

Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

November 14, 1906.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Vol. XLI. No. 738

EDITORIAL

The swine breeder is beginning now to plan for the spring litters.

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With better cooking at home many saloons would go out of business.

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"Putting the whole boy to school" is a manual training enthusiast's phrase.

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The grain commission is bringing out some enlivening testimony, according to all reports.

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Failure to apply principles, although knowing how, is the reason for lack of success by many.

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Plenty of time has been afforded to prepare for winter, this fall. Is everybody prepared for the blasts of Boreas?

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The M. A. C. opening had the effect of bringing many in contact with the soil, judging from the mats and college corridors.

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The members of grain and like commissions are worth \$12 a day, surely the live stock judge is worth equal remuneration.

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Dr. Bell is the secretary of the Manitoba Live Stock Associations, Geo. H. Greig dropping the mantle after more than a decade of faithful and useful service.

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Harcourt believes the correct way to get agricultural education to the farmers and farmers' wives, sons and daughters in these busy days is, to "take it to them."

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Many a M. A. C. student crept away to his cot in the dormitory before the opening festivities were over; the farm boy is not used to being a night hawk and fortunately so.

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Do not forget the big \$200 prize for wheat at the 1907 Winnipeg Industrial. Put away fifty or more bushels, the amount called for by the Exhibition Association is twenty five bushels.

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Surely it ought to be possible to do away with political corruption and bribery. Compulsory voting, and disfranchisement for a decade of the bribe taker or bribe offerer should be effective, it seems to us.

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The Brandon men made a good impression on the executives of the live stock associations when they talked of a forty thousand dollar amphitheatre for fat show, live stock sale and other purposes.

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A cartoon in an Old Country agricultural contemporary has one of the characters a broken-down farmer who to his son and heir says: "If all the money wasted on your education had been spent on artificial manure for the land I should not be ruined, and you would have something to start life on. Now we farmers are stony broke, and you, my boy, will have to compete with German labor and alien competition, which is cheaper and better than you supply, and you are fit for the Army or the Navy neither."

The Year's Recess.

What would the year be without November? It is Nature's month for shutting up her creatures just as men stable the cattle, or the boys and women folk bring the chickens and turkeys from the bluffs to the shelter of the henhouse roof. The days draw in, the breakfast hour gradually works nearer midday, each morning the teamsters expect to find the ground frozen too hard to plow, the cattle hang about the barns in the mornings and only venture across the fields during the warmest hours; about the house the head of the family puts on the storm windows, banks up the foundations, and sets the winter stove up inside. The wife overhauls her supplies of blankets, looks to the family's supplies of winter clothing, puts away squash or makes pumpkin pies. With the last day of October the season's social whirl is ushered in, and the young man communes with himself as to which direction his feet shall most frequently take during the months of winter. The poet was wrong, for as he is known today it is in the fall the young man's fancy is turned. November is summer's bedtime. Nature says we have had enough of her sunny moods for awhile and shuts herself in her great boudoir, dons her whitest mantle and leaves us to our own diversion. It's recess for humanity.

"Big Fleas Have Little Fleas".

There appears to be no abatement in the war of extermination waged by line elevator companies against local farmer's elevators. There is something ridiculously fanatical in the persistency with which the large dealers with seats upon the grain exchange hurl themselves against the local elevator in the hope that if it is once closed up it can never be reopened and their monopoly of the market in each town will be secure.

No means are left untried to entice trade and when everything else fails to draw all the trade away from a farmer's elevator, price cutting, the bane of legitimate business and the professed horror of the line companies, is resorted to with an irate contempt for the ethics of trade. They are not satisfied to stand on a local market and take what wheat comes to them at the same price as the local organization charges and the regulation price for handling wheat, namely, one cent per bushel, but, when the freezing out of a local buyer or farmers' elevator company means a monopoly of the market for the line companies, they find it possible to handle wheat at one half cent, drawing the money necessary to keep their machinery running from some other source.

The success or failure of this "freeze out" game depends fortunately upon the producers. If the shareholders in a farmers' elevator are sufficiently shrewd, and not too penny wise, they will turn their wheat over to the line elevators to be handled for one half cent, and then respond to an assessment of one half cent per bushel to defray the cost of keeping their own elevator on the market, whether running or not, as a menace to organized monopoly.

In some communities there is no difficulty in maintaining the farmers' elevator, either in active operation or as a reserve force to correct monopoly, but in others the stockholders of the farmers' elevators are satisfied to take advantage of the half cent per bushel and shirk their responsibility in the maintenance of their own elevator, even though they receive in dividends the greater part of their assessment.

Many farmers are prone to carry into the conduct of public business principles they practise in their private affairs and which are illustrated by the neglect of partly worn machinery as soon as something a little more convenient is introduced, forgetting that the season of

usefulness of an article after it has been paid for is a constant source of gain.

When the day of the annual meeting of the farmers' elevator companies comes around we hope that each shareholder will consult his own interests by acquiescing in an assessment sufficiently large to maintain the local elevator, and not play into the hands of his own competitors by avariciously clinging to the temporary advantage of their fruit.

The Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association.

The importance of the breed society to the live stock industry might not be appreciated in a country where the Shorthorn lacked the preponderance it has in Western Canada, but while the importance of the association is admitted, it must be a progressive body to maintain its proper position in the agriculture of the Dominion, namely, as leader of all Canadian breed societies. Not many years ago, just previous to the time when the National Records movement was launched, the Western men felt they were not getting the representation in the councils of the association they were entitled to, and consequently had no voice in the administration of Shorthorn affairs. Some even advocated a separate association, a project for which we had not sympathy, inasmuch as it would have tended to increased cost for registration and confusion of pedigrees, and would have sown doubt in the minds of many as to the authenticity of records. Fortunately, wiser counsels prevailed, the parent body became somewhat awakened to its duty and accorded a measure of representation to the Western men. At the present time, the directorate is composed of fifteen members, of which Alberta has one, Manitoba three, and Ontario the balance, we believe the rearrangement should be, and such would be in the interest of the breed and the Society, one director for Saskatchewan, and one for the Maritime provinces and Quebec. Last year the expenses of one of the vice-presidents was paid to the annual meeting, a precedent we doubt that the bylaws of the society provide for, in any event, if allowed to one province it should be allowed to all. Further, we believe the method of electing directors is antiquated, obsolete and unfair, undoubtedly it suited conditions of former days when there were few breeders in Canada of the reds, whites and roans outside Ontario. The directors appointed to represent a province should be elected by the breeders in that province and not as now by the general meeting at Toronto. This might easily be done, the taking of the poll to be done by the secretary of the live stock associations in the provinces; this idea might not commend itself to those resident in Ontario, but whether it does or not, the principle enunciated here is the correct one, being a restatement of that old British idea, no taxation without representation. Ballots could be mailed in December to the members in each province, on which would be printed a list of the paid-up members of the society in that particular province, and when marked by the recipients with a X against the name or names of the men they wished elected as director, could be returned to the secretary aforesaid and the ballots counted in the presence of one of two others authorized to be present for that purpose, affidavits being taken later as to the correctness of the results.

The society has even a greater work to do, namely, to encourage the development of the milking propensities of the breed, and thus make it possible for the general farmer to invest in Shorthorns with the prospect of such being profitable animals from a work-a-day standpoint, or in other words that Shorthorn breeders should be encouraged to develop animals that will be of such a type as to be profitable, even if not poss-