

nothing in the oft-repeated statement that hog-raising doesn't pay. Hogs at present feed prices would pay if live pork prices were 50 or 75 per cent. below quoted values. The question of profit rests largely with the man, and what he feeds and how he feeds it. The hog is a crop that isn't damaged by frost, drought or hail. He is worth considering carefully. Before deciding there isn't any money in the hog figure out what it costs to produce him. It might be interesting also to figure up the cost of producing some other of our farm crops. The hog wouldn't suffer any by the comparison, and some of us might have our eyes opened.

MY OPINION ON SOME MATTERS NUMBER 5

I CONSIDER THE ELECTIONS.

The Roblin government after ten years' trial under rapidly changing conditions has been endorsed in a sufficient number of constituencies to indicate that their methods of handling the affairs of the province are approved. I like to see a strong opposition in legislative halls and I dislike overwhelming majorities. Furthermore, I prefer to see a change of party in power every ten or fifteen years, depending on how well the government members behave themselves. Under our responsible government the majority must rule and that majority has decided that it was not wise to release the Conservative party in 1910.

I purposely refrained from saying anything about politics while the fight was on, because I realize it is not wise for an agricultural journal to become mixed in such affairs—though I believe a sane and independent stand can be taken with advantage to the province as a whole. Now that the campaign is ended, perhaps it is safe for me to make a few comments on this important question.

For one thing, I think all fair-minded individuals will agree that during the last few weeks the big dailies in Winnipeg, that are known as party organs, have done little or nothing of which they should feel proud. No attempt was made to induce the individual to study the policies of either party and cast his vote according to the merits thereof—or if such attempt was made it was so cast in the shade by the glaring announcements of crookedness of all kinds that few noticed it. When will party organs learn to deal with laudable features with which the party allies itself rather than with rancorous personalities, that tend to degrade everyone who connects himself with political work? Little wonder that it is impossible to secure men of ability and integrity to contest the seats in many ridings.

No doubt it is impossible to find a party or a party organ that will not resort to mud-slinging at times, but intelligent voters should show their disapproval.

The trouble is one side is as bad as the other in avoiding big issues and shouting about crooked work and blackmailing opponents. Some even count on winning votes by telling about the questionable character of a member of the other party living in the opposite corner of the province. It seems strange to me that "big" men should so lose their heads as to consider such tactics an advantage to them any. In fact, I do not believe such individuals are "big." I consider them much smaller than the men they slander. One would almost think the present-day politician did not depend on voters exercising intelligence in marking a ballot.

When will agriculture get its due at the hands of legislators? THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE wisely called attention to weaknesses in Manitoba's department of agriculture and did it with such fairness that none could take exception to what was said. Everyone admits that the statements were right and proper; everyone admits that if

agriculture is to get its due, changes are needed—and that right soon. If the department had been strengthened five years ago or more there would not now be such rushes of settlers to Saskatchewan and Alberta in preference to Manitoba.

Yes, these weaknesses are realized by sane thinkers of both parties—and yet no pre-election promises were heard from either side. Have the leaders in politics concluded that elections are not won by diligent effort on behalf of agriculture, or do they merely feel that it is not worth while pledging themselves until they have to do so?

Farmers' organizations have assumed much power lately. They should not rest in Manitoba until their efforts have resulted in strengthening a truly weak department of agriculture.

"AIRCHIE MCCLURE."

Farmers Should Interest Themselves

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

There is in every town a collection of "hamfats"—men who never work, eat the best food, wear the best clothes, do the most talking, and who, being themselves non-producers, have some little graft, or pull, or shearing pen whereby the farmer contributes, sometimes unknowingly, to their support. The "hamfat" is always a delegate to the political convention, and occasionally is made an M. P., and is often able, by misrepresentation, to swing, or stall, or direct a nomination. His nominee is, and must be, a man amenable to persuasion, and after election there is something to be done for the "hamfat." Offices have been created before now. If a town wants incorporation, or a delegation needs to go to legislature with a petition, the "hamfat" is on—"was going in anyway"—and he manages, having time, to direct and do a lot of harm.

The farmer is busy; he has to be very much so; he is trying to get rich after supplying the non-producers, the combines and the corporations, and it keeps him so everlastingly busy that he hasn't time to stop to count his change. That is why he gets swindled, light-weighted, low-graded, short-changed, over-charged and stolen from by "hamfats," who look on him as their natural prey. Even when he combines and goes to law—as the Grain Growers did with the Grain Exchange—a decision cannot always be obtained, although apparently won. I am one of hundreds of thousands of farmers who believe the court was bribed, and I know the strong companies continually do illegal acts systematically for the purpose of collecting more than their due.

