THE AYRSHIRE COW

Dairymen of discernment in western Canada are paying mor attention to the dainty and capabl Ayrshire cow. Until the present the Holstein has been most in use but however profitable that breed has been to the farmer it has not been a favorite with the consumer and that, after all is the ultimate test. The Ayrshire is a splendid milker and provides a lacteal fluid of a quality never dreamed of by the Holstein. It is worthy of note that the first cow to make over twenty thousand pounds was a Canadian bred Ayrshire which bore the classic name of the wife of Scotia's bard the "Bonnie Jean" of song and verse. This was "Jean Armour" bred by H. and J. McKee, Norwich, Ontario.

ALFALFA CULTURE

Western farmers are devoting more attention to the cultivation of alfalfa, although goodness knows there is still mighty little of it done. There is not a shadow of a doubt that this wonderful legume may be cultivated with success on our lighter prairie lands. Owing to its quality of extracting nitrogen from the air and bestowing it on the soil in which it is growing, it adds humous and fertility to the land and it is the best kind of feed for most varieties of stock. Alfalfa requires a well-drained soil and therefore is more suitable to comparatively light land. It cannot bear to get its feet wet, and water is always fatal if it cannot run off. If the tap roots remain wet for any length of time it will assuredly die. There seems to be a prevailing idea that this plant needs a great deal of moisture and will only flourish under very moist conditions. Of course it must have a reasonable amount of moisture but not more than other ordinary fodder crops. In Southern Alberta, where its culture has been quite successful, a good stand is obtained by sowing it in widely spaced drills on the dry bench land. There is little danger of alfalfa winter killing in well drained soil. The heavy clay lands of the Regina and Moose Jaw plains are not very suitable for its culture, as a wet season, with the water having small chance to percolate through the soil or run off, would be fatal. The day is coming when a great deal more attention will be devoted to alfalfa culture in Western Canada than at present.

NOTED AYRSHIRE COW 'LADY JANE' IS DEAD

Held Highest Canadian Official Record With 19,405 Pounds of Milk.

Canada's most noted Ayrshire cow, "Lady Jane," 30886, died from pneumonia a few days after freshing on November 28 last, to a result both her owners, Messrs. A. S. Turner and Son, Ryckman's Corner, Ont., and the Ayrshire breed have suffered a great loss. She had just freshened after her fourth R. O. P. test with 19,135 lbs. milk and 704 lbs. butter fat, made in 353 days. By this test she wins, for the second time, the silver cup given by the Ayrshire association, for the highest score in 1918, making 21,285 points, being 4,787 points (or 29 per cent.) over her nearest competitor.

She also holds the highest Canadian official record with 19,405 lbs. milk and 786 lbs. fat.

Lady Jane was a wonderful cow and possessed the power of assimilating food to manufacture milk to a marvellous degree.

In a four years' comulative test she gave 64,889 lbs. milk and 2,506 lbs. butter fat. Her total days in milk during this comulative test were 1,218, therefore she gave an average of 53 lbs. of milk and a little over 2 lbs. of butter fat per day, a cumulative record seldom equalled. While Lady Jane was making this cumulative record she was taken to four dairy tests and made the highest Ayrshire score at each of them.

At the Guelph dairy test in 1917, she produced 250 lbs. of milk and 8.64 lbs. butter fat in 72 hours, making a score of 282.7 points, winning over all registered cows. This is the highest score ever made by an Ayrshire in a public test.

Lady Jane contained the blood of several noted sires—Kitchener, White Prince, (Imp), Comrade of Garlaff (Imp), a son of the great "Blood-forever of Wynholm" in Scotland. On the dam's side she traces to the celeprated Gurta family and to the noted bull "Hamilton Chief," which sire also influenced the Jean Armour family. Thus good blood tells in production as well as in type, a combination which made Lady Jane famous.

The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Convention A Huge Success

(Continued.)

THE REPORT OF THE CENTRAL BOARD FOR 1918

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. The day following the last convention, February 16th, the full Board met in Regina and elected from their number four members to act on the Executive with President Maharg and Vice-President Hawkes. No change was made in the personnel of the Executive, which consists, in addition to the President and Vice-President, of J. B. Musselman, Thomas Sales, R. M. Johnson and J. L. Rooke. Additional meetings of the Board were also held on December 12th and 13th in 1918 and on February 17th, 1919. The Board is composed to sixteen District Directors, five Directors at large, and the President and Vice-President.

