

larger. Poultry raising and egg production are lines of farming that should receive more attention at the hands of Western farmers. The market is sufficient, feed as cheap as anywhere on the continent, and prices in comparison than any point in the Dominion. What's the matter with the poultry business anyway?

MY OPINION ON SOME MATTERS NUMBER 20

WHY SHOULD HARSH TREATMENT BE HANDED OUT TO FOREIGNERS?

As a man who considers that fair treatment should be tendered to all humans, no matter what their parentage or their birthplace, provided only that they do not act too unseemly, I regret the severity of some in authority when dealing with foreigners. All, of course, must admit that in Canada with her various peoples from all corners of the earth a few will have crept in from foreign shores who are altogether undesirable. But there are also many Britishers, or even those who are home-born, who are just as undesirable from the standpoint of general behavior. When it comes to judicial punishment I maintain that the same treatment should be handed out when a culprit is known to be guilty of an offence.

I sometimes read the reports of proceedings in the police courts in cities of the great West. Among cases that came to my notice I recall one in which a Chinaman was fined \$4.00 and costs for using profane language. The evidence indicated he had used four oaths—one dollar per oath and the costs tacked on. Perhaps this punishment is reasonable. I think it is. However, is this treatment of a Chinaman, who lost his temper perhaps, going to make the inhabitants of a city refrain from the use of profane language? Further, could not the magistrate who officiated go down street any hour in the day and get direct evidence sufficient, to convict several of his personal acquaintances who stand high in social and business circles? Why fine the one and allow the other to go unnoticed? If the Chinaman should be fined, so should the Canadian, the Britisher and all the other fellows who go about using profane language, when common terms would do as well and sound much better.

Another case I remember constituted a fine of \$40.00 and costs against a man with a rather foreign name who lost his temper and abused a horse that he did not own. The abuse evidently was quite clear to the eye of an ordinary man. No doubt he deserved the severe treatment. But would the same magistrate have dared to make the fine so big had the man been a Canadian? Go back further. Would the offender

ever have appeared before the magistrate had he been a Canadian or an Englishman of any standing in the community? Again I say such punishment is all right, but it should be handed out to all citizens alike.

There is nothing more objectionable than to see a brainless teamster abusing a pair of dumb brutes that know more than he does. No refined man of intelligence cares to listen to profanity. If fines can put a stop to either or both our authorities should haul all offenders before the magistrates and see that they get the same punishment that these foreigners had to submit to.

In rural parts of the West also there is a tendency to impose upon that class referred to in a general way as foreigners. I have known men who seemed to think such humans, when engaged as hired men, were intended only for slavish and disagreeable jobs, and that civil treatment should not be expected. In some cases at least the hired help had considerably more common sense than the man who happened to be in position to style himself boss. I have had experience with hired men of all kinds, including foreigners, and am satisfied that most of them are about as good as their bosses allow them to be. Kind treatment has an influence for good in every man. If he is treated kindly and as an individual of some intelligence he will respond. For every man who does not respond there are a hundred who do.

Human nature is a big study. Even magistrates in a thoughtless moment make mistakes. However, we all should endeavor to be considerate.

"AIRCHIE MCCLURE."

[Hydro-Electric Power for Farmers

The proposal to supply a number of towns throughout Manitoba with electric power and light from a common source is, if warily gone about, worthy of serious consideration. If rates are reasonable consumers will not probably trouble themselves about the ethics of the project, but it might be well to take a look forward, while there is yet time.