The cure for the above ills is in the return of farmers to parliament. The claim that they lack education is not now possible. The claim that they excel in simple integrity is hardly denied. Two doctors represent this district at Ottawa and at Winnipeg, and they are good men, but it is as impudent for a doctor or a lawyer to offer himself to represent a community of farmers as it would be for a farmer to offer himself to represent a body of doctors or lawyers. In conclusion I may say the farmers are awakening

to matters such as I have described, the tariff, stock market and grain grading, and, taking, as we do, a part of our initiative from the United States where the farmer is reaching for his own, I expect to see things bettered in Canada in the next decade.

A. A. TITUS.

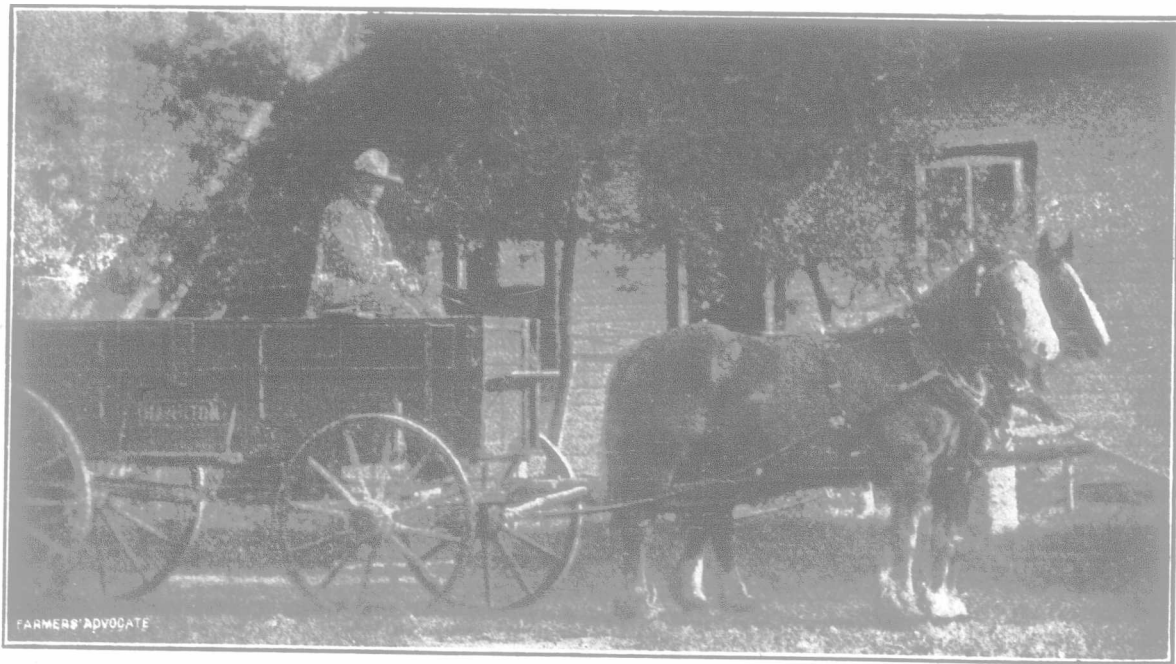
HORSE

Observations on Horse Subjects

Every good rule has its limitations. "Work the colts," says one, "get them into the harness early. A draft colt ought to earn his keep and more from the age of two years up to the time he is full-grown and marketable." "Working," of course, in this case does not mean that the colt's life is to be slugged out doing work that would tax the powers of a full-grown horse. But not infrequently this interpretation is made of the old-time worn axiom and colts are worked into old age before they have reached the stage at which their full powers and activities are developed. We saw a case to illustrate the point a few days ago. One of our own native born Canadians was tearing up his summerfallow with a two-furrow gang that was fastened behind a horse outfit that sure comprised some equine curiosities. Travelling on the plowed land was an old white mare; next her came a three-year-old colt, then an old stager that stood a lot of prodding in the rear and acted all the time as if he wanted to let the plow on him; beside him was a two-year-old, a pretty tired-looking specimen for his age, and on the outside a genuine "bad one"—a mouse-colored "bronk" that let fly with both feet every time anything touched him. The driver carried a stick with a hook on the end of it to use in hitching up the "bronk" traces. Working in that kind of company surely was an "education" for the two colts. The three-year-old was onto the game and showed about as much activity as the old mare that plodded on one side of him or the worn-out plug on the other. The two-year-old showed signs of going the same way. He had got used to the shouting and walloping and showed about as much life as the eighteen-year-old plug that slouched by his side. The owner of this motley equine array was a firm believer in working colts, the only trouble with his belief was that he carried it to undesirable lengths in practice. Working colts does not mean that they should be hitched into such a bunch as this, or slugged along until they have hardly enough activity to cock their ears. The draft colts will do a large share of the work on the average sized farm and be the better for it, but they need to be worked judiciously.

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Last spring horse importations to the West were unusually large. Thousands of horses were brought from Ontario here, and that province is now nearly depleted of marketable horses.



USEFUL TYPE OF FARM HORSES OWNED BY WALTER J. JACKSON