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tee for perfecting the organization. In November the general conference was called, and Hon. Mr. Fisher attended as a representative from Canada.

The maintenance of the Institute is provided for in two ways: The King of Italy has endowed it from his private estate, so that there will be an annual income of \$60,000. The first three years' income has been used in erecting suitable buildings and furnishing accommodation for the staff. In addition to this, each country is expected to contribute annually to the expenses. Canada's share will amount to about \$4,000 per year, and, in addition to this, there will be the expenses of the delegate to the conferences. The work is just getting under way, but great things are expected from it.

Report of Pork Commission

The report of the Commission, consisting of Messrs. R. A. Wallace, Jas. Bower and A. G. Harrison, appointed by the Alberta Government to inquire into the condition of the hog raising industry in the Province and advise what measures might be taken to insure for hog raisers a fair price for their products, was presented to the provincial legislature on February 18th. After reviewing the terms of the commission and the evidence taken in various parts of the Province, the report goes on to say, the evidence that not only has the farmer not received what he considers a fair price (five cents per pound live weight) for his hogs, but that he has not, in very many cases, been able to receive any price at all: that he is able to overstock the market; that his energies have been curtailed on this account, and that he does not know where to turn for a market for what he can raise in the hog line even at any price, and still seventy-five per cent. of the cured meat is imported.

These are the local conditions, or, to put the matter more plainly, while seventy-five per cent. of the cured article is imported and no kick made by our local packers, at least one-half of our most energetic farmers have been compelled to go out of the hog industry on account of no market at all and not receiving a living price for his hog during part of the year, to say nothing of what could be done by farmers who would become producers of hogs and farm products suitable for feeding them. This is a serious and distinct loss to the Province as a whole, and there should be some remedy.

Men have come to Alberta from the so-called hog states of the American Union because they want to better themselves. They have come from eastern Canada for the same purpose, and to hold them Alberta must solve for them the difficulties they have run up against in their former homes, and one of these is the lack of a stable market for their farm products. There is no good reason why the condition of the bona fide farmer in Alberta should not be superior to those of other countries, especially since many came to better themselves and avoid conditions which they are again confronted with in this Province.

The market for cured meat is right here in Alberta, and there will always be the English market, the British Columbia market and the market in the north country. The home market, as far as possible, might be left to the private concerns if they will occupy it. To do this the local concerns must cure their meat to suit the trade. If a government controlled plant does nothing more than demonstrate, as the creameries have done, that the article to suit the trade cannot only be raised but cured in Alberta, it will be worth the experiment and the financial risk in making such, besides giving an incentive to our farmers to go into the hog business and mixed farming as well as wheat raising, making Alberta a "sure-crop" Province, and a Province in which financial institutions will have faith to do business.

CONDITIONS IN ALBERTA

The evidence and conditions existing clearly show that something must be done. In this country, conditions are such that the farmers could not borrow the money required from the banks, as in Denmark, nor would they care to guarantee each other's liabilities in such a way as they do in Denmark. The government here, therefore, must supply the money. The guarantee of each others' liabilities by the farmer is not available, and for the above reasons we have come to the following conclusions:

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

That when a sufficient number of hog growers give a reasonable assurance that they will supply at least fifty thousand hogs per year to a plant, and that they will elect from among themselves officers and directors whose duty it will be to look after the steady supply of hogs of suitable quality, to decide on the amount of money needed from time to time to successfully operate the plant, to look after the conduct and abilities of the operators, your commissioners would then recommend that the government furnish the money to build, equip and operate a plant, as they and the directors deem most advisable, so constructed to admit of enlargement, and the original plant to have a capacity large enough to handle at least 300 hogs a day at the start; that the management take in the farmers' hogs, pay them at time of delivery up to two thirds of their estimated value, then at regular intervals as may be agreed upon when sufficient time has elapsed to place the product on the market pay the producers the balance of the full value of their product, less the cost of curing and marketing the same and a sum sufficient to pay local working expenses, such as insurance, taxes, directors remunera-

tion, etc., less one-quarter cent per pound live weight, this one-quarter cent per pound to be applied to the creation of a fund for the purpose of paying back to the government their original investment and interest thereon. And at the same time to allot shares to each patron equal to the amount paid into this fund by the assessment of the one-quarter of a cent per pound on his product.

