics. There is a deal of virtue in the muddy mixtures we call paints. They fill the cracks and crevices of the inanimate walls and round out the best bumps of character in animate things.

#### Education and Practical Ability.

As a people we have been accused of running mad after the so-called "higher education." Times without number has it been thrown up to our educational institutions, from the public schools right through to the universities, that they are educating away from the practical phases of life; that they are filling the rising generation with understanding of all things except those by which practical existence in the business of life is worked out. Our educational establishments in the past gave altogether too great prominence to those things that went to make the highly trained scholar; they laid too little emphasis on those commoner things (and for that reason more important) which confronted ninety per cent. of their students as soon as they began the serious work of life. Of late, however, a reactionary influence has set in. In every institute of learning nowadays the practical things are coming more and more to assume that prominence which they should assume in our educational system. And because of this we have come to believe and know that "the man who works with his hands" as well as with his mind, the man who can do the common things in this game of life and do them well, is more truly educated, and the labor in which he engages as truly dignified as is the education or work of the highest trained scholar that ever left an academic hall. Practical ability and book learning are separated by no unbridgable gulf. That the training of the mind does not in any way unfit the man for doing well the common things that need the doing, has been frequently testified to by university men in agricultural, commercial and industrial affairs. But we want to add another little instance to the score. The other day at Blyth, matched with some of the best plowmen of the province, Wm. F. Guild, twenty-one years of age, a second year student in Manitoba College, Winnipeg, won the plowing championship of his district and the highest score made in Manitoba this year. We congratulate Mr. Guild on his success, and venture the trust that no amount of academic training will ever rob him of his love of or ability to handle well the plowtails. What this Western agriculture needs more than anything else is that it become intellectualized, that it be made the purpose and object of mental, as well as physical effort. We want more educated plowmen.

#### The Farm Motor Problem.

There is no question but what there is a keen demand for machinery that will take the place of horses for the heavy work of the farm. Traction engines not especially adapted for the purpose are being more extensively used each year and manufacturers are giving more thought to the making of the large threshing engines more suitable for other work. These efforts upon the part of the manufacturers are what hinder as much as anything else the more rapid introduction of agricultural motors. It is another of those compromises that are all too common in a country whose agricultural operations have not become specialized and intensified, and the use of these engines for other farm work effects a saving in machinery if it is not economical of energy. At