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EDITORIAL

The Brandon Farm Superintendency.

The appointment of a superintendent for the Brandon Experimental Farm is one fraught with considerable importance to the West, and Manitoba in particular. The work done by the late superintendent has been of great value and is quoted as authoritative wherever the possibilities of Manitoba as an agricultural country are discussed.

The work of the superintendent at the Brandon farm is many sided, and it calls for a man well educated in the latest phases of scientific agriculture. The incumbent of the position needs to have a good presence, be of pleasing address, a painstaking investigator, a man of energy and executive ability; in addition it is we consider essential that he be a graduate of an agricultural college.

The appointments recently made by the provincial department of agriculture are such that, in the good natured scientific rivalry bound to ensue, and rightly so, a man lacking the agricultural college training would suffer by comparison and it would only be a short time before the Brandon experimental farm superintendent would be among the second or third raters, if not to use a poetic phrase, 'unhonored and unsung'. In the past its superintendent has qualified for the first rank and was undoubtedly, one if not the most popular all round farmer's institute lecturer in Manitoba, his work at the farm being appreciated. There are several candidates, and of the lot, only one has the essential qualification in the opinion of this paper, and that man is James Murray B.S.A. a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College and for the last few years superintendent of the seed division in the West for the Dominion Department of Agriculture. Mr. Murray has youth, energy, is discrete and can be relied upon to withhold statements unless sure of his ground. He is well and favorably known to many throughout the West as being in charge of the Seed Fairs which have and will continue to be beneficial. To appoint a man without an agricultural college would be a slap in the face at agricultural college work and a distinctly backward move. The advanced men in the United States in agriculture have continually drawn upon the Canadian Agricultural College graduate, and the Yankees do not make such appointments from sentiment. In the eighties and nineties many of the flower of our Canadian youth went to the United States to get recognition of their abilities, and to appoint other than an agricultural college man, would look as if it, the department of agriculture, wished to divert the tide into the channels of twenty years ago.

A Suggestion to Agricultural Societies.

Too many societies would wait for the parent department of agriculture to show them the way along which to go, and while in a measure, such direction may be good, it behooves each society to initiate work likely to be of general interest and benefit, bearing also in mind the special conditions, such as environment, climate, soil, etc., which are likely to affect that work. A capital suggestion, which might well be acted upon by societies in the province, is that made by Seed Commissioner Clark, who states his idea as follows: "Of the funds used by agricultural societies perhaps less than seven per cent. on an average is given to encourage grain growing. Even with this small proportion of funds so expended the amounts awarded in prizes for exhibits of grain are very often greater than the value of the exhibits and it would not be expedient to increase them. An alternative is proposed

by my department, it is that substantial prizes be offered for fields of growing grain to be judged directly before harvest and from the standpoint of utility for seed purposes. For the first year it may be well to restrict the prizes to fields of wheat of ten or fifteen acres. In judging consideration should be given to purity of variety, freedom from weeds and smut and to vigor and uniformity of crop. It is believed that a plan satisfactory to all concerned can be worked out in a way to overcome such difficulties as may present themselves in connection with such an undertaking on the part of agricultural societies. Speaking for the seed branch of the Dominion, we will be pleased to co-operate with the provincial departments of agriculture and with the agricultural societies in an endeavor to carry the plan to effect. The cost of having the judging done would possibly be a stumbling block. It is estimated that this would amount to about \$40 for each agricultural society. But if the agricultural societies will make their prizes sufficiently liberal to ensure fair competition—if they will offer say \$100 in prizes for fields of wheat, the seed branch will be pleased to provide a competent man and bear the expense of having the judging done."

The offer made is one which the societies cannot afford to disregard.

After the Seed Fairs.

The aftermath of the seed fairs is showing the value of these new features in the scheme of agricultural education. From Edmonton comes the report that one farmer has shipped sixty thousand pounds of seed wheat and oats to Ritscoty, a new town on the C. N. R. line. Seedsmen report the demand for pure seed as greatly in excess of previous years and yet the work is only begun. It behooves all those who are in earnest in the matter of pure seed to move early as there is not enough of the best to satisfy everybody and the dilatory farmer is sure to find this out to his sorrow later on.