DIVIDEND FOR STOCKHOLDERS

Your commissioners would further recommend, when the government indebtedness has been finally paid off by this fund, that this fund be applied to paying a reasonable interest to the patrons on the amount of shares held by them and take the balance to be paid as a bonus on each pound of pork supplied, shares to become transferrable only to bona fide patrons, and then only by application to and with the consent of the directors. But in the event of the removal or death of any patrons and where application has not been made for such transfer by him or his heirs for the space of one year subsequent to such removal or death, then the directors may have power to cancel such shares and apply the proceeds to the general fund.

Your commissioners would further recommend that in the event of it being found necessary to erect additional plants at other points in the Province, those patrons who wish to withdraw from the first existing plant, may do so, with the approval of the directors, the shares held by them being transferred to the new plant with which they may affiliate, and the amount of money thus withdrawn from the first existing plant to be made by the remaining patrons as before.

EQUALIZATION OF FREIGHT RATES

As each patron would naturally wish the plant located near his special place of business so as to cheapen the freight rates paid by him, your commissioners would recommend that the sum total of all freight rates paid on railways be subdivided and charged equally against each pound of pork supplied.

SHIPPING DAYS

To minimize the cost of buying hogs, regular shipping days should be established when the patrons could bring their hogs to their respective railway stations where the regular buying agent could be in attendance, and whose duty it would be to grade the hogs, weigh them and credit each patron with the amount due him. In some cases this might mean the shipping of less than carload lots from one station to the next to be made up there, but it would obviate the difficulty of forcing the patron to keep his hogs after they had arrived at the proper size, hence a more uniform grade could be secured. In Denmark, the patrons are paid by "dead weight" and quality of hog after inspection, which method of payment your commissioners consider worthy of careful consideration.

PATRONS AGREEMENT

Your commissioners would further recommend that all patrons be required to enter into an agreement to give all the hogs which they wish to dispose of for curing purposes to the packing plant of the association of which they are members. And any patrons who sell their hogs in contravention to their agreement shall be subject to a fine not exceeding two dollars for such hog sold, and that the directors of the association shall have power to cancel the shares of such patron up to the amount of such fine inflicted, and also the power to dispose of such cancelled shares to any other patron, or in any way they think fit, and to apply the proceeds to the general funds of the association. In the case of over production, or if the plant should be unable from any cause to handle all the hogs offered, then the board of directors may give permission to any of the patrons to dispose of their hogs as they may think fit.

Your commissioners would also recommend that the stock Commissioner be instructed to canvass the different districts to ascertain the probable number of hogs that the farmers will guarantee to supply and to obtain the signatures of those farmers to this agreement.

BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT

As to size and class of building best adapted for the carrying out of operations your commissioners believe there are things that might be safe to leave to a designer, but we think that the practical experience of men engaged in the business should be taken into account.

(Continued on page 318).

Morris Company Coming to Canada

An important deal is reported to have been carried through in Calgary by which the Morris Company, of Chicago, have acquired the entire holdings of the Dominion Meat Company of that city. The Morris people are reported to be buyers of a large tract of land near Nose Creek, northeast of the city, where the plant of the Dominion Meat Company is located.

Just when the Company will take charge of the business has not been made public yet, but the change is expected to take place shortly. Extensive additions will be made to the plant. The new abattoir will be built and very large stockyards laid out. A large piece of property will be set apart for homes for the employees of the company. It is reported also that one block of 160 acres has been purchased at \$200 an acre and another block of 80 acres bought at \$300.

