

Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

March 21, 1906.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Vol. XLI. No. 704.

EDITORIAL

The grain growers are not at all satisfied with the millers these days.

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Surely no good farmer will object to Dr. Thompson's proposed farm competition!

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Did you read the article on wheat grading, with especial reference to the mechanical method in our last issue?

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One cannot agree with monopoly in education, even if sponsored by our clerical fathers and advisers.

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The agricultural college man is coming to his own, witness E. C. Drury, B.S.A. before the Canadian Club, Toronto, recently.

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The live stock conventions of last month demonstrated amongst other things, that to properly round the programme out, a fat stock show is essential.

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The horse importers do not feel equal to shouldering the burden of hiring stallions, just yet, so the whole project must perforce be laid over for a time. It would not be wise for governments to interfere in the matter.

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Bulletin No. 1 of the Agricultural Department of Alberta is out and refers to what the new province has already done in production of grain. It does not prophesy but we can safely leave it to sunny Alberta to keep up the pace.

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Try seeding down with red clover this spring; half a bushel of clover seed and fifteen pounds of timothy seed mixed and sown on five acres, along with wheat, land which next year you would otherwise fallow, or sow oats to, will not break you.

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Every human life, if one could know it well and translate it into language, has in it the making of a great story. It is because we are blind that we pass men and women around us, heedless of the tragic quality of their lives. If every man, or woman, could understand that all other human lives are as full of sorrows, of joys, of base temptations, of heartaches and remorse as his own, which he thinks so peculiarly isolated from the web of life, how much kinder, how much gentler he would be! And how much richer life would be for all of us! Life is dull to no one. But life seems dull to those dull persons who think life is dull for others, and who see only the drab and gray shades in the woof that is woven about them.—WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE.

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The farmers and the tariff—"The Manufacturers' Association have urged for more protection because they must compete with cheap foreign labor and great aggregations of foreign capital. What is the position of the Canadian farmer? He pays the bill to help the manufacturer compete with cheap foreign labor. Who pays the bill? The Canadian farmer competes with cheaper foreign labor than the manufacturer does. He competes with the half-savage labor of Argentina, with the pauper labor of India, with the cheap labor from all the world in the British market, which is his only exporting market. We have our cheap labor competition, and we have dear labor at home here—just as dear as any class in the country have."—E. C. DRURY to the Toronto Canadian Club.

Make the Homestead Laws More Modern.

It has been frequently urged that the governments of Canada have been unduly solicitous for the welfare of the foreigner as compared with the Britisher, either Canadian or transatlantic born. There is undoubtedly some ground for that idea, inasmuch as, while the country is governed by and taxes paid by the homebred Britisher, and naval defence for the Empire met out of the purse of the old country Britisher, yet the regulations whereby Britishers may secure a homestead of 160 acres, where millions of acres are available, are not made any less irksome to him than to the stranger within our gates.

We would not make it more irksome to the foreigner from wherever he hails, but think that any British subject by birth should have the chance to get his homestead more easily than he does, provided certain cultivation was done and on payment of the usual homesteading fee. Such would encourage many a village or townsman to bring under cultivation a lot of land not yet touched, and although not residents on the land, they would be able to employ many who are beginning their settlement duties, and give those people a chance to get a little money, of which the settler is so often in need during his first two or three years. The patents could be withheld for the same time as now, so that mere taking up and transferring or blanketing would be avoided. The more people that can be interested in quarter sections and induced to invest money by breaking up and bringing land under cultivation the better. The artisan in every Canadian city, town, or village should have it made reasonably easy for him to secure 160 acres of land, which our orators at political and other banquets so frequently refer to, as "our glorious heritage."

Why should a government gag at giving away 160 acres to a taxpaying citizen, when it is so easy for a corporation, on the promise of doing something, to get large blocks of land? As it is, under the present regulations, the native born Britisher is discriminated against by the present homestead regulations. Many would be encouraged to essay farming, even by proxy, if land might be had as we suggest.