Insurance Against Hail.

The question as to how insurance against hail should be conducted bobs up perennially, and it must be acknowledged with little new about it. In Manitoba insurance is supplied by joint stock companies and mutual associations, in the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta the government undertook the work. This paper has always been against government hail insurance and as time goes on and the results of the government experiment are scanned our attitude is shown to be the correct one. The result of the experiment in the Territories is a cash deficit, which shows that the charge made for the insurance was too small, the running expenses, as far as can be seen, were the minimum. It therefore seems to us that the time has arrived for the Legislatures of the new provinces to amend their laws so as to permit either joint stock or mutual companies operating in the provinces. The principle of the government doing everything for the citizen is distinctly bad in as much as it tends to destroy the incentive to individuals to initiate or plan new enterprises. While there may be complaints made about some hail insurance companies, judged by the discussion at the grain growers' recent convention at Brandon, yet in the main, the operations of these companies have been satisfactory and successful. No person has suffered in Manitoba within recent years, as far as we have heard from company hail insurance or for lack of government hail insurance; any that have had to pay heavier than usual have done so owing to lack of business foresight in the discrimination shown in taking risks. As a government could not discriminate the deficits would be continuous, and to encourage a farmer to attempt grain growing in a district which may get hailed four years out of five is not good. It will soon be time for the new policies to be issued and we

hope to see the restrictions at present in force in the new provinces removed, so that a man wishing hail insurance may select his own way of obtaining it!

No Need to Hustle for Southern or Central Europeans!

A few day ago a press despatch contained the news that W. T. R. Preston of the High Commissioner's office, London, Eng., had been over to Hungary; and after descanting on the merits of the wheat grown there advocated pushing emigration work amongst them, a policy which is neither needed nor advisable. At the present time, the flow of immigrants into Canada is such, both from Great Britain and the United States as to render a government propoganda in other parts of Europe entirely unnecessary. Unfortunately the foreigners of alien tongues settle in colonies, and later on, become a menace to good government. As soon as they learn the customs and ways of Canada, these alien colonies elect their own men to legislatures and can play both parties for support, and as these people have not the instincts of good government, having been raised and bred for years, under autocratic regimes, they are likely to barter their allegiance for some tangible recompense in the form of either financial, educational or religious advantage, to the detriment of the country by being provocative of continual strife. If the stream of English speaking people to Canada keeps up, as it bears every evidence of doing, the government can well afford to redirect the energies of some of their officials, so that such will flow in channels more profitable, both now and ultimately, to Canada and her people!

Provincial Dept. of Agriculture to Furnish Live Stock Judges.

The Manitoba Department of Agriculture last year adopted the system of supplying live stock judges to fairs wishing such; the idea has been tried for several years and found successful in the N. W. T. so that the Manitoba essay may be considered as beyond the experimental stage.

The Telegram says: "The department has arranged to supply one judge for cattle, sheep and hogs, and another for horses, to all societies that will allow the department to set the date of their show within a limit of ten days to be set by the society; pay hotel expenses of the judges during the time they are under the direction of the society; allow a deduction from the annual appropriation of five dollars per day for each judge for the days actually engaged in judging.

All other, such as expenses and transportation of the judges, will be paid by the department.

On March 21 1,000 people left St. Paul, Minn., for the Canadian West.

Elford recommends trap nests. Fancy conspiring to take advantage of unsuspecting biddy! If it were that old cuss of a turkey hen, that will lay away, we might consent to be a party to the scheme; by all means get a trap nest.

The provisions of the present Dominion Lands Act are inadequate to the requirements of the case. That act was first drawn a long time ago and has at intervals been tinkered with to meet as well as possible the changing conditions of the time. Since it was first passed it has been amended a dozen times and to-day it is more in need of amendment than perhaps ever before. The country has been growing by rapid strides and the baby clothes and hobbledehoy garniture of its public lands regulations must once more be put in the tailor's hands, perhaps for the last time, for at the present rate of the country's expansion it is likely that in a short time the free grant system will have to give place to a Dominion Lands Purchase Act, planned to assist and encourage the bona fide settler.—Free Press.