Building a House on the Homestead

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The idea of starting a discussion in your valuable paper as to the best way of making the life of a bachelor more attractive and endurable in our Great West, seems to me an excellent one from which only good results can follow, and will place many a bachelor under a debt of gratitude to you. Having had considerable opportunities of studying the ways of bachelors during the last four years, you will perhaps allow me to contribute towards the discussion on "baching."

The first thing to consider is the housing of the bachelor, and the initial step towards building a dwelling is naturally the site on which to build. It behooves the homesteader, therefore, to take a good look at his quarter in order to select a suitable spot.

I would select one on a slight rise in the ground, preferably on a knoll with a gravelly soil. It will be warmer and drier than more low-lying land. Do not build close to a slough—it is unhealthy; mosquitos will be a great nuisance in the season, and will be damp and cold at other times. Having chosen your site, dig a good roomy cellar, after which the building of the house begins.

Where there is plenty of suitable wood, the builder will naturally feel inclined towards building a log house, and although it entails quite a lot of work, there is no gainsaying that a log house, well built and plastered, makes a very comfortable and lasting dwelling. However, most bachelors have not the opportunities of getting logs, and even if they had, but were financially able to buy lumber, it would undoubtedly pay to build a frame house. It takes far less time to erect and to a beginner, time is most valuable. To such as settle on the open prairie, three kinds of buildings are at their disposal, according to their means, viz:

- Sod house.
- House of 1 ply lumber and sod veneered.
- Frame house.

Before starting to consider these three kinds of dwelling I would point out that a building 14' x 20' x 8' is, to my mind, an ideal one, giving ample room for comfortable interior arrangements. About these I will write in a subsequent article, and will now confine myself to the building of the house.

A sod house, pure and simple, should, I think, be avoided when possible, it is unhealthy, never looks nice inside and is subject to being infested with vermin, however, many a beginner has to turn his dollar over several times before he can make his up mind to spend it and as a dwelling is necessary for him, it is to his class that a sod house is the only choice. When plowing for sods choose a piece of land where the sod is tough. The sods should be 2 feet long and from 12 to 14 inches wide, build the first few courses of the wall of a good thickness, so as to be able to give the wall a slight tapering inward as you go higher. After having laid a course of sods take some fine soil and fill up the points firmly, also tramp the sod well down as possible, to prevent shrinkage afterwards, but, of course, shrinkage will take place in any case. Allowance has to be made for this when you begin on the roof.

The roof should be pitched so as to turn the water better, a shanty roof is for this reason inadvisable. I have seen sod shacks, well built too, which, on a rainy day, leaked like a sieve to the great discomfort of the occupants. The windows should face south and if at all possible, use large windows, say 4 lights, 12 x 24 each, not small stable windows, as is so often the case, which, owing to the thickness of the walls keep the house in semi-darkness on even the brightest days. During the short days of winter it gives a forbidding aspect, whereas the large windows admit the welcome rays of the sun during the greater part of the day, making the room look bright and giving a certain amount of warmth.

I would place the door on the west side, on the north-west corner of the house and while building the house I would erect a small porch over the door, say 6 x 6, having the outside door of the porch facing south, by doing this you would avoid the effects of the coldest winds on our prairies, viz., the N.W. and S.E. winds. Besides this the porch can be utilized as a store place for fuel, ice, etc., and when a blizzard comes along you will be able to laugh at it.

So much for the sod house, pure and simple. The next in order is the sod veneered house, which, in many respects is built similarly to a sod house, except that it has a lumber frame and one ply of lumber against which the sods are piled. Anyone building such a place would do well to put two ply of tar paper on the outside of the lumber before veneering it with sods. The roof can be built in the same way as the sides, or shingled, the shingles to be 4 1/2 inches to the weather. Such a dwelling can be made very warm and snug, especially if the builder has the means of sealing it inside with inch or half inch shiplap, and after the lumber has dried properly, to cover it with building paper and then paper with wallpaper. Both for outside and inside, I should use cedar shiplap, as it shrinks very little. Windows and door arrangements should be the same as described when dealing with a sod house. The other kind of house to be considered is the frame building, which will be done in a future article.

Sask. S.