THE
Flesherton Advance

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W. H. Thurston - Editor

TRUTH BEFORE FAVOR- PRINCIPLES, NOT MEN

WESTERN REAL ESTATE

It is about time that the press of the East uttered a warning to those who are in a position and exhibit a desire to flirt with western real estate. There are hundreds of propositions on the market to-day that are not worthy even of the time spent by astute buyers looking into them; there are others that are quite worthy of recognition and investigation. The difficulty is that few who buy or desire to buy are in a position to know what they are getting, and as a result the land shark has a green field to work upon that makes large returns for the energy he expends upon it. These fraudulent speculations are almost invariably put out in the nature of sub-divisions. The shark will go a few miles out into the country and purchase a tract of virgin prairie, cut it up into building lots and put it on the market at from $100 to $300—corner lots $25 extra—and then look to the East for his income. And he generally gets it. In some cases the lots may become useful twenty-five years from now, in others the value will not be added to in fifty years. Some of the men who have been caught in the act of palming off punky propositions on widows, imbeciles and crazy speculators have been run out of the country, but judging by the activity shown in many quarters there would be a considerable decrease in population if all the brother rogues were obliged to follow suit.

As we have said, however, there are propositions in the West worthy of investigation, and it would be folly to condemn all for the sake of the frauds. The only safe rule to follow is this: Know what you are buying, and buy nothing in which there is not a reasonable prospect of early advancement in price. Do not listen to the syren voice of the strange charmer, who can charm only too well. If you cannot secure proof positive that his golden tale is not merely washed, take a tight grip on your pocket book and say No! In any event buy nothing that lies outside any town limits if you want early returns, unless it be for farming purposes.

In this age of speculative ferment it is only the cool-headed one who will come through without financial loss unless helped through by his friends. There is not much in it in the West for the small speculator—in fact he stands as good a chance to lose as to gain. There are better opportunities for him right here in Ontario. It is the big fellow with thousands at his disposal, who is in touch with the pulse of western development, jumps in and buys everything in sight, then holds up the legitimate settler, who makes the money in the West.

Before getting excited over money-making possibilities in the West, remember that in whatever line of speculation men may be engaged, it is only the successful ones who are heard from. The poor sucker who loses his all, or loses at all, hides his failure in shame and we never hear his wail.

EPIC OF THE WHEAT

Rev. R. O. Armstrong, M.A., B.D., writes in the Christian Guardian, an intensely interesting article which we believe every farmer, in fact everybody, should read for the lessons it teaches. We feel that we cannot do better than to devote editorial space this week to a reproduction of the article, which reads as follows:

In our acadamic days we were wont to hear the tale of Aeneas from the writings of Virgil, "Arms and the man I sing." His was a song of war and bloodshed. Such were the times. But in the course of the ages a peace song was sung, and a great Teacher changed the ideals by which men were were measured by affirming, "Blessed are the peacemakers." Then came those whose tale began, "tools and the man I sing." A new generation has arisen, and they are forgetting the days of war. Yet peace has its problems. The militant spirit is bound up with human nature. The energies of the former generations were wrongly directed. To-day man is conquering nature, ignorance and evils of every kind. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the story we are about to tell of the growing of prize wheat in the northern latitudes of the last great west."

The hero of this story—though but one in a great "army" of toilers"—is Mr. Seager Wheeler, of Rosthern, Saskatchewan. He appeared suddenly in the limelight of fame after being awarded first prize for the best wheat grown in America, and incidentally in the world, at the "American Land and Irrigation Exposition" in New York, on Nov. 4th, last. The prize was no less than $1,000 in gold, offered by Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, the Canadian Pacific Railway chief. His object was to encourage good farming, and thus make the farm a more attractive place to live on in these days, when the cities seem to be drawing the best blood and brains of the country. The prize looks large, but the honor attached to winning this first place meant vastly more. There is a significance about the event that is well worthy of our consideration.

"Who is Seager Wheeler?" "How did he come to grow such wheat?" "What will this mean to wheat growers?" "What significance has the incident as a whole?" These are the questions that men have been asking for the last six months from all parts of our wheat growing world. The interest is not waning, it is growing. The fall of Troy was of less significance to the world than this victory of the Saskatchewan farmer with his "Marquis wheat."

