

Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

April 10, 1907.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Vol. XLII. No. 759

EDITORIAL

"The university should be a place where, whatever a man wants to learn, he may find someone able to teach him."—Huxley.

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'Frisco had a flag incident recently, for at a gathering of delegates, so states the *Literary Digest*, "Old Glory" was greeted with hisses and "Take that rag out of here!" The occurrence was at an indignation meeting to protest against the kidnapping of three miners by the Idaho authorities.

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Judging by the testimony of alienists in the Thaw case, any persons losing control of their tempers are experiencing a brain storm. When we were children parents were experts, although not alienists, at causing such storms to subside quickly.

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The best piece of evidence (or rather the worst) that Western Canada is dominated by bachelor ideals, is in the absence of the law of dower in the three prairie provinces.

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The ideas of prospective live stock buyers at the association sales and those of some sellers do not seem to agree—the former come to pick up bargains, and unfortunately, the others to unload their tail-enders. Consequently disappointment ensues for both parties.

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President Sinton of the Saskatchewan Stock Breeders' Association is an example of unselfish devotion to the interests of stock growing, and fortunately his services are appreciated.

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The *Leader*, Regina, commenting on the reasons for some bulls not selling at the association sale: "They looked as if they had wintered on the windy side of the straw stack." Rather a breezy comment.

Educational Work in Agriculture in Saskatchewan.

Pending the establishment of an agricultural college, which to all appearances is not very far away, the Department of Agriculture of that province has started some preparatory work which should be very useful in the way of directing the young people of the farm to profitable lines of study and work.

The scheme as mapped out is as follows: "At any point along a certain line of railroad where the agricultural society will guarantee fifteen pupils who will attend a class, either weekly or fortnightly, and will do the prescribed reading, will be furnished a teacher who will give lessons extending from an hour to two hours in length."

The intention is to give similar instruction at different points along a route when requested, and if such proves a success, to change the course of study the following winter. For example, on one route the subject taken up may deal with the breeding and selection of grain, on another the breeding of live stock, and possibly horticultural work or instruction in agricultural chemistry for another route, and by the interchange a two or three-year course in agriculture will thus be furnished at points where the requisite number will attend. The provincial bacteriologist, Dr. Charlton, will prepare material to be used for practical demonstrations and certain courses of reading will be prescribed as adjunct work to the lectures. Questions will be given at one session, for which answers will be required at subsequent sessions. It is expected that this work will take the place of a great deal of the institute work, and that it will interest a large number and bring forward

many of the younger members of the farming community which the institute system has so far failed to do. It has been stated that this form of preparation will fit the youth for the college of agriculture when established—and further, that Manitoba was handicapped for lack of such preparation for her agricultural college. We do not entirely coincide with this view, because the facts hardly warrant the statement. The M. A. C. as is known is full to the roof, and the students are of good calibre, and, so we are informed by one of their professors who has had considerable experience in college work, are very good workers. The lack as a rule, with students attending agricultural colleges is, and Dr. Mills, ex-president of the O. A. C. has reiterated the same opinion, their lack of a good English education. The important thing, therefore, for farmers to look to, whether they intend their children to attend agricultural colleges or not, is to keep up the standard of the country schools, and to strain every effort so that the children of the farm may be regular in attendance. Given a fair education and application when at college, we have no fear for the results. We are glad to note the promptness shown by the Saskatchewan Department in attempting to furnish a good substitute for the agricultural college, and believe the results will amply repay the effort and the expense.

Stallion Owners are not Adequately Remunerated.

