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ED MAN.

Believes in Deep Plowing.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

About deep plowing, I have tried it, in fact I am getting down as fast as I can. I plowed one piece very deep one fall, took up from two to four inches of subsoil; next year there was a very light crop on it but a good crop the next year. The subsoil lay on top in pieces of about two inches square all summer. Mr. Grieg gives good advice and when he says be careful, do not go to extremes; he surely knows what he is talking about. The best time to do deep plowing is when summer fallowing, and another good time is when backsetting. I broke eight acres light in 1905. I put five horses on a sulky plow and brought it up from four to six inches of the bottom soil with the very best results. One thing especially noticeable about deep plowing is that in the fall when you plow again there is moisture on the bottom of your furrow, while the bottom of the furrow in shallow plowing is as hard as a board. Mr. Grieg's would be an ideal rig, but we have not much time here in the fall, and every time we have to go over the land we spend a lot of time. Why not use a twelve inch gang plow with five or six horses and take up an inch, a very light inch every fall? The plow will only lay about one third of this on top, the rest will be cut loose and stirred up some. When the land has all been plowed to ten inches use a fourteen inch gang with a mould board that will flip it quick.—I mean the one that will turn all it cuts bottom side up. Half our plows just half turn it.

Sask

W. L. D.

Not Ten But All.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The question raised in your issue of the 20th ult. "Why Ten" regarding the management of seed grain fairs is worthy of the consideration of the best element in the farming community though I will venture to say that the most charitably disposed cannot give a truthful answer that will reflect credit upon the dignity of the Provincial Government or the administration of its Department of Agriculture.

No unprejudiced person will deny that the efforts of the Dominion Department of Agriculture through their Seed Grain Branch has been of incalculable benefit to the farmers of the West. The interest created by the sending of the seed demonstration trains throughout the country, in the early months of 1906 is bearing fruit in 1907, in the production of cleaner grain and by a more determined effort to rid the land of foul weeds. The inauguration of seed grain fairs commenced by Mr. Murray, now Superintendent of Brandon Experimental Farm, and continued by Mr. Bracken, now Superintendent of fairs and farmers' institutes in Saskatchewan, has also proved of immense educational value at the points where the agricultural societies co-operated with them in the selection and breeding of clean, productive seed. Mr. E. D. Eddy, the present representative of the Seed Branch in Manitoba, who has also done his share in the work of organization, has added a new feature this year by arranging to catalogue a list of clean seed exhibited at each fair, distributing these catalogues free of charge throughout the country, where seed is required, thus providing a market for all clean seed or at least putting buyers in touch with sellers, a matter of great convenience to both.

And just at this juncture the Provincial Government "butts in" to use a vulgar expression to describe the ill-bred act. After ridiculing in the Legislature the work of the seed grain special; persistently refusing all offers of co-operation from the Seed Branch; and after all the pioneer work has been done in connection with the establishing seed grain fairs and without having conducted a single experiment so far as I have noticed upon the breeding or improvement of seed tending to increased productiveness, it offers a bribe of fifty dollars to the first ten agricultural societies that will hold seed grain fairs under their auspices, undertaking nothing in the way of advertising seed for sale. "Why Ten?" you may well ask. Would it not reflect a higher order of intelligence in the management of the Department as well as a sense of the dignity of the Government, to say nothing of the desire to encourage a good work, to make an offer, if one must be made, that would put all societies on the same footing? Such an offer simply gives a bonus to those societies having the best postal service—surely no basis for such distribution of public funds while other societies, equally deserving are refused.

Manitou.

T. TURNBULL.

DAIRY

Dairying with Grain Growing on a Manitoba Farm.

I have received a request to write up for the "Advocate" a description of the way in which one of our farmers near Holmfild manages the dairy department of his farm. I was asked why this man gave his attention to dairying with twenty or more cows instead of grain growing which is more generally followed in Manitoba.

