

Manitoba.

An Essay on Farming in Manitoba.

A good plan followed by some of the Agricultural Associations of Manitoba in connection with their annual exhibitions is to invite the people to submit essays on farming and farming methods, the best of which are sometimes printed and circulated as widely as possible. At the recent show of the Mountain Agricultural Society the following excellent composition on farming, by Geo. Hunter, was read and recommended to be printed:—

Long may the hardy sons of rustic toil,
Be blest with health, and peace and sweet content.
—Burns.

Farming is an occupation upon which a country such as Manitoba almost entirely depends. Not farming in the strict sense, which is merely the cultivation of the soil, but rather mixed farming. The raising of not grains only, but domestic animals also, which combined farming requires much skill and attention.

Skill and attention are the qualities which command success in farming, as in all occupations. It is not every man that can plow a straight furrow or build a neat stack. Much skill is also required in the management of affairs connected with a farm. A skilful farmer will not sow his grain on soil which he cultivated with Corbyn harrows only, and neither will he sow wet or frozen seed, expecting a good return, when a great proportion of the seed never sprouts. This slovenly cultivation by leaving the weeds unchecked and causing the seeds to sink unevenly produces results too well known in our country; but he will also know the different qualities of the soil and that which is best adapted for certain grains. The choosing of stock also requires much ability. There are many breeds of cattle each good of themselves, but unsuitable for some climates. Those kinds required by Manitoba are the ones which produce flesh and milk in the greatest quantities consistent with the best qualities. In Manitoba where it is, at present, practically impossible for each man to maintain two distinct herds, it would be better to combine these two qualities in the same breed. When farmers are able to become specialists the best results would, of course, follow from cultivating distinctly these two qualities.

Under the present conditions therefore, that breed which possesses these qualities combined, and is best adapted to our climate should alone be imported. This having been done, all other breeds should be excluded, and the skill of the farmer directed in selecting from the young of these, those animals alone which are healthy and show a tendency to improve on the parent stock, to perpetuate the future herd. Others may be reared to a fit age for the butcher but should never be allowed to reproduce. Thus by continuous skilful selections the farmer of Manitoba can produce a breed of cattle essentially Manitoban, a breed possessing the desired qualities and at the same time specially adapted to our climatic conditions.

What is true in cattle raising may also be said of all other domestic animals.

Strict personal superintendence is one of the first requisites of success. Without this the details will be neglected and loss will ensue. Proper attention should be given to everything about a farm, without which a man cannot be called a skilful farmer. Regularity in the feeding of the animals does nearly as much good as the food itself, and if they are fed at very irregular times they generally become thin and look neglected. Careful attention should also be given to the buildings of a farmyard, which being overlooked, the animals are, in at least one degree neglected. A skilful farmer will have comfortable and neat buildings.

A farmer should possess horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry, the rearing of which demand no little care and experience. They require proper shelter and sufficient food as essentials to their welfare. The buildings if not beautiful should be warm and comfortable. When hay is scarce the farmer of Manitoba is not wholly at a loss for fodder, as there is generally abundance of straw, which if fed in the proper manner is excellent food. Cattle may even be fattened on straw if to it there is added a little grain. During the summer animals need plenty of food and water. A good manager will not pasture his herds in a small field where the land produces short grass and little of it, neither will he allow his animals to run at large destroying his own and his neighbors' grain.

The fertility of the soil has much to do with the grain produce of a farm, but even if the soil is not very rich it may be made much more productive by the addition of manure every year. Manure is generally plentiful about a farm and where it is not, the waste straw easily rotted makes excellent manure. It is not well to sow the same crop on the same plot year after year; a rotation of crops being preferable.

The produce of a well managed farm is very valuable. Even when the grain is not of the best quality it may be fed to cattle, pigs and poultry, which when sold generally bring good prices. Poultry is valuable, not only for the price received for the flesh, but the eggs are valuable, and many farmers' wives of Manitoba keep their homes in food, and sometimes clothing, from the returns of the eggs and butter.

Both the value and beauty of a prairie farm may be greatly enhanced by planting groves of trees, which with a little care and attention may be made to grow rapidly. If a sufficient number are planted on the sides of the east, north and west the farmer will be doubly repaid for his work by the shelter they will afford from the cold winds of winter.

If the farmers of Manitoba would study more closely the conditions of successful farming, what the market must demand and the cost of its production, allowing for attending risks, a result of our sudden changes in the weather, less would be heard of the profitless farming, and our Prairie Province would rapidly advance to a position of equal rank with her older sisters in our great Dominion.

Napinka wants a barber and a baker.

Ex-Premier Harrison's Farms in Manitoba.

Dr. Harrison is one of the largest land owners in Manitoba. He has over 9,000 acres in Minnedosa county and 640 acres in Beautiful Plains. There is no incumbrance on any part of it. A Neepawa Register reporter asked Dr. Harrison for particulars regarding his new stock farm and was informed that he was fencing a block of 1,280 acres of grazing land within two and a half miles of Newdale station. He is also preparing plans for a most complete barn 58x70 feet in size, with stone basement. This will contain storage room above and stalls for 56 head of cattle below. He will put in four silos for ensilage after the model of those on the Experimental Farm at Brandon. Water raised by power will always be kept within reach of the stock. He will raise no cattle but will buy steers and fatten them for market. One hundred of one and two year olds will be purchased each fall. Half of these will be wintered in sheds, and the balance stall fed for spring shipment. When the stalls are emptied about the first of May, the steers wintered in the sheds will be put in and fed until the grass is well advanced, when they will be turned out to top off on the prairie. This is substantially the plan which the Dr. intends to follow year after year. The stalled animals will be fed almost entirely on ensilage corn, which he says will produce 30 tons per acre. This food will cost about one tenth as much as turnips, while it is quite their equal for fattening purposes. He has 65 steers now at the farm, but he will not get properly down to business before next year. Near Basswood station he owns 960 acres of splendid sheep land. This he will get in shape next spring and stock with 500 Cotswold and Leicester ewes. These will be crossed with Shropshire rams. After collecting a mass of information as to sheep raising, he says there is big money in it.

Corn Yield of the Brandon Experimental Farm.

The following table which has been furnished THE COLONIST through the kindness of S. A. Bedford, superintendent of the experimental farm at Brandon gives the yield of fodder corn. This corn was sown in rows 3 feet apart on the 26th of May and cut on the 31st August. Mr. Bedford says the corn is now all in the silos and will be the main dependance of the farm this winter for feed.

Variety	Stage when cut	Height per acre	Yield Tons lbs
Thoro'bred White Flint.	Silk	5 feet	27 1,000
Evergreen Red Cob Ensilage	Tasseled ..	9 "	26 800
Mammoth Southern Sweet.	Tasseled ..	9,6"	26 140
White Flint	Early milk	8,9"	33 200
Pearce's Prolific	"	8,3"	22
Longfellow	"	9 "	26 1,500
Snout Nose	"	8,3"	20 1,800
Cinquatine	"	7 "	20 1,800
Rustler	"	10 "	20 1,140
Angel of Midnight	"	8,6"	20 1,140
Pride of the North	"	8 "	19 910
North Dakota Flint	Late Milk	8 "	19 910
Crosby's Early Sugar	Early Milk	7 "	17 1,200
Dakota's Gold Coin	"	9 "	17 1,200
Mitchell's Extra Early	Late Milk	6 "	17 1,200
Dakota Dent	Early Milk	10 "	14 600
Ride Out	"	8 "	12 200