Mr. Wheeler is a native of the Isle of Wight, and left his home for Western Canada in the spring of 1885, when about fifteen years of age. He worked as a laborer in Moose Jaw for a year or two, then decided to take up homesteading. He and his brother trecked across country to near Clark's Crossing, and there made their abode and eked out a doubtful living for a few years. Wheat harvests were scarce, and markets were scarcer still. It was not till 1896 that he settled on his present farm. This was procured from the resourceful C. P. R. 160 acres at $3 per acre. It took some years to get "square" for even that amount. But it was the place he was looking for, and he immediately began experimenting along the lines that appeared the most likely to yield the best results. Besides the heavy demands of the regular work, attention was also generously given to the matter of ornamentation. Good farming was his passion, not exploitation or money making. Up to the present he has kept to the two-hundred acre plot, "efficiency," we judge, being his motto.

He has had discouragements and set backs of all kinds. But the victory has been won—not, as some foolishly suppose by good luck, but by the application of the principals of industry, intelligence and patience. He worked early and late. He is one of Abraham's children in this respect that "he rose up early." He was a close observer, took counsel of authorities, attended fairs, experimented and joined the Seed Growers' Association. This was not done with the object of exhibiting his products, but as a lover of farming. Genius always walks in the garb of modesty, and it was only after earnest solicitation that he was persuaded to show his wares. It was urged that this would help others and be a means of public education.

Among all the articles that I have read about Mr. Wheeler, some of them by journalists of the first rank, I do not recall anything more direct and enlightening than an article which he wrote himself for one of the western farm papers. From this I quote his own words: "I am a book farmer and an indoor farmer as well. We often hear uncomplimentary remarks passed about such men, but show me the farmer who does not read and I will show you a poor farmer. Problems are worked out as well beside the fire as by observing during the day outside. I take one daily, three weekly and five farm papers, beside other good reading material." One observer remarked of him, "He is the man that farms with his brains."

The story of the "Marquis wheat," the brand that won the prize, is interesting. Mr. Wheeler obtained his seed from Dr. Charles E. Sanders, Dominion Cerealist. This man belongs to a family of men distinguished for the assistance they have given scientific farming in Canada. For about twenty years experiments were carried on. The aim was to produce a type of wheat both rich and hardy. By selection—"hand selection" they call it—kernels of a certain type, and sowing them, a new type can be established after a while. "Marquis" is the result of a cross between Red Fife (Manitoba's Champion) and Hard Red Calcutta. From one it derives its quality, and from the other its early maturity. The milling and baking tests proved satisfactory as well. There was but a few pounds of this seed at first. This last season wound up with probably 500,000 bushels. Mr. Wheeler sold his at $8 per bushel. He could have had most any price he asked, as the demand for it was strong from all parts of Canada and the United States, and even from Europe. The "Marquis," by the way, was "born" at the Brandon Experimental Farm. Part of its virtue lies in the fact that it matures ten days earlier, more or less, than any other brand. Even yet Mr. Wheeler and others interested are not satisfied that the end has been reached. They hope, by carrying on this process of selection, to produce a still earlier variety, at the same time holding the necessary qualities of hardiness.

What is the significance of this? It must have a good deal. No sooner had the announcement of the prize been made than messages from all parts of the continent began to pour in. People of prominence visited his home in person, among them the Lieutenant-Governor of the province. At a banquet given by his town, representatives of public life from all over Canada who could not be present sent regrets, among them H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught. At Calgary, where the prize was formally presented, he received a "princely ovation." This looks significant of something, does it not? It is a part of the epic.

All this will be seen by reference to some apparently fantastic figures, but offered us by a cool-headed professor of agriculture. "If one extra kernel were added to each head of oats, barley, wheat or ear of corn, we would have of oats 20,000,000 bushels extra, barley 15,000,000 bushels, wheat 15,000,000 bushels, and of corn 5,200,000 bushels. This would not be for one year alone, but for all time." Now Mr. Wheeler stands among those who have succeeded in adding the extra kernel to a head of wheat. His best plot averaged 80 2-3 bushels to the acre, and weighed about 66½ pounds to the bushel. It has been estimated that if the western farmers had been raising Marquis wheat last season it would have meant $15,000,000 more in price for them. If wheat can be ripened ten days earlier and is less susceptible to frosts, it means the enlarging of the wheat-growing area to something like a hundred and fifty miles further north. It means earlier markets and larger shipments before navigation closes.

