

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

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Editorial.

Examine the farm pump, and make sure it is strong enough to live over winter.

Don't wait until the winter is half over to close up the cracks in the stables and sheds.

Don't clip horses at this season; they need all the hair they have for the winter. When they are wet with sweat after a fast drive, rub them well before blanketing. It's inhuman to deprive a horse of nature's coat at this season.

A Day of Thanksgiving.

Another harvest is past: another summer is ended. Once more, in the divine order of things, the earth has yielded up its increase. Are we thankful? To-morrow (November 17th) has been proclaimed a day of National Thanksgiving, and throughout Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, a happy, contented and prosperous people will acknowledge with thankful hearts that there is a great Ruler of the Universe, who governs the relations of men, and upon whom we depend to supply every need.

It is not incumbent on every citizen that he should regard it as a holiday from labor or active business operations; but it is in keeping with the universal religious belief of the country, and our duty, because of the blessings we have received during the past year, that we should in some sense respect the day. To those who enjoy the advantages of Christian homes, it is a duty to take advantage of every opportunity to mould for good the character of those who are coming into the country from distant lands, where, perhaps, less tribute of praise is given to Him who is guiding our destiny. It should be ours to build up a nation that will be known for its open Bible, and a readiness to respond to the proclamation to observe a day of thanksgiving.

As Canadian farmers of the West, we have many things for which we should be thankful this year. The soil in different districts has differed, as it always did and always will, from the standpoint of productiveness, but, taking the country in general, we have had a very fair crop. Some farmers will have, perhaps, less money from their crops than a year ago, but very many will have a great deal more. A heavy yield in some localities, coupled with the almost unprecedented high price, will place hundreds, for the first time, above the financial high-water mark, and thousands are rapidly going up that way. In a word, we are enjoying prosperity because the soil is fertile and the weather has been favorable to production—two conditions over which man has had no control. Cattlemen who had a large stock for sale have probably not enjoyed a prosperous year, but the best horses from the ranges have found ready sale at good prices, and the sheep industry has shown signs of improvement.

In British Columbia, there has been a prosperous year among fruit-growers and dairymen, as well as those engaged in mixed farming, and everywhere throughout Western Canada there has been, and is, evidence of the same spirit of progressiveness. The country is becoming known, people are flocking in from other countries, real estate values are increasing, and there is every assurance that good times will continue for at least another year. Is it not, therefore, a privilege to be living in the present age? Does the heart of every young Canadian, and older one as well, not beat faster as he thinks of the

wonderful possibilities of his country, which, in the words of Hon. Jos. Chamberlain, "is the greatest and most prosperous of the self-governing colonies."

Are all these not blessings for which we should be thankful, and as people of a nation, proud to be to-day at peace with the world, should we not lift up our hearts in grateful adoration to the Giver of all Good?

A Report Issued Promptly.

An advanced report of the Indian Head Experimental Farm, showing the results obtained this year in the uniform tests of grain, corn, potatoes and roots, is to be found in the Farm Department of this issue. Seldom have we a better example of promptness in the issuing of any official report in which the public are interested than this, and the Superintendent is hence deserving of considerable credit. Government reports calculated to be of interest to farmers usually appear when the features with which they are intended to deal have been almost forgotten.

The Indian Head report would be of much more value to the public if it contained a description of the heaviest yielding grains, roots, etc. For example, it would be very interesting to know whether Monarch wheat, which stands at the head of the list, is a good milling variety; whether Irish Victor oats are possessed of a thick hull, and whether Penn Manor potatoes have sufficient quality to commend them for table use. These are things which make an experimental farm report valuable. It is not enough to know the heaviest yielder; we need to have an idea of its quality. It is probable, however, that Superintendent Angus Mackay intends including these features in his complete report, which will be issued later, and printed for general distribution.

The American Miller and Canadian Wheat.

The population of the United States is increasing very fast, while the wheat yield continues to decline. Practically all the land available for wheat-growing is now under cultivation, and in the older wheat-growing States of the Middle West there is a rapidly increasing tendency to grow more corn. For the first nine months of this year only 9,000,000 barrels of flour were exported, as compared with 13,500,000 for the same period in 1903. In wheat, the falling off has been even more serious, the exports amounting to less than 10,000,000, as compared with 59,000,000 bushels.

Seeing that this year's crop is very much smaller in comparison with other years than the crop of 1903, upon which the foregoing returns are based, it is no wonder that the giants in the milling industry at Minneapolis are turning their attention to Canada for high-grade wheat.

In dealing with the situation, a prominent U. S. authority says:

"The importation of Canadian wheat at this time is due to the inferior quality of the hard wheat harvested this year in Minnesota and the Dakotas. There are likewise more permanent causes at work, which will compel the millers to continue importations. The steadily increasing consumption of wheat by the home population explains the decline in exports. Unless more of that grain is grown by the American farmers, who seem to be more interested in corn, exports will stop altogether, and, finally, there may be a steady market for Canadian wheat."

Active Grain-growers.

The report of a grain-growers' meeting at Hamiota, published on another page, shows the kind of substantial work which a local association may do if it will. There is not a grain-grower in the West who has not been benefited many dollars by the organization of grain-growers' associations, and yet we are told that the membership fees are falling off, and that in some districts the farmers are allowing the interest in their local association to dwindle.

Imagine what would be thought of a town that had an active board of trade that had done much for its business interests, and was afterwards allowed to become ineffective because of the apathy of its members. Such a town would be soon placed upon the dead list, and travellers representing large business concerns would find it to their interest to pass it by.

The kind of work which Hamiota grain-growers are doing shows that that organization means to live. It has a definite purpose, and is striving to carry it out.

Every grain-grower should hand in promptly to his nearest local association the amount of his annual membership fee. The association deserves it for what it has done, and if you continue to support it, it will continue to do a great deal for the grain-growing interests of the West.

Minnesota Farmers' Course.

Beginning on January 10th, and continuing for eight weeks, a short course in agricultural science, suitable for farmers and farmers' sons, will be given at the Minnesota School of Agriculture. During the first two weeks attention will be entirely devoted to animal husbandry, dairying and grain judging. The remaining six weeks will be devoted to lectures on agriculture, agricultural chemistry, animal husbandry, business methods, economic entomology, farm botany, farm horticulture, farm mechanics, farm machinery, poultry and veterinary science.

At Wisconsin, Iowa, and Guelph, Ontario, short courses somewhat similar will be given during the coming winter. Young farmers of Manitoba and the West who can spare the time to attend one of these institutions should write the president of each institution for full particulars. It pays any young person to improve his education, and it pays a young farmer in particular to study before it is too late, so that he may be able to stand before men, either in public or private life.

Duluth inspectors, it is reported, have been called down sharply by eastern millers, who object to accepting spring wheat weighing fifty-five and one-half pounds as No. 1 Northern, when the rule provides that it shall weigh at least fifty-seven pounds to the measured bushel. So much stuff of this character was sent east that a delegation of eastern millers and inspectors visited the Northwest recently to file a protest.

Japanese laborers have invaded the packing-town section of Chicago. About sixty are now employed in the Libby, McNeill & Libby plant, and hundreds are said to be awaiting an opportunity to gain admission. A movement is on foot among the labor unions to have Japanese excluded from the U. S., as well as Chinese.

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