2. In presenting to the members of the Eighteenth Annual Convention the report of the Central Board of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, covering the year 1918, your Board feels that while it may be superfluous for them to comment at this time upon the event by which the past year will be forever distinguished in history, it is but fitting that they should direct the attention of those who remember the last Convention of this Association to the changed atmosphere in which this gathering is assembled.

3. At that time, and especially during the weeks which immediately followed the Convention, the situation was dark indeed. The faces of men grew grave and bore traces of deep anxiety. In hushed tones, as we thought of all that hung in the balance between victory and defeat, we said to each other, "We MUST win this War at any cost." Today we are able to say—and thank God that we can say it—"The War is won."

4. The Victory which brought to anxious hearts of men, relief beyond expression, has charged them also with new responsibilities, which must seem to them the more urgent as their gratitude is great. A year ago with lumps in our throats, we sang "God Save Our Men." God did save many of them and they will soon be back again amongst us,—some of them battle-scarred, some mutilated, broken-bodied, and some blind. They have played their parts, they have paid their price. What are we going to do with them? We would say to our returned men, "We recognize that for many of you, the old roads are closed, that the opening of new paths in life will be difficult, that re-adjustment will be hard. We say to you that this Association of ours wants to stand behind you."

Repatriation.

5. We regard the obligation implied in the familiar term 'repatriation' als meaning that as far as humanly possible, every man should be placed where he can best achieve service to the state and success for himself.

Land Settlement Scheme.

6. Much has been said of various plans for settling large numbers of returned soldiers on the land. Your Board feels that it would fail in its duty unless it called attention to the serious consequences which must attend any scheme which places men on the land under such conditions that a large number of them will be doomed to failure before they commence operations. Any scheme for financial assistance which will tempt men to go upon the land for the sake of the assistance can lead only to disaster.

7. We fail to see why financial assistance should be confined to those returned soldiers who wish to go on the land.

8. We have a very fertile soil, but we have been taught by bitter experience that we have to deal with climatic conditions over which absolutely no control can be exercised, against which little or no provision can be made, and which may, in any year, inflict the most serious loss upon the farmer. We are of the opinion that these natural obstacles which are placed in the way of successful farming in this country are sufficiently formidable, and that the farmer should not be expected to overcome artificial barriers as well, especially erected to serve the selfish needs of privileged interests. This condition, to which attention has been called repeatedly—although almost without avail, in the past—derives new urgency from the proposal of establishing soldiers on the land. If these men are to be given a fair chance for success, it becomes the bounden duty of those in authority to strike off the fetters by which Canadian agriculture is hampered, and to remove from its path the obstacles which selfish interests have contrived.

9. There is no use for those in authority constantly pleading for the co-operation of all the people to help in the great problem of repatriation, unless they are willing to show themselves sincere and do what lies immediately to their own hand. Conditions must be made such as to insure a reasonable opportunity for success to those of our returned men who choose agriculture as their future occupation. In this connection, your Board was recently represented at a meeting of the Soldiers' Settlement Board, at which their co-operation was solicited. Your representative ventured to promise on your behalf, that if the Soldiers' Settlement Board would inform the central office whenever a soldier had chosen land, of his name and his location, the secretary would immediately write the local, acquainting them of the arrival of the man, and soliciting for him all the help that could be given.

10. We wish to say to those of our returned men who decide to go on the land and live amongst us, that we can promise them not only the fullest sympathy, but a large measure of practical assistance. We especially commend to the members of our association who have a returned man as their neighbor, a generous application of the great commandment "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

11. To the men who have gone through the furnace of war, we say, "Anything that can be done to assist you to pick up the old threads, or help you to continue to 'Carry On,' and to soften, to some extent, the memories of the terrible things you have experienced, will receive the hearty co-operation of our Saskatchewan Grain Growers' association."

Honor Roll

12. At this point it would be fitting to remind you of the many thousands of our brave men, who cannot return to us, because they made the generous last sacrifice which was the price of victory,—and amongst them we acknowledge with pride, which tempers the sorrow of our great loss, many who had membership in this association.

13. A permanent Honor Roll to commemorate the heroic sacrifice of those of our members who gave their lives in the war, is in course of preparation. It is important that every local should forward all names to be inscribed on the roll so that it may be completed before the next convention.

Epidemic Influenca

14. Mention must also be made of the epidemic, without a parallel in the memory of living men, which so recently swept over the country, taking a terrible toll of life, which, in the opinion of this Board could have been largely mitigated if we had been in possession of adequate Hospital and nursing facilities. Many of our members were numbered with the victims, and among them a former director of this association, Mr. M. P. Roddy, of Rouleau, District Director for District No. 2 for the years 1913, 1914, and 1915. We rejoice that this scourge appears to have spent its force here, but regret to note that it is still prevalent in certain of our sister dominions.