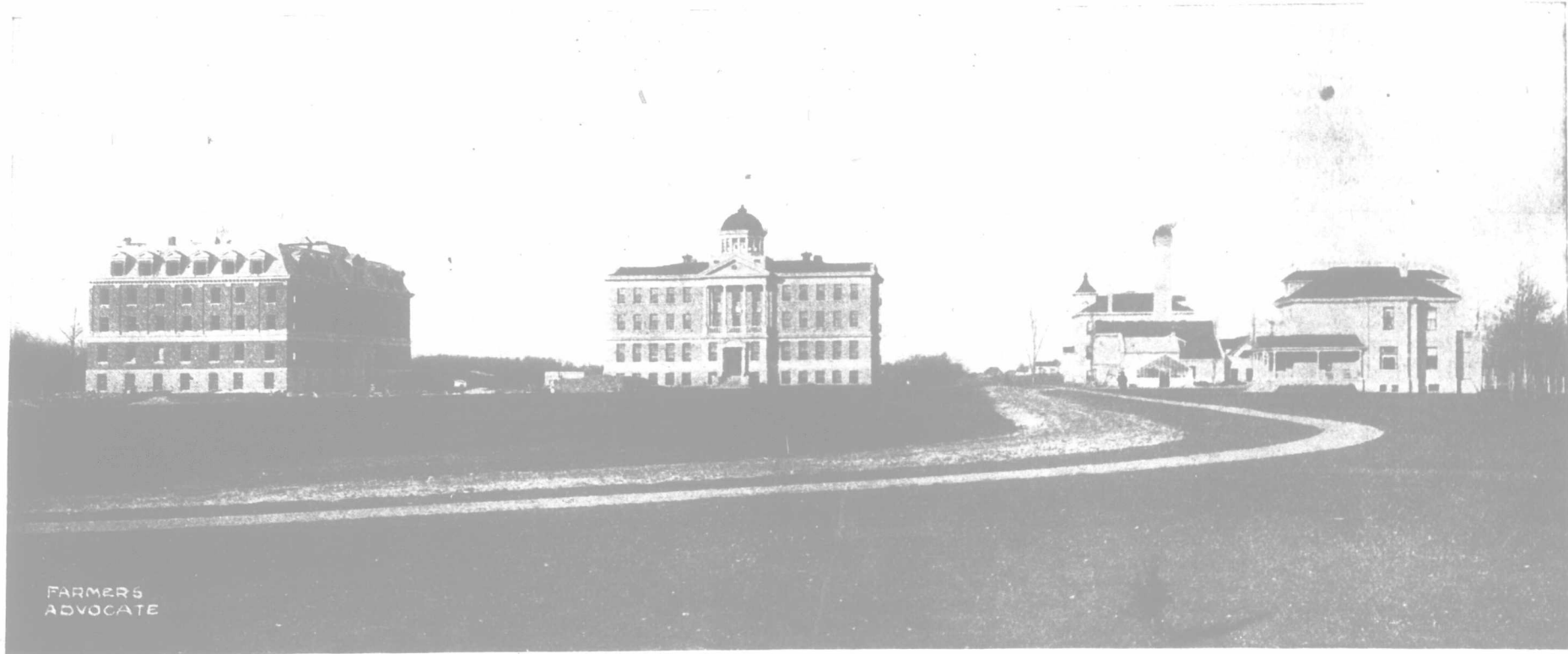
To begin with, I might say that I have always held the two can go together and be made pay and with very little extra work. and in writing this short article I will try and show that it is not only quite possible but being done.

The man referred to owns 640 acres and grows from three thousand to five thousand bushels of wheat, and one to three thousand bushels of coarse grain each year, and still finds time to attend to from 20 to 30 good cows, with an emphasis on the good. In the first place, he does not do as others do around him, but he does all his dairy work in the winter and milks until harvest time and lets the cows go dry for the three busiest months in the year. Part of haying, harvest and threshing not a cow comes in, but between October 1st and December 1st the whole herd starts milking. He started with a bunch of good grade shorthorn cows, purchased a dairy bred Red Polled bull, whose dam had a good milk record, and crossed this bull on his grade shorthorn cows. The results were astonishing. So far as I can find out there wasn't one heifer when her time came to help fill the pail

but what was better than her dam. Now some will no doubt think this is drifting into Red Poll boosting, but it is not meant that way. I wish to show that this man is handling a good paying proposition and also try and show how he went at it. It is no doubt possible to do the same with some other breeds but as this is digressing a little we will get back to the method of handling and feeding.

All the old cows were weeded out and the young ones tested by using a Babcock tester which is always kept on the farm. The tester will test four cows at once. Usually two men are kept in the summer and one in the winter. When threshing all the coarse grain is hauled to the buildings and every bit of oats and barley straw threshed into the yard at the back of the barn. In this yard there is an open shed to shelter the young growing heifers in winter and these heifers run in the yard at the straw pile, but it is usually good straw. The steers are separated and fed a grain ration and if any are old enough, put up to feed; they being winter bred steers they feed off at exactly two years old, not at three years, as is usually the case. In feeding the milk cows two good feeds of hay, one night and morning are given and a feed of straw at noon and the stock bedded with the leavings. On fine days the cows run for awhile in the straw yard with the heifers. They are fed a grain ration of one third bran, one third oats or barley chopped, one third shorts making a grain ration of about six quarts. Strict attention to balanced rations is not given but an attempt is made to figure out which feed pays the best. If as at present shorts are very high more grain is substituted but the bran is never omitted. There are regular hours for milking, and feeding the calves; the milk is run through a separator and fed to the calves, four in each pen. The two men go together with a pail in each hand and thus feed four calves at once avoiding all crowding and fuss and it is done very quickly. The cream is shipped to Winnipeg and I think an average price of about 28 cents per pound for butter fat is realized. At night if you drop around there at about 8 o'clock the cows are all lying down comfortably chewing their cuds and all the work is done for the day.

To my mind there is no safer way of farming and building up a locality than this way of doing. Then again the manure is worth a good deal. This man has a manure spreader and in the spring, after the rest of the crop is in, he takes all the manure and trodden straw out of the straw yard and gives his barley field a good top dressing and certain it is his cattle increase his yields of coarse grain. He always sows rape and barley on his summer fallow and in this the cows run until freeze up, thus doing away with scarcity of pasture. It also helps them to go into winter quarters in good shape. We used often to hear the remark that separator fed calves were no



FARMERS  
ADVOCATE

MANITOBA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE BUILDINGS ON THE BANKS OF THE ASSINABOINE RIVER WEST OF WINNIPEG.

On the left, the new Roblin Hall; in the centre, the Main Building; on the right, the Dairy Building, Engine Room, Conservatory and Principal's Residence.