

Farmer's Advocate

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EDITORIAL

The elevator men, it seems, have an agreement, or had, to divide up the results of plucking the farmers, or as it is termed technically 'making adjustments'.

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Sounds rather incongruous for a witness to state the farmers are dishonest when there is a grave suspicion that that witness committed perjury while giving his evidence.

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Everybody ought to be thankful that race suicide really only affects those practicing it, and that it is a tacit admission that they consider their kind 'undesirables'.

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The Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba deserves the thanks of all Canadian farmers for their efforts to probe the festering mass, termed the wheat market.

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Two main points have been shown before the grain commission, first, that there is no competition for the farmer's wheat, and secondly, that the dealers intend that there shall not be any, if they can prevent it.

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Really, it seems as if the farmers' elevators were in danger; the line elevator men have stated, so it's said on oath, that they have their knives out for the farmers' elevators. Guess they must be through skinning the individual farmer; they have been at it long enough.

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The prosperity to be found all over the country has resulted in a big crop of 'get-rich-quick' schemes for the plundering of the unwary. One of the latest is termed 'Lost Bullion', a gentle irony which ought to appeal to those solicited to sink some money in it.

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The coal famine is one of the plainest pieces of evidence of the incompetency or lack of foresight or consideration for the public, call it whatever else you will, by governments of the last quarter of a century. 'The public be madned' is the creed of the grafter.

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Fall pasturage is something few farmers have as yet bothered providing for their stock. Two inexpensive and profitable methods have been used and should be more universally tried, each involves the use of rape. The better one of the two is to sow the summer fallow with this succulent plant in July and the cattle will do well, both in putting on flesh and acting as soil packers. The other way is to sow with some of the cereals.

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Justice and the people, despite the politicians, demand that Manitoba's boundaries be enlarged. The following figures show in square miles the respective areas, Ontario, 260,862; Quebec 351,873; Manitoba, 73,732; British Columbia 372,630; Alberta, 253,541; Saskatchewan, 250,560. It would appear that Manitoba's sturdy independence for many years has not aided her in acquiring territory, but there may be other reasons for the delay. After all, does it really matter which province gets the port? Will it not be speedily handed over by whoever gets it to some corporation?

Yankee Protectionism the Bar to Reciprocity.

Speaking on the subject of Chicago's interest in reciprocity with Canada, at the Merchants' Club Banquet, in the Windy City, Nov. 10th, James J. Hill pleaded for dropping all commercial bars between the United States and Canada. The time was more auspicious now for favorable consideration on Canada's part than it probably would be later on, when the Chamberlain project was revived. Canada, he said, is no longer in the position of a suppliant. There has been an increasing irritation toward the American attitude, while the fact that their tariff on dutiable goods is 49.83 per cent., while the average of that levied by Canada on dutiable goods coming from United States is 24.83 per cent., causes comment and suggests reprisals. It is also a matter of common knowledge that Canada is aiming in every possible way to make more secure the large, profitable and increasing market for our products in Great Britain.

If the time be deemed not yet ripe for wiping out customs houses on both sides of the line, then the least that Mr. Hill demands is a policy of ample reciprocity.

While protectionists will insinuate that reciprocity would prove a boon to Mr. Hill with his well-known railway policy, there is no doubt he is looking at this subject from the correct American point of view. It is also one of the economics of which our own people would do well to make themselves thoroughly familiar. An obvious objection to reciprocity from our standpoint is that, once it were adopted, our trade would forthwith commence to flow chiefly north and south; and then, should the time ever come, as it came once before, when the reciprocal arrangement suddenly ceased, our trade would be seriously dislocated, and it would take a decade or two to reestablish in new channels.

Had we an assurance that reciprocity—on certain articles, at all events—once secured, would continue permanently, it would prove a great boon to this country, but, unless a decided change has come over the spirit of the dreams of our neighbors, Mr. Hill will be as a voice crying in the wilderness, and such a provision is, we fear, hardly within the realms of practical politics. Canada will do well to proceed guardedly in negotiations looking to freer trade relationship with the United States, though meeting with cordial frankness any reasonable proposals, accompanied by judicious safeguards.