The results of this victory are both economical and moral in their effect. He has magnified honest, industrious labor in general, and has dignified the profession of farming in particular. From private correspondence I learn that visitors at his Maple Grove farm are plentiful. They come from afar. Among these were a Sir George Whitehouse, and a Mr. Steedman of London, England. The former is a railroad engineer of fame, having supervised the construction of the Uganda railway. They took particular interest in everything that induced to success in wheat raising. Beside this they invested over one and a quarter millions of dollars in lands in the district, with the intention of settling good English farmers thereon. Mr. J. Bruce Walker of the Immigration Department bought one hundred bushels of "Marquis," to be used as samples in Europe. Those leading in wheat raising make a great deal of good seed. The immediate effect here was to raise the standard of the seed quality everywhere.

Many who had become tired of farming under the old methods have become inspirited by the example of Mr. Wheeler and have decided to try again. He proved that the western soil yielded its best results under the magic touch of sterling manhood. The prize was won in one of the most unfavorable seasons.

The best way to advertise a town or country is to produce something there better than others can do. Stimulated by this farmer's example, the people of Rosthern decided that it was time for them to come into line all around. Press despatches indicate that they are building better sidewalks, cutting down weeds providing parks, setting out trees, and so forth. Such is the power of example. Farming methods all over the west have been stimulated. That means a higher ideal of life in other respects, too. Loving the work for the work's sake is a principle that men should apply to all honest callings.

It is men of this stamp and such as Luther Burbank who teach a lesson about overcoming fatalism, that power of darkness that too often overcomes us. Not only farmers, but men in other walks of life get thrown down at times. Some rise supinely with the whine, "just my luck." Failure overtakes them and they say, "It can't be helped." Men of the Burbank breed say, "I believe it can be helped, and they give us roses without thorns, cactus without spines, oranges without seeds, and raise "the best wheat in the world," under the rays of the westering sun and the glowing light of the borealis, and that in a poor season.

A Listowell man drank carbolic acid in mistake for whiskey. He took the fast express instead of the slow freight, that's all.

o o o

Owen Sound is getting the long neck since the king presented it with that flock of swans, and wants to be made a city right away. What wouldn't happen provided the King of Siam presented the county town fathers with a few peacocks!

o o o

Sunday was the first decently warm day we have had this season, and there were people who grumbled at that. Such people ought to go and hitch up with the esquimaux.

o o o

This is the quadrennial period of humiliation of the people of the U. S. What do we mean by that? Well, just read the Chicago despatches concerning the bedlam let loose in that town and it will not be difficult to frame your own answer. Some of the big party leaders over there ought to be examined by competent physicians. There is a conviction among outsiders that paranoia is epidemic in high quarters. It may be that the germ was imported from Africa.

Sheep Estray

Came to the premises of the undersigned about June 1st, one sheep and two lambs. The owner is requested to prove property, pay expenses and take the same away.

ALEX. WHITE, Priceville p. o.
Lot 13, con. 1, Artemesia.

Strayed

To the premises of the undersigned on June 1st, one white heifer two years old, one gray heifer one year old. Owner is requested to prove property, pay expenses and take the same away.

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HANDKERCHIEFS—Cotton, Linen Silk	5c	to	50c
SUSPENDERS—Fine, Heavy, and Invisible	25c	to	50c
BELTS—New Buckles and Colors	25c	to	50c
UMBRELLAS—Good Covers, New Handles	75c	to	$2.50
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UNDERWEAR—Balbriggan Merino Wool	50c	to	$2.50
STRAW HATS—Coarse, Medium and Fine	10c	to	$1.50
FELT HATS—New Colors and Shapes	50c	to	$2.50

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Get something nice and comfortable on which to lay your weary head. Of course we have other beds at other prices, all equally low in price—Sanitary Beds such as everybody wants. Springs and Mattresses to fit all beds. Examine our stock anyway, before purchasing your sleep inducers.

W. H. BUNT

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Wheat	85 to 85
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Butter	20 to 20
Eggs, fresh	18 to 19
Potatoes per bag	1 25 to 1 25
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Ducks	10 to 12
Chickens	10 to 12
Turkeys	18 to 12
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We have some of the Best Brands of Flour on hand, such as Five Roses, Cream of the West, Toronto Pride and Satisfaction. Feed Flour Bran and Shorts always on hand.

We are are paying Highest Market Price for Wool, Trade or Cash.

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Men's Shoes, regular $3.75 at	$2.90
Men's Shoes, regular $4.00 for	$3.25
Men's Shoes, regular $5.00 for	$3.95
Men's Shoes, regular $6.00 for	$4.39
Men's Shoes, regular $3.50 for	$2.40
Men's Shoes, regular 3.75 for	$2.65

Women's, Misses' and Children's Shoes at proportionate prices.