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## EDITORIAL

### Live-Stock Markets

After all is said and done those who know the live-stock industry agree that the surest way of improving the live stock market is to improve the quality of stock sent to the market. A uniformly good product, generally, commands a uniformly good price. This rule holds good in connection with live stock. Sometimes lack of supply forces high figures for inferior animals, but this state of affairs is short-lived and unsatisfactory. The general tendency is for inferior stock to depreciate prices for all grades.

There is no reason, therefore, why every farmer who markets live stock should not endeavor to have superior animals. Pure-bred sires of all classes of stock are available at reasonable prices. With due precautions in selection of the same, and a careful weeding out of the progeny from females now on hand there soon would be such improvement in stock marketed that all would be convinced that the market had improved.

Make preparations for doing your part before spring opens.

### Pledging Candidates for Legislature

Every day or so one hears of a local branch of the Grain Growers' Association pledging itself to work for the nomination of farmers as the candidates of each of the political parties in the election in Manitoba believed to be forthcoming. These farmer candidates are to be pledged to support the platform of the Grain Growers' Association, the chief plank of which is government ownership of elevators. Thus the grain growers aim to control and initiate legislation.

Whether the venture into politics will be successful is problematical. If candidates, who are pledged, can be made to remember

their pre-election promises after they are in office, and induced to carry them out, the Grain Growers' Association will have achieved something which no farmers' organization has yet been able to accomplish. The trouble, however, in politics generally is that the candidate selected as party standard bearer in an election owes his nomination to the party machine. He has to be loyal to that before all other things, and a great number of electors are so prejudiced in their political views that it is possible to convince them of pretty nearly anything. They may be even convinced that a candidate's before-election promises need not be lived up to, if those promises conflict with the policy of the party. Thus does party government work out. The grain growers are avoiding the rock upon which the Patrons of Industry were wrecked and are aiming to achieve similar ends by different means. Here's hoping they may be more successful. Agriculturists, as a class, are too much party bound.

### Helpmeets for Homesteaders

For many years homesteaders in Western Canada have toiled late and early for at least several months in the year and put in many lonesome hours when not busy, all because they found it difficult to secure a partner. To some, of course, the solitude of a homesteader's life is quite agreeable. But on the whole it is safe guessing that at least after the first season the newcomer would prefer to have one with him who would keep things cosy around the shack and cheer and help him at work on the fertile soil.

It seems strange, therefore, that some organized effort was not made years ago to bring to prairie Canada the women that are in such demand—especially when prospects are so bright for prosperous and happy homemaking. The Salvation Army, always quick to realize the needs of a country and ready to take a definite step to remedy defects, promise to bring several hundred domestics from across the waters. The record of past seasons shows that these will not need to go without homes, provided they are willing to work at farm duties on the prairie. In addition they can depend on being able to step into comfortable homes as life partners with honest, robust farmers within six to twenty-four months from the time they arrive.

Judging from experiences of the past season domestics are more desirable as immigrants than any other class. We need an increased number of men to cultivate the vast acreage, but cultivated areas are not at their best until there is a reasonable number of genuine homes that are comfortable. The bachelor may make money, but in most cases he denies himself what is better—a real home.

Bring out the domestics!

### Agriculture vs. Militarism

For every dollar of public revenue spent in Canada under federal authority for the encouragement of agriculture, three dollars and seventy-two cents are expended for militia and defence. The latest blue book issued by the department of finance gives the total expenditure under arts, agriculture and statistics as \$1,403,569.01, and under militia and defence as \$5,221,644.79; \$142,424.08 is spent in maintaining experimental farms, and \$108,495.79 in running a military college; \$423,343.90 is spent in aid of exhibitions, and \$2,996,365.46 in paying officers and men and putting on a blood-and-thunder show in several localities once a year, called an annual drill. Under the heading "for the development of the live-stock industry" there is an expenditure item of \$42,647.03, and under the heading "warlike and other stores" the expenditure has been \$231,997.88. Certainly for the part she plays in international affairs, Canada is spending quite a tidy sum in warlike preparations.

This country has been lauded abroad for the generous manner in which our governments encourage agriculture. We do seem to accomplish considerable with the million and a half appropriated for the work of the agricultural department, but it doesn't bulk very large when compared with the five and a quarter millions spent preparing for war; and despite the fact that Hon. Sydney Fisher will probably succeed in inducing his colleagues to increase the appropriations to his department next season by a hundred thousand or so, to establish some additional experimental farms, it is altogether likely that before the next annual blue book comes out our expenditures for defence will have doubled or trebled.

### Big Profits in Steer Feeding

Eighteen steers averaging over fifteen hundred pounds as two-year-olds and selling at nine dollars per hundredweight is the startling announcement in a recent bulletin issued by the Union Stock Yards of Chicago. Many, no doubt, will be inclined to disbelieve the report. However, it is given the ear-mark of authenticity—the name and post office address of the man who sold the choice carload. The animals were bought on Chicago market just a year plus one day previous to the day on which they were delivered. At that time they averaged seven hundred and thirty pounds and cost four dollars per hundred. They were Montana-bred Angus cattle with every indication of being good doers. After three hundred and sixty-six days' care and feeding by an experienced farmer and stock feeder they averaged one thousand five hundred and one pounds each, and were of such quality as to bring the highest price ever paid on the general market in Chicago. The

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