

## Our Western Letter

### No Dairy Competition—Auction Sale Organization—Farm Help—Butter-making Competition.

Winnipeg, August 4th, 1907.

The fairs at Winnipeg and Brandon are over, and everyone who has had anything to do with them is relieved. They have been successful from a financial point of view, at least, and if there has been somewhat more of the circus, and somewhat less of the agricultural fair than we might have wished, it has doubtless been helpful to the finances, if not strictly educational. We can scarcely complain of this when everyone, farmers included, shows more interest in the stock shown in and on the track than that to be seen in the barns.

Winnipeg, this year, dropped the dairy cow competition from the prize list, and we consider that the action was a most praiseworthy one. Three days' milking test is no indication of the value of either the breed or the individual and money awarded therefor simply goes to subsidize the vanity of the owners. It is certainly a temptation to an exhibition, anxious to increase its premium list, to accept the money offered by a Breeders' Association for this purpose, but we hope that with increasing financial strength, Brandon will follow Winnipeg's lead and eliminate the dairy cow competition from the premium list.

A movement was made last week at Brandon that may produce results important to both Manitoba and Ontario breeders. At a meeting held on the fair grounds, a committee was appointed to take steps for the organization of an association, with the object of holding auction sales of live stock at regular intervals. It has been felt by smaller breeders in many parts of the Province that their interests will be best served by some such arrangement, which will enable them to look over a large selection of stock from many breeders and make a choice without incurring the expense incidental to a purchasing trip. The committee appointed to draft a constitution for the proposed association, consists of Thos. Speers, Oak Lake, Chairman; J. A. McKellar, Brandon, Secretary; Robert Hall, Brandon; James Yuill, Crystal City; J. G. Barron, Carberry; A. Graham, Pomeroy; C. W. Speers, Oak Lake; J. E. Smith, Brandon; G. H. Greig, Winnipeg; Geo. Harcourt, Winnipeg; James Glennie, Longburn; Thos. Jasper, Bradwardine; G. Bennie, Castleberry. At the meeting held, there was considerable discussion of ways and means, and it was generally admitted that the assistance of the Dominion Live Stock Commissioner should be sought in organizing and in conducting sales. As to the best time for holding sales, the months of April and June were

proposed. The committee is expected to report at an early date.

Some apprehensions have been expressed by Eastern correspondents regarding the measures to be taken for the distribution of farm hands. It is said that the young men are not coming out here to be told where they shall work or sent willy-nilly to this or that point where their services are in demand. Certainly not. No such action is contemplated. All will be sent to whatever point they choose. But they will not all be given tickets for the terminal points and thus encouraged to go where there is certain to be less work than men. Tickets will be sold to Winnipeg, and the fare will be \$10.00. On arrival at Winnipeg the excursionist will present the stub of his ticket and receive a ticket to whatever point in the Province or Assiniboia he may choose. At the same time he will be advised where work can be secured, and if he disregards the advice thus given, himself alone will be responsible. Delegates from many districts will be in Winnipeg looking for men and in this way it is expected that all will be located without difficulty.

Under the influence of favorable weather, the crop is rapidly maturing and fulfils the promise of the past weeks. Another two weeks will see the harvest commencing. The work of having has been carried on under the most favorable conditions. Warm and dry weather has enabled an enormous crop to be gathered in a comparatively short time. The grass is of excellent quality—both of the native and cultivated grasses.

One of the finest features of the Winnipeg Industrial was the butter-making competition, which, as last year, attracted numerous entries, and a large number of interested spectators. Along the same lines of agricultural education, the improved facilities for watching the stock-judging are highly commendable. It is, however, highly regrettable that the same educational policy does not foster a better display of implements and machinery. These have such an essential place in farming that their absence from the Exhibition is unaccountable.

#### Judging a Beef Animal

Mr. Duncan Anderson, who spent a couple of days at the Winnipeg Fair, gives the following description of how Prof. Curtiss, of Iowa, went about judging the beef cattle, other than Shorthorns:

"I spent a couple of hours watching Prof. Curtiss judging Polled Angus, Galloways and Herefords, and followed with a good

deal of interest the systematic manner in which he did his work. He had very seldom to go over his animals a second time. Always beginning at the head, he seems to take in the mouth, nostrils, eyes and shape of the head at one glance; the brisket, chest, and front legs at another. As he passes down the animal's side, he takes in the shape of the neck; he places his hand on the loin, presses his fingers in to feel the depth of flesh; works his hand toward the shoulder lightly to find the quality of hair; picks up the skin over the ribs to find its mellowness, sometimes grips the animal's flank, but not always; passing behind, he pulls the tail to one side to see width of hind quarters; then stands straight behind and takes one long, steady look from tail to horns, and at the same time he evidently makes up his mind as to the merits of the animal."

#### CORRESPONDENCE

##### Sheep Worrying by Dogs

Editor The Farming World:

You know to the farmer time is golden any day in the year, intensely so at this time, hence a short letter.

We note Mr. Johnson's letter re "Dogs and Sheep." In our little note we had no thought of the "love." Our whole thought was the "profit." We thought there was profit in sheep in many ways, and we think we have found them so in spite of the loss by dogs. But in our many years' experience with dogs we can truthfully say that we always found them a far greater damage than profit. In fact we have always found them—either our own or our neighbors—nothing but a damage and annoyance. Oh, wherein can a dog be the value of a horse? or even a sheep, it is hard for us to see. Sir, we feel that our sheep are worth many dogs, for with all Mr. Johnson's sympathy with them he still calls them "worthless curs." We always found them that, and we would say, "away with such more than worthless curs."

We note with Mr. J. that the farmer does not hold up his end in this nor in many other things with that determination that he ought to. I would be in favor of a severe statutory law for protection of the sheep. Yes, we would say, stamp out the dog. We have already had too much damage done by them.

Just here reliable news comes to us that three neighbors between them had thirty-five sheep worried to death by dogs in one night (worthless curs) and nearly as many more torn. The names of these gentlemen are Mr. G. Palma-ter, Mr. E. Emerson and Mr. A. Jones all of Huntingdon township, North Hastings. We wonder if the M.P.P. will notice this. We would have been really glad had friend Johnson chosen a worthier champion. Robt. Tufts, Sr.

Tweed, Ont., Aug. 5, 1907.