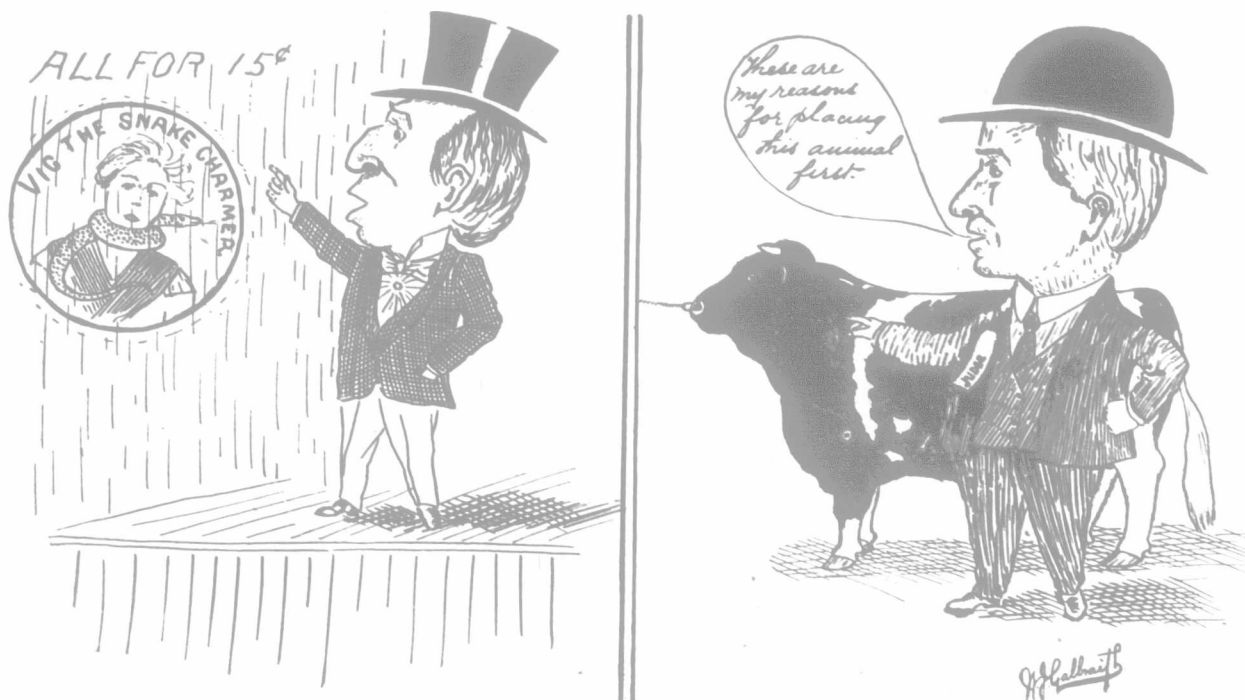
The farmer of to-day is so much accustomed to the use of labor-saving devices of all kinds, and makes such good use of them, that he must often wish for some of the excellent electric motors he sees in cities driving all descriptions of machinery. And why should not he be able to have such power at his command, in due time? The transmission of electric power from far distant generating plants has become an every-day affair, so that, if we have a power cable within reasonable distance, we may set our machinery in motion by simply turning a switch, and the inconvenience and expense of steam-raising, or even the transportation and handling of the handy, if perhaps somewhat dangerous, gasoline be avoided. Farmers in Manitoba and elsewhere are realizing the enormous benefits of the telephone, whatever they may think of the

tolls which they have to pay; and now they are looking forward to the still greater services of the telephone's big brother to brighten their homes and to ease the labors of their wives, their workmen and their beasts of burden.

To ensure that an electric service will benefit the consumer as it should it is advisable that we should start right and consider the means to be employed and the methods of using them. Canada is so abundantly blessed with water-power, mostly running to waste, that we are apt to regard their gradual absorption by individuals and corporations with indifference. But, ever since such valuable properties have been the objects of these speculators some of them have been handled in undesirable ways. The suggestion that the government of Manitoba should take a hand in this important undertaking is both timely and wise. Even if the government should not be able to handle the project directly, it can see to it that the interests of the province are safeguarded against any unfair dealing on the part of the promoters. It is clearly enough the duty of any government to protect the public interests, and no government can fairly sell or alienate natural forces, either actual or potential, which may have enormous prospective values. No water-power or water right should be sold or put wholly into the hands of any individual or corporation. Should any reputable company desire to develop power from any such source the privilege should be given to them on fair and reasonable, nay, even on nominal terms, but only on lease, and on unmistakable conditions as to serving the public, always leaving ample margin for fair profits to the operators, whose rights must also be protected. It seems almost absurd that this aspect of the question should require to be discussed at all, considering the warnings we have received in the Dominion, and still more in the United States. Nevertheless the danger is a very real one, and, unless the people interested (which means practically everyone) speak very plainly, the old game of grab will surely be played at their expense. There is plenty of money in the hydro-electric power business without any crooked work, and if the public desire power and light service they will get it on making it distinctly clear that they are not going to be taxed for more than they receive. The prospective consumers have the matter in their own hands, but they cannot expect to get what they desire without taking action.

The example of the Ontario government, who purchase power from the Ontario Power Company and are supplying a territory of about 300 miles in length by about 60 miles wide, at rates from \$12.00 per horse-power per annum upwards, according to distance from point of generation, is well worth our attention at this time as showing that, even without owning the generating plant, power may be provided at reasonable rates. The selling price of power and light to Manitoba consumers will, of course, depend on the cost of the works, plant and outfit, and the distance from the source, but the above information, culled from a recent issue of World's Work, should be of some service to those interested in the scheme now before the province, or any similar project.

The progress of such a comparatively new business as the transmission of power and light is so rapid that we may confidently anticipate great improvements, and the farmer may before long obtain his power, light and telephone service all from the same wire. We are told, indeed, that we shall soon be able to dispense with wires even! But, meantime, the farmer will be well content to obtain the services of such a trusty servant on existing lines, if it will serve his purpose at fairly reasonable rates. When the contrivances for storing and distributing power are sufficiently improved the farmer will be able to charge his motor batteries for the day's plowing, harrowing, reaping, threshing or travelling by simply connecting with his farm installation, or by hitching on to the nearest automatic supply station on the transmission line, and dropping a quarter into the slot! Mr. Edison claims that his storage battery is already so perfect that it is being extensively used for trac-



THE SEASON'S SHOWS ARE AGAIN AT AN END
Which of these Features should be Encouraged at Agricultural Exhibitions?