

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

VOL. XXXVIII.

WINNIPEG, MAN., AND LONDON, ONT., MARCH 5, 1903.

No. 569

Editorial.

Signs of the Times.

Upon the agricultural horizon of Western Canada; it is evident that a brighter era is dawning for the live-stock industry, and to those who can realize the important part that stock-raising must play in the future progress of this young country, the signs of the times are encouraging. In past years the wonderful ease with which money has been made from wheat-growing, when favorable summer weather blessed the plains, has no doubt hindered many from embarking in an industry which they believed would not bring the most desirable returns. Others have believed that expensive buildings or considerable capital were necessary essentials to success in breeding pure-bred stock.

It is fortunate that these fallacies are daily being exploded, and the opinion becoming more universal that intelligence and skill in breeding and management can produce in Manitoba and the West animals of pure blood having merit quite equal to those in other countries, and at no greater expense than is necessary in milder winter climates. The interest which characterized the meetings which were held by the associations during convention week, and the thirst for knowledge in animal form and conformation manifested by men of all ages who attended the stock-judging school that followed, is sufficient guarantee that the farmers of this country are as ready to appreciate opportunities for educational improvement as our Republican neighbor to the south, of whose attendance at the Iowa, Wisconsin and other winter judging schools so much has been written. When the young men, particularly, can be induced to come forward and take an active interest in stock-judging, such as they did at the school of instruction which has just closed in Winnipeg, it is indeed a hopeful sign for the years that are to follow.

To the Horse, Cattle, and Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations, many new names have lately been added, and with a permanent secretary, whose time will be entirely given up to their interests, it is certain that work of considerable value to live stock in general will be carried into effect. A movement is at present on foot to establish a Winter Fair somewhere in the Province, at which cattle, sheep and swine in condition for the block, and stallions best calculated to produce good stock, may be shown. There is no doubt but this is a move in the right direction, and when the different associations placed themselves on record as being unanimously in favor of the establishment of such an institution, they were supporting a measure calculated to not only stimulate the live-stock industry, but one which will place the practice of agriculture in this Province on a higher and firmer basis. The benefits to be derived from a Winter Stallion Show can be no less in Manitoba than in Ontario, where it has met with such universal success, and the advantages which the old sister Province has gained from the Guelph Fat Stock Show have been marvellous in all the phases of meat production in which it aims to figure. It is quite probable that suitable arrangements will be made for a show of this kind during next winter, and the sum of the prospects for the live-stock industry makes it safe to say that better days are close at hand.

Increased Grant Necessary.

In the improvement of the farms of this Province, and in the development of a higher system of agriculture among farmers, it is pretty certain that stock-raising must play an important part. To encourage this industry along lines calculated to be of the greatest value to the young and growing Province of Manitoba, it has been apparent for some time that the Government grant to each of the associations—i. e., Sheep and Swine, Cattle and Horse Breeders'—has not been in keeping with the significance of the situation. Heretofore, the amount set apart to these associations has been only two hundred dollars each. At the recent convention the question was taken up, and it was decided that if the breeding of good stock was to be fostered in the Province, more money should be spent in its interest. In view, also, of the decision of the different organizations, that steps be taken to at once establish a Winter Fair in Manitoba, the necessity for more help was intensified. Accordingly, a deputation representing the different associations, headed by Mr. Nat. Boyd, M.P., Carberry, and composed as follows, waited on Premier Roblin to present a claim which they believed was in the best interests of not merely the stockmen of the country, but of the entire population as well: Jas. Bray, Longburn; Andrew Graham, Pomeroy; F. W. Brown, Portage la Prairie; J. J. Ring, Crystal City; R. I. M. Power and J. G. Barron, Carberry; J. A. S. Macmillan, Brandon; G. H. Greig, Winnipeg; and W. J. Black, editor "Farmer's Advocate."

It was urged that the grant in each case be increased to \$500, and that the sympathy of the Government in regard to the Winter Fair project be obtained. After hearing the different arguments, the Premier replied, giving reasonable assurance that the present appropriation would be increased, at least to such an extent as the finances of the Province would permit.

Siftings.

The man who is content, feeling he knows all that can be learned about farming, is ready to learn about something else, and that is "failure."

Chas. Dickens said: "There is nothing so strong or safe in an emergency of life as the simple truth."

Grouchiness seldom gets us what we think we want.

How very simple and easy it is to be pleasant under shining skies. Anyone can do that, but few there are who practice calmness under adverse conditions.

To see faults in your associates or members of your family—that's easy; in so doing no brains are required. It is a noble virtue, however, to be able to emphasize their good qualities.

When called upon to give your opinion in public on any question which may be before a meeting, hesitate not. If you have never done so before, remember that birds learn to fly by flying, and people learn to speak by speaking.

If the rising tide of organized grain-growers continues to increase as it has done for the last few months, railway corporations and elevator combines will begin to realize that the farmers have a little say in the management of this country.

Judging by the amount of lumber, shingles and timber that is being shipped into the Territories, the coming summer will be as busy in these parts for the builder as for the farmer.

Those whose wells are not proving satisfactory, or who have experienced a scarcity of water in years gone by, will do well to see to it before the busy season commences, that if possible this difficulty be overcome. Many are digging wells at present; why not you?

Growing Seed Wheat.

With farmers who have had large experience in wheat-growing it is quite unnecessary to emphasize the importance of having a clean, well-matured sample of the best variety of wheat for sowing. Although red Fife has given the best returns, and is grown much more generally than any other, it is not an easy matter in some localities to secure a really pure sample for sowing. The chief reason for this is the readiness with which the pollen is distributed by the wind when the wheat plants are in blossom, thus encouraging the crossing of varieties, and resulting in the impurity of the seed, as compared with the sample sown. So it is that white wheat continues to appear in the purest sample of red that has been selected. Another source of trouble in securing the best seed is owing to the encroachments of weeds. These intruders get over the land fast enough without being sown, and yet it is surprising how many species have been introduced through this channel alone.

There is a general impression, founded on good reasoning, that our favorite red Fife is degenerating in vitality as well as in productivity. Such a result was to be expected, as the history of plant growth in all ages has pointed that way, and if the high standard of the variety in question is to be maintained, it can only be done by sowing the most fully matured samples that can be obtained, and if the best is to be available, it must be from those who give special attention to growing for the seed trade. For some of our best farmers, who have lands that are comparatively free from noxious weeds, there is surely good money to be obtained from embarking in such a project. It should easily pay better than growing for the open market, especially in districts that are noted for No. 1 hard. Mr. Angus Mackay, of Indian Head Experimental Farm, recently said to the "Farmer's Advocate" that he could sell almost any quantity of pure seed-wheat at advanced prices, provided he could give a reasonable guarantee as to its purity; and there is no doubt but the average farmers throughout this country are prepared to pay the figure necessary to the extra cost of care in selecting, growing and cleaning the best variety of wheat. In other words, there is a trade in the hands of the farmers themselves which may be developed to a wonderful extent, and which will bring splendid results if undertaken in the right way and carried out with a determination to produce a product of superior value.