It is customary at banquets to refer to the arts of Peace and the bad effects of War, yet the warrior may get a land grant and glory, while the other fellow who plies the daily treadmill to furnish the sinews of war, either for the battlefield or in commerce is debarred, unless he throws up his livelihood, for what might be, owing to lack of training in agricultural arts and practices, an uncertainty. If a soldier for certain services was entitled to a land grant, much more is the teacher or country divine who has served ten or more years, the country doctor who has saved many a valuable life and never been recompensed for the same. The homegrown Britisher can adapt himself to our agricultural conditions more quickly than can the foreigner; why not encourage him to farm? We commend the above idea to the thought and mind of our readers, urge it upon your legislators—it is sane, and patriotic!

Are Farmers Dishonest?

Three men, one a wholesaler, another a publisher and the third a journalist were seated at dinner and in course of conversation the first said, "Nine out of every ten farmers are dishonest." The other two were surprised at such a sweeping statement and the second named uttered mild protest, at the large proportion charged with the vice. We think the charge was too sweeping, but the wholesaler recited instances which he considered proved his point and asked "have you ever tried to collect \$40,000 worth of paper (notes) each year?"

If there is a modicum of truth in his charge, what is the reason for even an approach to such a state of things—it can be put down to the

looseness with which credit has been asked and given, and the laxity in forcing collections, and the exemption provisions which are no longer needed in the older settled districts, but behind which the person inclined to be dishonest may shelter himself, although any government might become unpopular that wiped out the exemption law. Assuming for the nonce that the statement made is partially true, what reason may be given for such a state of affairs; or, as we do not admit it as true, what practices may be looked upon as contributing or predisposing causes? Loose credit has been mentioned, but there are other things, the effect of which if allowed to continue as at present, will in the end be disastrous to our national life.

First, the growing effeminacy of the younger generation due largely to the lack of proper school discipline, a sequence of the employment of so many immature teachers, especially girls.

The increasing tendency of parents to relegate all disciplinary training to the schools, and then handicapping the teacher that endeavors to fill the bill. The increasing tendency to look on rather than partake of sport, breeds a race of men who fall easy prey to vicious tendencies. Of the causes mentioned only the system of loose credit and poor schools effect the farmers and their offspring, and tend to weaken their moral fibre; the other causes apply to the city denizen almost entirely; not only so, but the farm children have what the city and town bred youth have not, namely legitimate outlets for surplus energies. Many an urban child has had its natural overflow of spirits curtailed and misdirected that it went wrong, for lack of proper outlet; consequently we believe that cause and effect tend to furnish the disproof to the merchants statement.

To return to the farmer, the credit system is the main reason for the slightest coloration of truth in the merchant's utterance; if, however, credit to farmers was only given as carefully as it is to business men, the above complaint would be seldom heard. Men on farms are often given a line of credit, which neither their business ability, energy or holdings warrant, yet if possessed of a vivid imagination and easy going creditors, they get all they ask; and if a merchant can sell any farmer more goods than he really needs, or can reasonably hope to pay for he never or rarely ever hesitates to do so. The real truth of the matter is, it is the merchant who lacks true honesty as he, well knowing the fallibility of a class, takes advantage of it, and then squeals when bitten by the results.

Some credit is essential to the building up of a new country, and properly is given by those who have idle money which they wish put to work, but unfortunately sufficient care is not exercised as to the hands in which the financial tools are placed.

The Manitoba Farmers' Lyceum.

The above title is fairly earned by the live stock associations judged by their work done at Brandon and other points this winter, under the direction of Secretary George H. Greig. In reviewing that work, it is fair also while awarding the meed of praise due, to point to what direction, in our opinion, improvement may be made.

Too little time is allowed for discussion of pertinent subjects, the reason being that the programme has for the last few years, been overloaded with good things in the form of lectures, demonstrations, etc.; while if the principles laid down by the lecturers were observed, instead of satiety, there would be hunger for more.

The guiding spirits, however, are not to blame altogether, their zeal is well-meant and they probably think it better to have farmers go home satiated with lectures, seeing there is another twelve months in which to sharpen their appetites, than to have them go home hungry and liable to say "the meetings were no good!" The sheep raisers were heard, and while more