

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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A Step in Advance.

A meeting was held in Winnipeg recently which was fraught with considerable importance to Manitoba's agricultural interests. The executive of the Horse Breeders', Pure-bred Cattle Breeders', Sheep and Swine Breeders', Poultry and Dairy Associations met to discuss a proposition, which was that the secretarial work of these associations and the superintendence of farmers' institute work be placed in the hands of one man. As was to be expected with such an important move, the meeting differed in their views as to the necessity of such an appointment and the duties of the appointee. Regarding the secretarial work, no question could be raised as to the benefit to be derived from putting the work into the hands of one person, the whole of whose time would be devoted to the advancement of the live-stock and agricultural interests of the Province.

In the matter of institute and agricultural society work, a superintendent is seriously needed. The Minister of Agriculture in Manitoba, in addition to that important portfolio, is required to discharge the exacting and multifarious duties of Railway Commissioner, Minister of Immigration, Chairman of the Council, and Premier. No matter what he may desire to do, as an unavoidable consequence under such conditions, the most important profession of this country suffers. Everyone who knows anything at all regarding the farmers' institutes of the Province, knows that institute work is in a dormant state, that the meetings are poorly attended, that there is little interest shown, and that the people who should be reached by this method of agricultural education are not. In this connection, the interests of the live-stock associations can be greatly helped through the institute work. The work of the associations, the institutes and the agricultural societies is so closely allied that the live-stock associations should make it their business to see that the institutes are placed on a better footing. Although live stock is of inestimable importance in any system of agriculture that is to be permanently successful, little has been done to further the cause of live-stock improvement through the institutes. The time has come when results must be got for the public moneys expended, or the organization or department receiving it should be cut out of the list of public beneficiaries. Along this line the working of the individual agricultural societies would bear inspection, and the institution of a system of selected expert judges would be a commendable innovation and greatly appreciated by fair managers. It will thus be readily seen that there is plenty of work for a first-class man who can get out among the workers in connection with these various organizations. The appointment of a man to look after the work indicated above should relieve the Minister of Agriculture and enhance the value of that department, more especially along educational lines. More depends on the man selected than may appear at first sight. Secretarial or clerical ability is not sufficient qualification for the position. The need is for a man well acquainted with the Province and its requirements, a judge of men, with lots of backbone and foresight. On the selection of the man depends whether the appointment means success or failure, and in that connection none of the associations should permit the foisting on to the Government or the associations of an incompetent, or a man not in touch with the agricultural interests of the Province. The "Advocate" is heartily in accord with the appointment of a man for this work, but insists that the importance of the position warrants the selection of the best possible man.

The Stallion Business.

At the present time abundant opportunities are being offered to private individuals or companies (syndicates) of farmers to become possessed of good draft and light stallions. The amount of money involved in the investment, and the scanty encouragement received from one's neighbors, often deters a farmer from investing in a first-class horse. Collections of stud fees are hard to make, people do not return mares regularly during the season, and often abuse the mares and thus militate against their chances of raising living foals. The company system in many cases works well. For example, we cite the Bradwardine Stock Company, which owns the Clydesdale Montauk. One of the essentials to be observed in starting a syndicate is to have one or two good judges in the company of the class of stallion required, and send them to select a horse. The other way of bringing a stallion to a district and then picking up the company does not give the syndicate any selection; on the other hand, all the probable members get a chance to see the stallion. In any case, the syndicate method opens the way for one man of the outfit to make a pull at the expense of his brother (!) farmers. The ideal way is undoubtedly private ownership and the avoidance of travelling of the stallion. Fees are hard to fix; about \$1.00 for every hundred invested will be found to be not very far astray. The one weak point of the company system is to get a reliable person to take care of the stallion. The Bradwardine people have hitherto had one member of the company look after the horse and do the collecting, for which he was paid \$200 a year. In the company system a higher price is always paid for the stallion than by a private person. A company can only be successful if made up of farmers who are business men of unquestioned financial standing, and whose opinions carry weight in the community in which they live. An aggregation of such men owning a good sure horse will be able to command such patronage as to make the venture a profitable one. The stallion-patronizing community cannot expect to get the services of a good stallion, whose colts will sell well, for nothing. Five dollars difference in stallion fees between a mongrel and a well-bred, well-built stallion often means a difference of fifty to one hundred dollars or more in favor of the progeny of the well-bred horse at maturity, yet both colts cost the same to raise to the selling or working age. The motto of all breeders should be, "The best is none too good!"

