

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

May 2, 1906.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Vol. XLI. No. 710.

### EDITORIAL

The concrete (cement) floor is easily cleaned.

\* \* \*

The late hatched chicken provokes pity in the fall.

\* \* \*

Circuit judges are good missionaries for the single judge idea.

\* \* \*

The forthcoming sales of pure bred cattle are the beginner's opportunity.

\* \* \*

Swamp fever covers a multitude of mistakes in the feeding, nursing or doctoring of horses.

\* \* \*

The cream separator and the rape plant are the friends of the young pigs that are to be stretched out to make baconers.

\* \* \*

"To dope" means to drug a person, unknown to that person, and the term is as nasty and abhorrent as the practice.

\* \* \*

The two weeks summer school course in dairying at the M. A. C. should be popular with the farmers' wives and daughters.

\* \* \*

There is very little difference between the fellow who thaws out dynamite, and he who knowingly keeps a glandered horse.

\* \* \*

Ontario Shorthorn breeders promise to do themselves proud at the National in September and their brethren in western Canada can be trusted to make a great show at Winnipeg.

\* \* \*

Stay with the color in wheat standards; it has yet to be proven that red wheats are not stronger in gluten than white wheats. Weight per bushel and color are pretty fair criteria to go by, in judging wheats.

\* \* \*

A department is unfortunate when its head can be aptly described by that epigram of Bismarck's viz., "A lath painted to look like iron." Appointments will not be made by such a minister, he will only confirm them.

\* \* \*

Corn fodder for your milch cows next winter must be planted soon if a good crop is to be secured. Good varieties to plant are North Western Dent, North Dakota Flint, Mercer Triumph, Longfellow and Comptom's Early.

\* \* \*

"A deputation from the Ontario Association of Master Bakers asked the Minister of Agriculture to establish a milling and bread-making plant at the O. A. C., the purpose being to discover by tests the best sort of wheat for flour." Certainly, why not?

#### Agricultural Colleges for Alberta and Saskatchewan.

A very encouraging sign in the childhood of the new provinces, is the desire evinced by those young giants to learn things about agriculture, according to the latest and most scientific methods. This ambition has been demonstrated by the requests made to the new provincial governments at Regina and Edmonton for provincial agricultural colleges.

It is hoped that the expressed desire will not rush the governments mentioned into investment in land and buildings without careful consideration of the whole matter. In Saskatchewan we have expressed the opinion that the

college should be at Indian Head because the Dominion Experimental Farm is there, which is pretty plain evidence that the matter has not yet been carefully enough studied, and that the real work to be done by a provincial agricultural college is not well understood. A similar idea existed in Manitoba but, fortunately, was not heeded in the location of the college; although that institution is in some measure handicapped for lack of land.

Experimental work needs to be carried on at the agricultural colleges to keep the professors in tune, and for that purpose, sufficient land (320 acres up to a section) is absolutely necessary. The folly of locating the college adjacent to an already established experimental farm will be more fully shown when it is realized how large the provinces are, how varying the conditions of soil and climate, and how provocative of dangerous rivalry and plagiarism of experiments such neighboring institutions might result in.

There is no immediate or pressing need for an agricultural college in either Saskatchewan or Alberta. Agriculture is new and the land has all its virgin strength, and we believe that the needs of those provinces for say five years to come can be abundantly served by careful scrutiny of the work at the Dominion Farms and by sending out well trained lecturers and demonstrators from time to time.

In fact the agricultural department will do better to push the travelling dairy, the fat stock show and other things of that nature to successful conclusions. Again in the present stage of railroad development it would be premature to locate an educational institution at this time, such, while not necessary to locate at a capital or big railroad center should be convenient of access. We believe that it would be a wise move for the governments of each province to provide a sinking fund now, and put aside a good sum yearly so that when the time comes to build, a patchwork aggregation of buildings will not result. In a country of such magnificent distances and large areas of fine agricultural land it passes belief how any government could be fatuous enough, to pin an agricultural college to a farm of less than one hundred and sixty acres and this paper sincerely trusts that the governments of the new provinces will take plenty of time in the matter of selection of the locations for their agricultural colleges, and that the mistakes of other provinces will be avoided.