Equal Rights for Publications and Its Probable Effects.

Despatches from Ottawa contain the information that after May 1, the special arrangement between the Canadian and United States postal authorities for the carriage of second class matter (including newspapers, magazines etc.) will cease, owing to the opinion held by the Canadian authorities that Canada was getting the worst of it. The number of newspapers from the United States compared with Canada is not only very much larger, but the United States floods Canada with second class mail matter carried at one cent or half a cent a pound. The Washington government also threw its second class open to printed matter, which in Canada was classed as advertising merchandise and charged eight cents a pound. This gave the people of the United States a privilege in Canada from which Canadians were excluded. Not only was this the case but it diverted a considerable quantity of trade from Canada to the United States.

Many people in Canada have deplored the fact that the demand for magazines was almost entirely met by those from south of the boundary, the old country magazines being neglected largely on account of the postal arrangements being against their sale here. It was unfortunate that it was so from a national standpoint, as the

mental pabulum provided by the United States' magazines was not always the best; and the editorials and opinions of the various publications from south of the line were so frankly blatant and boasting, so disparaging of Great Britain's work everywhere, as to be obnoxious to loyal Canadian citizens, who realize that the welfare of Canada is dependent on a steadfast clinging to British ideals of justice, observation of the law, business honesty, respect for elders, reverence for religion, and a belief in the sanctity of the home. Undoubtedly there are some States' publications, the general tone of which is good, but the journals in that country that can resist the temptation to twist the lion's tail for political effect can be counted on the one hand. Especially is this malign influence liable to be felt in Western Canada where conditions political, social and educational are in a sense unstable, where the public mind is more or less immature, and liable in the rush and bustle to jump at conclusions. The man from the States is welcome here, in fact many have crossed the boundary, not only because of cheap land, but because they realize that here the administration of justice is far less tinctured by politics, and that corporations have not as yet got the public by the throat as in the country from whence they came. While this is all as described, the steady feeding of the younger minds of Western Canada on the stuff dished up in the ordinary States' magazine is bound to have a detrimental effect, largely by its destruction of Canadian sentiment. In the West the accusation can be made that we are not as decidedly Canadian and British as we should be, we have of late years under the hypnotic influence of the men from the south assumed too readily a neutral attitude, which indicates a lack of national backbone.

Encourage the Breeders at Home.

For some time past any special incentive for the home breeder to come to many of our big shows has been lacking, judged by the prize lists and the money offered therein. At Winnipeg this has been especially noticed, thereby going to one extreme, the other extreme being taken by several other large fairs, whereby classes for animals bred in a particular province, have been made. Of the two methods the latter is the least helpful to the live stock industry, tending as it does to place a premium on stuff whether inferior or not, solely because such is bred in the province. In horses and cattle are the conditions found referred to, but we believe it possible to devise methods by which the home breeder can meet with more encouragement than at present is offered him. In the horse classes in which there is considerable competition, Clydesdales principally, we believe it might be found advisable to make classes for Canadian-bred females, and would also render it permissible for all Canadian bred entire males to show in the open classes. Further in the classes for males, if a Canadian bred male was able to win a prize in that class twenty-five per cent. should be added to the prize in recognition of such being a home bred animal.

In the cattle classes, male and female, we would suggest the twenty-five per cent. addition in case the winner was home bred (bred in the West). Some may say, "Why this discrimination between equine and bovine female classes?" Our reason is, that the breeder of the bovine female had an advantage at the start, he was forced by the herd book rules to start breeding with a purebred animal, whereas with mares his animals have in many cases been bred up to the minimum of four registered top crosses, by means of purebred sires. Further, this arrangement would not hurt the importers who are seeking to fill the country with registered mares, for by so doing, the demand for good stallions is bound to increase. One of the great retarding influences on horse breeding in Western Canada