As the season approaches when the prospects for patronage are being discussed, the owners of stallions, whether individuals or syndicates, are thinking over methods with a view to improvement in the returns on their investment. They have also an approximate idea as to whether profits or losses were made, and if losses, must now plan to place their venture on a more business-like basis. The suggestion has been made that a portion of the fee should be collected at the time of the first service, in order to meet running expenses of the season. The average patron may not be familiar with the expenses that are necessarily incurred each season, but such come to no inconsiderable amount. First, the groom's wages amount to \$60-\$75 a month for three months, to which must be added the keep of the horse for the other nine months of the year, estimated at \$150. For night stands during the season the standard charge is \$10.00; for noon stands \$5.00; and the expenses in town can be figured at \$1.50 per day; and further interest (seven per cent.) must be figured on the amount invested in the horse, and allowance must be made for depreciation in value and risk. The two last items have been variously estimated, claim being made that from ten to twenty per cent. should be allowed. It is not a hard matter to get approximately an idea as to the profit or loss, when the expenses can be figured down fairly close and when the income can be estimated within reason. Few farmers do otherwise than follow the insurance plan, the average fee for which is \$15 (imported horses costing \$2,000 and up) and many stallion owners make an allowance, or are forced to do so by stress of competition, for dead foals, mares dying in foaling, etc. From the business standpoint stallion owners should not be expected to make such allowances. Once a mare is settled to a horse, the owner of the mare is really liable for the stud fee. Stallion owners take many risks beside the large financial one incurred at the beginning. Mares are often brought to their horses diseased, debilitated, or barren and as a consequence the attention of the male is wasted in idle and unprofitable effort, with too often the result that indifference or lack of vigor is displayed when fertile mares are brought. The patron with a healthy mare in normal breeding condition, that fails to get with foal, becomes dissatisfied and does not help swell the receipts. He possibly may give the horse a bad name. From conversations held with many stallion owners, it would appear that few horses

exceed the century mark in mares. Many, in fact, do not get over sixty or seventy in the season, and we believe sixty per cent. is counted a very fair average of fertile embraces. It must be at once evident that the keeping of a male for stud purposes is not profitable in the great majority of cases, and it would appear that the contention of stallion owners that a proportion (twenty to twenty-five per cent.) of the fee should be forthcoming at the first service is fair and reasonable. The executives of the various provincial horse-breeder's associations approve of the idea, thinking that it would tend to encourage the investment in good stallions and thus improve the quality of the horse-flesh of the country. The ideas of others are invited on this question which is, we believe, important.

Things Worth While.

The business of farming offers some striking paradoxes. In most industries the dignity that attaches to the performing of certain tasks increases in proportion to the amount of skill required to accomplish them. And this is right, as it tends to enhance the significance of better workmanship. In farming the opposite is too often the case. People are more liable to respect or envy as the case may be, the farmer who makes his money in that branch of his profession that demands the least expenditure of intelligent effort. Practically everyone would rather be a successful wheat raiser than an equally successful mixed farmer. The man who in a few months in the summer extracts from his soil as much wealth as his neighbor creates by the more complicated methods of mixed farming, is generally held in the higher esteem of the casual observer because he has more leisure. The associations of the stable and pen seldom commend a man to the regard of the public, and yet the men whose days are spent in the care of stock are invariably the most skilled agriculturists. Nature, however, tends, though slowly, to adjust these inequalities. The men whose various potentialities are developed by associating with, caring for, and studying stock become broader in intellect, more moderate in opinions, and consequently more useful and contented citizens. Their families learn industry, become resourceful and capable, and are the better fitted to rank with the first men in the community and in the province or nation. Their experiences of natural phenomena being wide and more varied, they are the better able to direct their own efforts and those of humanity in the most rational channels, and are able through the better understanding of life to extract more solid satisfaction from it. These are some of the ultimate compensations for the constant devotion of the man who follows a course not dictated by superficial sentiment—the immediate compensations are home endearment, the show-ring successes, the fostering of the farm's potentialities and the persisting conviction that the proper course is being followed. To pander to the false estimation of the public is not worth while.

Spring brings the Opening of the Creameries.

Annually about this time the production of cream increases very markedly; cows are coming in after in the majority of cases it must be confessed, a long period of unproductiveness. The cow is the resort of many a farmer to pull through a stress of hard times. It must be confessed that all cows do not make a profit even though they seemingly pull a man through the tight period. Farmers do not care to milk cows at a loss and now many are coming in fresh it will be a good time to test them. The success of the creamery business, and therefore good prices for the cream supplied by the farmer, depend on the maker getting his raw material in good shape. Endeavor as far as possible this summer to send the buttermaker—sweet cream.

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