The Farmer's Workbench.

The farmer of to-day needs to be something of a carpenter as well as a tiller of the soil. A workbench is essential, and also a set of good tools, which need not be costly. The following list of tools will be found to be ample, and yet contains only those essential to good and quick work: Hammer, crosscut saw (8 teeth to the inch), rip saw (6 teeth to the inch), steel square, chisels (2, 1, 1, and 1 inch), brace and bits (2, 1, 1), keyhole saw, try-square, pair of dividers, gauge, jack-plane, fore-plane, smooth-plane, draw-knife, hand-axe, oilstone, and level-square. The entire outfit can be purchased at a hardware store for \$10. A well-equipped workshop means many an hour or trip to town saved when breakages occur. "Once the outfit is secured, it should be put into a place of its own, and whenever tools are removed for any purpose they should be restored to their places as soon as the work is done. Little benefit will result from tools allowed to lie around anywhere."

Farm Siftings.

The address of Wm. Martin to the Winnipeg Grain Exchange was fraught with meaning to Western farmers. Flax is held up as a profitable crop, which it surely is, both to sell and to feed on the farm. Skim milk plus ground flax makes a good combination for calf-raising. His prediction regarding the westward march of corn is reassuring, and it is to be hoped will prove true.

Those of us who have to depend on coal oil for light, find it a pretty hard matter to get enough light these days, the quality of the oil is so poor. Coal oil should be free on the list, and be of a certain standard.

During the sharp winter days the bits should be breathed upon or put in cold water before placing in the horse's mouths, and thus get the frost out of the iron. It is easy to try an experiment showing the need of the above. Let any reader put his tongue to a frosty bit, and if at all humane, he will follow the suggestion ever afterwards.

Now is the time to get out the summer's wood and begin to figure on fencing and new seeds. Spelt and flax should be placed on your list for the coming season.

One reason stated why scrub bulls or stallions should not be allowed to run at large, is that a first impregnation affects subsequent ones. If that is so, a point on which the scientists differ, all scrub males should be altered forthwith.

A farmer friend made the statement that he much preferred a hired man who was a reader. He said that the chatterbox was a nuisance, invariably talking when "it wasn't his put in!" A hired man who studies the "Farmer's Advocate" diligently would be worth far more as an employee than one who does not.

Every farmer should try to attend the live-stock conventions in Winnipeg during the Bonspiel week, Feb. 17-21. It is not every day that such instruction can be had at such a low cost of time and money.

INTER PRIMOS.

How to Know Beef.

In these days of fat stock shows, slaughter tests, experimental feeding by agricultural colleges, balanced rations, meat inspection, and well-bred beef stock, one would expect that housekeepers and epicures would have no difficulty in getting what they want. To-day, however, the butcher's shop is the battleground as of yore — there is the bone of contention found. Why? Because, so the butchers say, "the cooks do not know how to cook beef," or else "the farmers will persist in using miserable scrub bulls, and do not go to the meat tub often enough." There is no doubt that lots of purchasers are ignorant as to where the good cuts are to be found, and also ignorant as to the appearance of good beef.

Prime steer beef is a bright cherry red, the lean meat is smooth and medium grained, with white flecks of white through it; the fat creamy, neither white nor yellow; the lean generally much mottled with white fat flecks. Beef from cattle in whom the fattening is unfinished is generally tough, juiceless, and pale in color. The beef obtained from old or ill-conditioned cattle is of a dull red color, the lean being too grained and snowy, and the fat yellow in color. Bull beef is a dark red, the lean is too coarse grained and snowy, the fat being white and heavy. The beef is a dull red color, the lean being too grained and snowy, and the fat yellow in color. Bull beef is a dark red, the lean is too coarse grained and snowy, the fat being white and heavy. The beef is a dull red color, the lean being too grained and snowy, and the fat yellow in color.