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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.*

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Editorial.

The Bucket-shop and the Farmer.

One of the parasites of the civilized community of to-day is the bucket-shop, which may be defined as an office where people may gamble in fractional lots of stocks, grain, or other things which are bought and sold on the exchanges. The bucket-shop uses the terms and outward forms of the exchanges, but differs from the exchanges in that there is no delivery, and no expectation or intention to deliver, or receives securities or commodities said to be sold or purchased. We regret to see that several such institutions are opening up to do business in many of our smaller towns, and incidentally taking a heavy toll, for which nothing is rendered in return, unless it may be "experience." We would warn farmers against these institutions or having any dealings with such, as it is only another method of playing with the fire by which one is bound to get scorched sooner or later.

The farmer having wheat to sell will do well to avoid in his local town any wheat buyers or commission men whom he knows frequent the bucket-shops or try "bucking the tiger." Such frequenters are almost invariably unsatisfactory to do business with, are slow in rendering returns on cars of wheat given them to sell on commission, and in many cases prove defaulters. That such defaulters can be prosecuted is no satisfaction to the man whose wheat they have gambled away, and we would strongly urge our readers who may at any time have wheat to sell, or a commodity to exchange for cash, to fight shy of the bucket-shop and the bucket-shop frequenter; if one has dealings with either he is bound to get fleeced at some time or other. There are plenty of legitimate avenues by which wheat may be sold, or one's money invested, without practically throwing it away on these jackals and wolves of the community.

Do not play with the "private wire;" it is nearly as dangerous as a trolley wire. From it you can get a financial shock that will paralyze you for keeps!

Where is the Treasury Watch-dog?

Quite recently, two bodies of men, interested more or less in agriculture, namely, the Canadian Seed-growers and the Canadian (!) (Ontario) Seed-growers and the Canadian (?) (Ontario) the difference in the views each hold as to the use of funds obtained from the public treasury, or the sacredness of the public chest. At the seed-growers' meeting Prof. Robertson stated that it was not a sound principle to use moneys obtained from the public treasury in a way at all calculated to interfere with private business interests, with which the "Farmer's Advocate" entirely concurs. It is encouraging to note that a man of Prof. Robertson's calibre takes this stand, which is radically opposed to free-seed distribution, so tenaciously held onto by the experimental farm head. Agriculture is not likely to be benefited permanently by illegitimate uses of public moneys, under which category free-seed distribution must be classed.

Unfortunately, the Ontario Horse-breeders were not so happy in their request of the Minister for a pension to Henry Wade of \$2,500 per annum for life, the plea being that the said sum had been promised by the Live-stock Commissioner, and the department would like the Minister to implement the promise said to have been made by his subordinate.

It is certainly unfortunate that the attitude of the Minister has been complaisant enough to

invite such outrageous requests, and is pretty good evidence that his grip of the reins of his department is not so virile as it might be. If the principle obtains that an official of a department may promise a pension, what happy times there will be! If a money settlement is due Mr. Wade on the nationalizing of the records, which we do not believe is the case, the Ontario Department of Agriculture is the party liable, not the Dominion. The record business has not been brought to the conclusion that had been hoped for. At this date (July 12) there is yet wanting the passage of an Act by which the Dominion Department of Agriculture can affix its seal to pedigree certificates, and the session is now well on towards the close.

An Experimental Farm for Alberta.

Since the start of the "Farmer's Advocate" campaign for an experimental farm in Alberta, the necessity for such an institution has become more and more apparent. Our Dominion Parliament, filled with such big schemes as the granting of autonomy, the building of transcontinental railways, and the deepening of existing waterways, has been blind to the pressing need for such work in this Province of the sun-kissed West. In reply to the demand for experimental work they tell us to turn to Indian Head or Brandon, to Agassiz or Nappan. True, we admit that these places are not without their lessons to the Alberta farmer, but it will be noticed that the distribution of these farms has been decided, not by geographical, but by climatic boundaries, and it is because of the great difference between the climate of Alberta and that of the other districts in which are situated Government farms that Alberta lays her claim for consideration. Nappan farm is all right for the Maritime Provinces; Ottawa is suitable for Ontario and Quebec; Indian Head and Brandon are adapted to the respective districts in which they are situated; Agassiz supplies the needs of the lower country (the coast district) of British Columbia; but in this list where does Alberta come in?

