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FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL

Winnipeg Stock-Yards

Did you ever ship a carload of stock to Winnipeg, find on arrival at the stock-yards that every pen, alley and chute was already full, hold your stock in the cars for several hours, get them unloaded finally, and then sell and weigh them out after they had shrunk dry? That is the kind of thing stock shippers have to stand for at this season on pretty nearly every load they bring in. The Winnipeg stock-yards are out of date, hopelessly inadequate in yarding accommodation, and about the worst thing of their kind on the continent.

Sometimes there are rumors of new yards being opened across the river in St. Boniface. Real estate agents can point out a tract over there which is said to be the site of stock-yards to be established. But nothing, in particular, is being done to get the project under way. The C. P. R. is not likely to improve the present yards, because the location is not the logical one for a stock market. It is not the proper function of a railway anyway to be running a live-stock market. So nothing much is being done to remedy matters, and, in the meantime, one of our largest industries is being held up.

Read Experimental Farm Reports

No matter how limited is a farmer's time for reading, he should keep in touch with the work done at the experimental farms. Each year a mass of valuable information is compiled at our experiment stations, information that is in the largest sense practical, that can be used to advantage by every farmer in the country. These stations have been described as the guide stars in agriculture. An American professor at the recent British Association meeting at Winnipeg said the Indian Head Experi-

mental Farm was the greatest treasure house of information in soil moisture problems on the continent. These stations are doing work each year that every man who farms ought to know about; work in every branch of agriculture, testing varieties of grain, testing out different methods of cultivation, conducting experiments with live-stock, and carrying on a great deal of practical investigation in all agricultural lines. The reports of experiments for the past year will shortly be given through the press. The report from the La-combe station has already been issued. Read them. They are the last word on agriculture in the West.

Dry Farming Congress in Session

The Dry Farming Congress of America is in session this week at Billings, Montana. The continent is represented at the meetings, delegates being present from the Dominion and Mexico, as well as from the principal states of the American Commonwealth. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is making special efforts to place before its readers the most important part of the ideas expressed at the congress, and will have some matter of interest on dry farming subjects in early issues.

Scrub Bull Nuisance

The Central Alberta Stock Breeders' Association want to discourage the use of scrub bulls, and to this end propose to restrict still further the area in the province in which stock may run at large.

The scrub bull has been quite a nuisance in this country ever since cattle were introduced, and he is not all cornered and gotten rid of yet. He shows up occasionally in the stock yards, long of leg, flat of rib, and sparse of flesh, and his progeny are present always in good numbers. He roams his home district at will all months of the year, and is half of more than one farmer's herd. He is worth about twenty-five dollars, and does several hundred dollars worth of damage and mischief each season.

Sure the scrub bull ought to be vigorously discouraged. Life is too short for one to go on year after year reaping the kind of harvest that is seeded by a forgot-to-be-castrated male. The wish to keep out of trouble with neighbors and the unfriendly attitude assumed sometimes by the scrub's owner when requested to keep his property on his own premises, has given the scrub in some districts all the liberty he wanted to take. And, then, occasionally one hears a farmer say he prefers a scrub to a pure-bred because a scrub isn't likely to be so pampered. It is pretty hard to do anything with this kind of man, but the scrub's liberties of the highway can be curtailed in some districts for the district's good.

Centennial Progress

Winnipeg City Council has voted a million dollars towards the Selkirk Centennial Exposition of 1912. The Manitoba Government is expected to make substantial appropriations. The Dominion authorities have been approached for an appropriation of two and a half millions. The project has been received favorably in all parts of the country, and it looks as if Western Canada will celebrate the founding of Lord Selkirk's settlement a century ago by holding a world's fair.

The attitude of the East on the question is favorable; the West certainly can be depended on for support; interest is being aroused on the other side of the line and in Europe, and no reason has been offered why the West will not be in position in 1912 to hold an exposition of pretensions equal to the one now closing on the Pacific Coast. It is the West's greatest chance for world advertisement.

Do Hogs Pay?

Nine-cent hogs have aroused a good deal of discussion on the swine industry, and to judge from opinions appearing in the general press there is doubt as to whether hogs pay, even at that price. To get the question down to a matter-of-fact basis, to get at what the profit or loss is in hogs at current prices, the editor of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE asks all readers who have sold hogs lately, or who will sell within the next few weeks, to send in as close an estimate as they can of the cost of feeding those hogs from the time they were weaned until sold, together with a statement of what the pigs were worth at the start, the weight at which they were sold and the price received. Such information should help in reaching something definite as to the cost of pork production. Cut out sentiment and get down to fact. We want to know where we are in the hog business. Send in a statement of the cost of production if you have one; if you haven't, make as close an estimate at the cost as you can.

Cleanliness in Buttermaking

A good deal of the dairy butter made in this country goes off flavor shortly after it is manufactured. Handlers have difficulty sometimes in keeping butter in fit condition for consumption after it is received, and as a result dairy butter, and to too large an extent creamery butter also, is sold at a lower price than it would bring were the keeping quality of the product higher than it generally is.

What is the cause of butter going off flavor? A number of correspondents answer the question in the Dairy department of this issue. They are pretty well agreed that the underlying cause is lack of proper care in handling the milk and cream. Lack of cleanliness probably is the