Crop Conditions

15. Crop conditions over the province in the past season were variable in the extreme. It is true that some of our members living in districts which enjoyed favorable conditions were able to reap a substantial reward for their labor in 1918, but over very large areas the most adverse conditions prevailed. High winds and much damage in the spring; a severe drought was experienced and these conditions were accompanied by an unprecedented frost in July. Such a combination of unfavorable inbuences inevitably caused a material reduction in the crop, and while those friends and advisers of the farmer, who dwell in the East, refer constantly to the prosperity of the western farmer, the fact remains that a considerable number of our farmers have been unable to produce even one crop since the prices rose, and this accompanied by the increased cost of living and of everything the farmer must purchase, has placed many of them financially in a deplorable and in some cases, almost a hopeless position has become so great that the average grain crop of Saskatchewan during the year 1918, left no net margin of profit for the farmer.

Organization . . . . . .

16. These conditions had their effect upon the association's work. The highly prosperous too often become careless and indifferent to the well-being of society as a whole, whereas the many unfortunate members who had little or no crop found it impossible to support their association as they would have liked.

17. Your educational work, so far as publicity and propaganda are concerned, has grown wider and wider, and more effective during the year 1918. The most aggressive campaign of organization ever carried on during the history of the association was instituted this year. It is unfortunate that there should have been a great falling off in the number of local meetings held during the fall and winter. This was merely one of the many ways in which the work of the association suffered by reason of conditions directly traceable to the influenza epidemic. The same cause rendered impossible the holding of the usual district conventions.

18. The results of such efforts as it was possible to make appear to justify the conclusion that but for the epidemic we might have reached the objective of 60,000 members, set at the last convention.

19. In spite of the many difficulties under which the organization department has labored, we are pleased to be able to report a large increase in our membership this year.

Unrighteous Boosting of Oat Prices

20. Following reports of the short oat crop, the early months of the season saw certain elevator concerns at many points entering into strenuous competition for business, which took the form of lower grading, the taking of insufficient dockage and paying in some cases prices exceeding those fixed by the Board of Grain Supervisors—such practices, involving the exploitation of those farmers who, having a poor crop or no crop at all, were in the market for seed and feed, cannot be too strongly condemned.

Seager Wheeler.

21. Your board is highly gratified to announce that Mr. Seager Wheeler, the Wheat Wizard of Saskatchewan, and a life member of this association, has honored this convention with his presence, at the earnest request of Rosthern local, of which he is a member. Mr. Wheeler has been kind enough to bring with him some of the many trophies which he has won, and every delegate should give himself the pleasure of seeing these at some time during the convention.

22. At a convenient time, Mr. Wheeler will be presented to the convention, when you will have the opportunity of showing some little measure of the appreciation which we all owe him for the invaluable service which he has rendered to agriculture in Saskatchewan by his intense devotion to the perfecting of cereals grown in this province.

Fixed Price of Wheat .

23. It has been evident for some time that farmers are looking with anxious concern to the conditions which may prevail when the next crop is to be marketed. The United States has fixed the price to be paid to the producer for 1919 crop, and there has been a general demand which will be voiced in resolutions to be submitted to this convention, that the Canadian farmer who must put in this crop on the basis of war time cost which has already to a large extent been incurred, and who has submitted willingly to war time restriction of his profits, shall not be left at the mercy of the abnormal market conditions which are likely to prevail pending the restoration of the world to its former state of peace.

Farmers' Platform

24. Believing that a widely diffused knowledge of the Farmers' Platform and the many planks included therein, is essential to the success of the efforts which organized agriculture is making for social betterment, your board authorized the secretary to prepare and forward to locals and to publish in the press a series of articles devoted to the study of the platform.

25. We are pleased to record that the many letters of appreciation and commendation which have been received, bear testimony to the excellence of the secretary's work, and the active interests of our members in these important matters. This platform, as recently revised by the Canadian Council of Agricultuare, so that we might be prepared with a program of reconstruction suited to the period of grave responsibilities in Peace will be presented for your consideration.

26. When it has been adopted, with any changes which you may see fit to make, it will be for you to consider what measures are necessary and what steps shall be taken in order that these proposals, conceived for the betterment of conditions of life for all classes in this country, may be made effective.

27. It will be interesting to you to know that measures for possible political action were discussed at considerable length by the Canadian Council of Agriculture. That body finally concluded that each provincial association should decide this matter as it sees fit. This important question will require your most earnest and serious consideration.