There are certainly greater climatic differences between the Indian Head district and Alberta than between Brandon and Indian Head; in fact, the results at Ottawa might as well be taken for a guide to the West as those of the Indian Head or Brandon farms as an aid to the Alberta farmer. Alberta is a land of fall wheat and sugar beets, yet this has only been demonstrated during the past few years. Who knows what a well-managed experimental farm might show forth in the hitherto unknown possibilities of the Province?

The claim has sometimes been made that this is the work of the New Province, and that it lies not within the scope of the Dominion Department of Agriculture; but it is well to remember that the unoccupied lands of Alberta are the property of the Dominion, and it seems only reasonable to suppose that upon the Dominion should devolve the task of demonstrating the agricultural possibilities of these lands. So great has become the need of experimental station work that private enterprise is beginning to move in this direction; but private efforts, though highly commendable, must be influenced by considerations of private profit, and the best service will be rendered by a well-equipped Government institution. Let our Dominion Department of Agriculture wake up! Let it realize the duty that lies before it in the coming development of the new Provinces. Let us have an experimental farm, and that immediately; and Alberta farmers will learn lessons of untold value, and the Dominion reap the harvest from increased development of our great agricultural resources.

Grades Now and Last Fall.

Wheat-growers are constantly asking themselves the question—and looking for light upon the same—why it is that inspection reports this spring show so many cars grading No. 2 and No. 3 northern, while last fall the bulk of the wheat inspected was pronounced below these grades? At a first glance there is a suggestion of sharp practice in the inspector's report; the producer is liable to say that, since the dealers have got possession of the larger proportion of the crop, they have been able to secure better grading, or, that when many of the farmers were shipping direct, the grading was made as low as possible. There are, however, other things which better account for the larger percentage of higher grades this spring than last fall than any possible lax inspection. Last fall the price for wheat was considered high, and as there was considerable damaged wheat in the country, an effort was made to market it when prices were good; besides, there is always a better demand for feed grades in fall and winter than in summer, hence a large number of cars inspected graded below No. 3 northern. Prospects continued good in the wheat market, so much of the better grades were held for the dollar mark. After seeding, the holders very wisely began to sell, a fact which accounts very largely for the better grading this summer than last fall. The warehouse commissioner, whose position makes him the watch-dog of the farmer's interests, scouts the idea that there can be any possibility of the grading not being absolutely just, as the inspectors have before them constantly the standards for grading each year's crop. On the other hand, instances have been credited where the inspector has varied in his grading of a car, but on the whole, considering human frailties, our grading system must be considered fairly satisfactory.

Milling Values of the Different Grades of Wheat.

Our readers will remember Bulletin No. 14, issued in 1904 by the Territorial Department of Agriculture, with reference to the comparative values of the different grades of wheat. Just to hand is Bulletin No. 50, from the Dominion Experimental Farm, giving the results of similar milling and chemical tests, which had been undertaken in response to the request of the Manitoba Grain-growers' Association, by Experimentalist Chas. E. Saunders, Ph. D., and Chemist Frank E. Shutt, M. A.

The bulletin is a valuable one, and should be carefully studied by the farmers. A table is included, showing the per cent. yield of flour, shorts and bran from the various grades, which shows, to use the words of the bulletin, that "The amounts of straight flour and of total flour decrease as we pass from the higher to the lower grades; while the amounts of low-grade flour and of shorts and bran increase. These changes are fairly regular, though the differences between any two grades become much greater as the lowest grade is approached."

Another table shows the actual yield of flour, shorts and bran from 100 pounds of uncleaned wheat, which bears out the above quotation, and also seems to support the contention of the farmers that the local millers take too heavy a toll. Another quotation is worthy of note: "It is clear, therefore, that we must always expect the market price of the highest grades to be HIGHER and the market price of the lowest grades to be LOWER than the value of the mill products obtained from each would suggest."

Most farmers will agree that the word "must" would be better changed to "may," in the first