

## What Saskatchewan Does to Help Its Farmers

F. H. Auld, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Saskatchewan.

**S**ASKATCHEWAN farmers differ widely. They represent in their rank a large proportion of the professions and occupations. They came from all climes and countries. The conditions under which they live and labor were new to the most of them when they came, and this alone imposed a grave responsibility upon the Saskatchewan Government with respect to agricultural instruction.

When Saskatchewan was organized in 1905 there were only 257,763 persons in the province, and 299,801 of these, or 69.77 per cent, were classed as rural dwellers. The census of 1916 showed Saskatchewan's rural population to be 471,182, or 86.1 per cent, and her total population 78,653, or 13.9 per cent. Immigration so varied, so voluminous, and so recent, as these figures show the movement to Saskatchewan to have been, could not but impose many responsibilities. Highways, telephones and schools were urgently needed. Municipal institutions had to be supplied and strengthened. Public buildings were few and inadequate. The law had to be framed to meet new conditions. The legislative and administrative record of the Saskatchewan Government since 1905 shows that has been done to make the new province profitable and rural life attractive in Saskatchewan.

### Cooperative Creameries.

Since 1906, when there were no creameries in Saskatchewan which were not cooperative, the Saskatchewan government has operated all the cooperative creameries in the province. In 1907, the cooperative creameries made 26,246 pounds of butter as compared with 2,538.61 pounds in 1916. This development is due to the management of the Saskatchewan Commissioner of Dairy Industry, who for the past ten years engaged local managers, purchased supplies, marketed the product and paid the patrons. Judicious control over the organization and location of new creameries, the introduction of a graded scale of prices for milk and cream according to quality, and the grading of butter for markets outside of the province, together with government aid in equipping and operating the cooperative creameries, have been the main features which contributed to their remarkable success.

The cooperative creameries being no longer "infant industries" are cutting loose from government aid, and as one large incorporated company, known as The Saskatchewan Cooperative Creameries Ltd., will manage their own affairs in the future. The Saskatchewan Government will loan up to 75 per cent of the capital required to erect and equip local branch creameries and cold storage warehouses, or organized by the Saskatchewan Creameries, Ltd.

### Cooperative Elevators.

The Saskatchewan Cooperative Creameries are the oldest form of cooperative enterprise in Saskatchewan, and when the Grain Growers in 1904 wanted government aid for elevators, they were furnished an object lesson. Consequently the form which government assistance took corresponded with that which was contemplated as the ultimate form of assistance for the cooperative creameries, namely, aid in financing plants owned, controlled and operated by the farmers themselves. And it is worthy of note that in many respects the new Cooperative Creameries Act is similar to the Cooperative Elevator Act. Local organization, local control, central management, government loans on the security of the plant and the

unpaid shares are features common to both. This, however, is not the only connection with the Elevator Company is that the government loaned 85 per cent of the money needed to construct the elevators, and in the early days when banks were not so anxious to finance the business of the company as they are to-day the government found it necessary to guarantee the repayment of their current borrowings. Every reader of the agricultural or financial press knows how successful the Saskatchewan Cooperative Elevator Company, the largest of the farmers' elevator companies, has proven.

### Cooperative Marketing of Wool and Poultry.

These lines of effort have been carried on by the Cooperative Organization Branch for three years with very beneficial results. Statistics show that the sale for higher prices in 1916 than similar wool anywhere else in Canada. Poultry marketing stations have for two years handled a large quantity of poultry, and these new law prices were undertaken by the government local prices have been set on the basis of what the government realized for its patrons.

Saskatchewan passed a law four years ago which made it possible for farmers to buy cattle, sheep and swine on credit terms, by paying at least 25 per cent in cash and the balance on easy terms, with interest far below the rate usually paid for credit accommodation. Several thousand head of stock, consisting of pure-bred bulls, grade cows and heifers, and pure-bred rams and ewes have been supplied on these provisions since this Act was passed.

### Farm Loans.

The Live Stock Credit and Sale Act was to a limited extent the means of providing cheaper money for farmers, but land credit at lower rates has been available from the same sources of farm loans came into demand. To provide this the Saskatchewan Government has passed legislation which will enable a Farm Loan Board to make loans to farmers, most of which the province will borrow. All loans will be on the amortization plan, and will be repayable in 30 equal annual payments. It is expected that under this plan annual payments of less than our farmers now pay for interest alone will be sufficient to cover both principal and interest.