President Maharg's Trip to Europe

28. The association was honored in the appointment by the government, on the recommendation of the Council of Agriculture, of your president, Mr. J. A. Maharg, M.P., to represent the interests of the organized farmers on a mission recently dispatched to Europe, in connection with grain marketing. Mr. Maharg will no doubt report to the convention later. It was with real pleasure that the members of this association learned that he was able to leave England in time to be present and preside at this convention.

29. It will also be fitting that we should express at this time our hearty congratulations to Mrs. Maharg and himself on the safe return of their soldier son.

Membership Fee.

30. A year ago the board drew your attention to the gradually diminishing purchasing power of our membership fee, and it was hoped at the last convention that a vigorous campaign for increased membership might secure such additional revenue as to cover the prospective deficit. We have again to report that the purchasing power of the dollar is considerably less now than it was even a year ago.

31. The cost of conducting your work always has been more than the amount received in membership fees. When the fee is too small, the fact of increased membership can only mean an increased deficit. It costs a business institution an average of about 25c for every letter which it writes, and when letters are long and require a good deal of thought, reference, or enquiry, they often cost as much as $1 to handle. It is not to be wondered at then, that the extensive activities of your organization department cannot be carried on with a revenue derived from a membership fee barely sufficient to cover the cost of two letters per member. It is well to bear in mind that such deficit as the organization department shows for 1918, as also a similar deficit for 1917, really means that in these years of comperative prosperity for many of our farmers, we have been drawing to an alarming extent upon the precious old funds of the association, so painstakingly built up under the late lamented Mr. F. W. Green, at a time when the farmers of the province were at the very ebb of their financial strength.

32. This is a condition which your board feels confident you will not permit to be continued, nor to go unrectified. This question is one which must receive immediate attention, if the association is to conduct the vigorous campaign which is necessary in the period which we now enter, with all the interests which are hostile to agriculture more eager and active than ever before.

33. Before leaving the question we feel that we should draw your attention to the statement made by your auditor in his report to the executive. "Examination of the years 1917 and 1918 will reveal the fact that in 1917, the expenses of your organization department exceeded your receipts by nearly $3,000, while in the past year you ended your operations with a cash balance impaired by $5,000."

34. It would seem that immediate action is necessary to adjust this state of affairs, either by curtailing expenses, or arranging for an increased revenue. This means that in the two years of 1917 and 1918, notwithstanding the generous donations of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator company, that our organization department's funds have been reduced $8,000.

Co-operative Stock Yards Stock.

35. We note with approval that Co-operative stock yards are to be established at various strategic points in Saskatchewan, and trust that in the erection of these, due care will be exercised that they shall be truly co-operative.

36. The year which we have entered is perhaps the most important in the history of this association, as it is likely to be also one of the most significant in the life of this Dominion. The machinery of normal life, which suffered serious disturbance from the necessities of war, will be readjusted and set in motion, under circumstances of peculiar difficulty. Already there is unmistakable evidence of the determination of selfish interest, profiting by the existing general confusion, to still more fully entrench themselves in the strongholds of privilege with a criminal disregard of the common weal. Now more than ever, then, is it the duty of the organized farmers, both in selfprotection and for the general good, to maintain the attitude of unfailing vigilance ready to give battle at any time against all comers, for these principles which have ever been and must always remain the guiding influence in all the activities of this body.

(To be continued.)

ILLEGAL TO GIVE SOLDIERS LIQUOR

OTTAWA. — Stiff penalties for the sale of liquor to officers or men in uniform are contained in the provisions of an order-in-council which has been passed by the government. The order provides that any person, other than a medical officer, physician or surgeon, no matter whether licensed to sell liquor or not, who sells liquor to soldiers in uniform, may be tried by military court martial, and if found guilty, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not exceeding twelve months, or a fine of $300, or both.

The order-in-council was passed on the recommendation of General Mewburn, minister of militia and defence.

The order-in-council draws attention to the fact that in view of the great number of troops returning to Canada it is necessary in the interests of military discipline and efficiency and for the protection of soldiers generally, that further restrictions be made in regard to furnishing of liquor to men in uniform und not on duty.

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The LONDON GUARANTEE AND ACCIDENT Co., LTD., of London, England, are desirous of placing agencies for hail insurance for season 1919. Please communicate with BELL & MITCHELL, Ltd., Western Trust Bldg., or the Company's Office, 208 Darke Block, Regina, Sask.

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If you have not already tried this herbal balm, cut out this advertisement, write across it the name of this paper and send it with 1c. stamp (to pay return postage) to Zam-Buk Co., Dupont St., Toronto. We will then send you a free trial box. All dealers 50c. box.

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