#### An Economic Anomaly.

It is an anomalous situation which many people cannot understand that in these days, when transportation has reached such a high standard of perfection, men and women should go begging for work in one part of the empire while large fertile fields in other parts lie idle for want of labor to put in a crop. Such is the relative positions of some English cities and Canadian farms. There is a living on the farms for the starving thousands of the unemployed, but they lack the skill necessary to warrant the farmer paying them living wages or even in many cases a sheer living. Assuming that the wage paid a good man is thirty dollars a month, then it must be assumed that by steady intelligent work and careful handling of the horses he earns something more than thirty dollars, else the farmer cannot afford to keep him and this is usually the case. But what of the large class of city raised Britishers, who cannot adapt themselves quickly to changed conditions. They can only do the simplest of work, they cannot be given a job of trust and when a farmer comes to figure up the damage done through the man's ignorance of methods, he is liable to find himself out more than the man's work is worth over his wages. So it is that this year a considerable proportion of the land in the older districts will not be seeded. In most cases the situation is not causing much

worry. There are lots of farmers, who will not feel the shorter revenue from the lesser crop and are satisfied to leave a good large acreage fallow, that it may have the better preparation for the following crop. There is, also, the further advantage that a liberal fallowing will do in the way of killing weeds. The situation is taken philosophically. Farmers are thankful that they can afford to do without some help, and realize that their land will be the better for the more liberal fallowing. The real losers are those who are so unfortunate as to be unable to qualify for farm work. It is one of the many problems Britain will have to solve, namely, to train certain portions of her population to earn their livings, just as she trains thousands of her sons to fight.

#### Why Not Farmstead Competitions?

One of the things that strike the new comer from old Ontario and Great Britain is the bleak, bare and uninviting appearance of the majority of farmsteadings in this Western country. Some farmers have built fine houses and barns, which stand up as piles of so much lumber, mortar, brick or cement, bold and unblushing, prominent as the gilded trace chain across the protruding abdomen of a saloon keeper, or the flaring colored hat of some jezebel of the town; while others, poor mean shacks, stand upon the plain like a specimen of wrecked humanity. Such unloveliness is entirely unnecessary, unprofitable and disagreeable, and jars on natures at all sensitive to Nature's beauties. Others again have made attempts at tree planting, and have carefully put the trees down in serried ranks, like so many soldiers. The effect of such an arrangement is not pleasing, although even this aggregation of green leaves and boughs are an improvement over the deadly dreariness of the bare plain and should be an invitation to birds to nest and build their homes and raise songsters.

It appears to us that the agricultural societies, or even the larger shows might do something to draw attention to this important phase of home building by offering prizes for competitions for best arranged steadings. Such competitions might be decided from photos and plans in India ink of the competitor's actual farmstead; the photos to be at least four by five (cameras are plentiful nowadays), views to be taken from three different directions. A score card could be easily drawn up by which points would be allowed for shrubs, evergreens, deciduous trees, fruit bushes, walks and lawns, arrangement of buildings, as to convenience and attractiveness; all these being marked on the plan which should accompany the photos. The plan need not necessarily be drawn to a scale, but the area used for the steading should be mentioned; a thirty or forty rod square steading being ample for a quarter section. The internal arrangement of stables or barns must always approximate some set plan, but one's lawn and trees and garden of small fruits, and the shrubs and ingle nooks may be put here and there, not as if dropped carelessly, but making the most of every variation, whether hollow or hill, on the face of Nature. Children love green grass and shady nooks, and the influence on their plastic young natures, of a well treed farmstead will abide while life lasts. The home with the shade and fruit trees, where it is a pleasure to invite one's child friends, is the home which every child is loth to leave, and always has kindly and loving remembrances of, and its influence will be seen when that child matures. The struggle for existence is not now so keen in the older settled portions of the prairie, but what people can live and enjoy life and try to make it more beautiful and joyous for others.

Trees, fruit bushes, gardens and corn will not be things of beauty and a joy for ever, unless the cultivator is kept moving amongst them.