

Farmer's Advocate

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EDITORIAL

The man who insists on a hot dinner every day is misnamed.

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The emmer and speltz fads have about run their respective courses.

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Now why not greater attempts to bring out the Eastern girls at harvest time to help the farmers' wives?

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The Aberdeen-Angus men are strictly in it, when the time comes for the knife and fork brigade to get to work.

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Nothing tends so to foster vegetarianism as a daily attempt to masticate beef from a poorly-fed, ill-bred cow or steer.

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Now doth the farmer debate in his own mind whether to hand over his farm to the newly-arrived harvest hand or leave the crop uncut.

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Time stolen from a football match or picnic to prepare the land for and plant some raspberry canes, currant and gooseberry bushes will return a hundred times more pleasure than the game.

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Smutty wheat is one of the things that will again perplex the farmers this fall. Immersed wheat seems to be free, that rushed through a pickler is often found to be diseased.

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It would not come amiss if each of the several Departments of Agriculture in Saskatchewan and Alberta and Manitoba sent down an active woman just before harvest to drum up a train load or two of girls.

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Let the wife and mother of the house take a breathing spell at noon, as soon as the men get away to work after dinner. An hour's nap, or a couple of hours in a shady nook or in a hammock under a tree, or on a well shaded verandah will do considerable towards the preservation of good health, good looks and good temper.

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Mr Walter Long of the British House of Commons is wasting his talents at Westminster, he really ought to be at Chicago, and there hand out expert crop reports. If his statements regarding other things mundane are made as freely and as recklessly as those regarding the health of Canadian cattle, he might be dubbed —the modern Munchausen!

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The settlers in the newer districts will find it advantageous to make barley one of their staple crops. Barley, if sown and cut at the right times, is an aid in holding weeds in check, besides being a better crop to follow with wheat, than oats are. Swine raising and marketing will be practically unknown in the newer districts unless barley is made a staple crop.

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The sensible married woman will have her husband and children trained to enjoy cold dinners during the hottest weather. No good reason exists why a woman should stew over a stove every day in the week in hot weather to tickle the palates of her menfolk with hot meals. Let them have cold meats and plenty of green stuff, cut out the pies and other pastry creations and let simple milk puddings take their place.

Controlled Markets.

The prospect of securing control of the world's wheat markets must seem a rather large undertaking even to the American Society of Equity when they fully realize the magnitude of the task. Nearly 98,000,000 hundred weight of wheat was imported into Britain last year. Of this Canada and the United States supplied a little over 13,000,000. The great bulk came from countries of a semi-heathen character where no bond of union could ever bind together the tillers of the soil.

The hope for improvement in prices must be built on a solid, economic basis. There is good work to be done in the way of extending our markets and improving transportation, but the farmers' trust with power to set the price of the world's bread and is not yet in sight.

A Forecast on Oats.

With an increased acreage and the prospect of an increased yield, with present prices hanging heavy at twenty cents a bushel it needs no prophet to forecast low prices for the Alberta oat crop this year. The B. C. market which has hitherto been our selling ground seems overloaded. Large quantities are in the hands of farmers and the prospect for the coming crop, as far as yield is concerned, seems all that could be desired.

Meanwhile the price of dairy produce keeps up. The Provincial Creameries find a ready market for their product. Quality coupled with uniformity in the butter marketed is leading to "repeat" orders. The demand improves as consumption stimulated by excellence increases. Overstocking seems a question of the remote future, and this leads us to the one conclusion that in dairying, hog raising and poultry rests the certainty of success and permanent prosperity.

Last winter's work showed growing interest in dairying; this year will witness still greater development.

With hay an abundant crop and the raw materials for production cheap there is no reason why winter dairying should not absorb the bulk of the oat crop of the Western provinces. At the same time will come a natural development of bacon production. The two industries are partners and cannot be divorced, and poultry raising is every day gaining a stronger and stronger hold upon the people.

In this process of agricultural development lies the remedy for low grain prices. The far sighted, intellectual farmer is steadily working towards this goal. Mixed farming is the ideal for the Western farmer. It is on this that enduring national prosperity will be built.

The Lumber Trade and Rising Prices.

If ever the absurdity of the lumbermen's contention a short time ago for a duty on American lumber was made manifest, it is the present summer with the steady increase in the cost of lumber to the farmer.

There are always excuses given for such increases but while labor may be higher now than two years ago the increase in the men's wages is not at all commensurate with the higher prices now being paid by (extorted from) western farmers and townsmen. The demand outside of Canada is frequently cited as a valid reason for the skyrocket action of lumber prices. Bearing in mind the good demand in Canada and the rapid depletion of our available sources of timber we believe an export duty might with benefit to the country as a whole be imposed. To do so would not be a violation of the best and most workable economic theories, but would be common sense, for, to use a very old illustration, under the present system, Canada is permitting herself to be despoiled by the Egyptians. The Manu-

facturers' Association has continually cried "Canada for Canadians" which some people have been unkind enough to say meant "for a few Canadians," but however that may be, the C. M. A. could well afford to support a measure likely to be of benefit to all. The contention for an export duty on wheat is not on as sound a basis for two reasons, first, the total Canadian output of wheat could not be consumed at home, and secondly, there is practically speaking, no likelihood of the supply being exhausted; whereas the Canadian wheat output is increasing annually the lumber output is bound to decrease before long owing to the depletion of the forests. It will therefore be apparent that the call for an export duty on lumber is sound and likely to be of benefit, whereas that for an export duty on wheat is not common sense and would be detrimental to the country at large. The present prices and the recent increases are such as to lend color to the grave suspicions that a combine is in force among the lumbermen to the restraint of trade and the injury of the people. We believe that a Commission should be appointed by the Dominion government with power to take evidence under oath and that if a combine is found to be in existence, that such should be proceeded against legally and maximum penalties imposed. Parliament is to meet this fall and it would be well if individual farmers, and such organizations as the various farmers' associations were to get busy and stir up their several representatives; prod them into some action. Unfortunately far too many M.P.'s are mere puppets of party, or care only for the loaves and fishes. No matter what party you belong to or what party your representative at Ottawa may have allied himself to, it may be with either party, or with the combines; in any event you may be sure that he will not, unless an exceptional man, move to look after your real interests, although ostensibly putting in time doing so. Laziness and similar vices are as common in the House as out of it, so remember the parable of the importunate widow and "keep at 'em"

[Stock] Taking After Fairs.

The stock taking of fair boards is likely to result in the conclusion that there are too many fairs. The more successful will think so because if it were not for the others their success would be more pronounced, and another class will think there are too many fairs for reasons of which every fair board is well aware. The casual observer thinks there are too many fairs because he sees the effort it is to maintain some and the lack of justification for many. The struggle for existence with the ultimate survival of the fittest might soon settle the fate of many fairs, if it were not for the outside assistance of the government grant. Doubtless the governments realize this but the policy of affording assistance to agricultural societies is somehow mysteriously interwoven with provincial politics, and this brings us to the point of these remarks. We believe the money and effort expended in holding many of the one day local fairs with attractions and distractions to draw the public could be put to better use, and we do not think that directors of a fair should consider their efforts a failure if they assumed the responsibility of closing the fair and devoted their attention and the government grant to other forms of agricultural educational effort. We are convinced that in the few years in which stock judging classes have been held more solid knowledge of animal form and function has been acquired by the public than the average man gains by attending all the fairs from the time he takes his first ride on the merry-go-round until he places his first young hopeful in the same saddle. We also believe that this sort of work has stimulated the stock business,