### Educational Efforts.

The number of school districts existing in Saskatchewan on September 1st, 1916, was 924. The number in existence on December 31st, 1916, was 2,878, showing an increase of almost 3,000 in a period of 11 years, or an average of 270 for each year. The government not only interested itself in a large way in the organization of districts, but it provided the funds for rendering financial assistance to these districts, notwithstanding the heavy burden created by the ever-increasing number of schools. The following figures will indicate what this has meant to the public treasury:

For the year 1906 the total grants paid to all districts amounted to \$251,200.50. This increased to \$350,807.95 in 1910, and to \$629,812.08 in 1916.

In addition to these grants the government provided a scheme for raising additional revenue through the Supplementary revenue act, the chief object of which at the time was to tax unoccupied land outside of school districts in order that they might bear some share of the cost of education.

Under this Act, there has been raised in eight years and distributed to our rural schools no less than \$2,212,675.58.

Since 1905 the government has supplied school readers free of charge to every school in the province. During the years this law has been in force, no less than 402,761 books have been so distributed at a cost of \$82,128.96, and at a saving of over \$55,000 to the people of the province. By this action the former sum has been saved to the parents of children who have been attending school.

### Secondary Education.

A good primary education is a prime requisite, but secondary education has not been neglected. Provision is made in our statutes and encouragement is given by a system of grants out of the public treasury in aid of high schools and collegiate institutions. There are now 22 high schools and colleges in Saskatchewan, and all of them were established since the organization of the province in 1905. Legislative grants amounting to \$201,110 have been paid during the past eight years. To complete the educational edifice a state university, liberally supported by public funds, has been established at Saskatoon, and the Saskatchewan University, and an integral part of it is the College of Agriculture. Nearly two million dollars have been spent upon the university, and much of this has been devoted to agricultural education and research.

Liberal grants in aid of agricultural societies are paid by the government to 126 societies and two winter fairs. From 1906 to 1916 the total of the money expended in prizes for live stock and agricultural exhibits is repaid in the form of grants.

Just at this season especially is the work of the Bureau of Labor in supplying farm help worthy of note. It has many other duties, of course, but not the least of them is that relating to laboring annually an adequate supply of better class of men and women to our grain crops. The Bureau maintains three public employment offices and receives applications from farmers for men. The best evidence of the handling upwards of 30,000 farm hands each year, most of them at harvest time.

In conclusion, I shall refer to the fact that only a little more than two years ago the retail sale of liquor was legal in every province except Prince Edward Island. The Saskatchewan Government exercised the powers which it has under the law to strike a death blow at the trade in intoxicating liquors. Measuring the benefit of this reform by the gauge with which the public is made to feel the financial burden, but when, after all, is the least important, it may be stated that by this means ten millions a year have been saved for useful enterprises in this province alone.

## HOME CLUB

### "Homeland" Ties Continue Strong

**I**MUST not let this Western Number go into so many homes of dear old Ontario without a little message of greeting to the Home Club. I think that the "home folks" in Ontario sometimes have the feeling that those who have left home to go to a "new country" have gone back on Ontario or do not properly appreciate it. And now while our western land is in the thoughts of Home Club members after reading a whole magazine full of articles about us, I would like to add

my little word to tell you what a strong bond of love there is between the "Homeland" and the hearts of her children who are far away. In fact, I think, if there is any difference, it is that the absent ones love and appreciate the old home even more than the ones who have remained at home.

By comparing your native land with different districts with which we become acquainted, we realize more fully what a wonderfully favored land Ontario really is. And in the home-land's spell when you read of our hearts to be "back home" (it will always be that to us) then we know as we never knew before, how very, very dear are the scenes of our childhood.

And to show Home Clubbers how far we are from deprecating Ontario I want to tell you that we are always trying to transplant a little of Ontario into our adopted country. For one thing we have maple seeds planted in our gardens and we will be a long time before we will have maple trees, but it will not be long till we will have maple leaves. And how we have longed for the beautiful old maple trees! I send to you a little slip of a letter sent me all the way from Ontario and I have loved and cherished them so. We often wish, too, that we had on our farm some of the Ontario wild flowers.

And oh! you see it in so many ways—the love for the old home. When we meet strangers in this country, one of the first questions always is, "Where do you come from?" and as soon as we hear that anyone has come from Ontario, there is a host of sympathy at once. Just lately I was in a small company of people and a stranger came up to me. Particularly about introductions in our country, for we are all strangers together. The stranger said: "Excuse me, but what part of Ontario did you come from? I heard you say you came from Ontario."

How we love to tell about Ontario to the people who have never been there! And that "we" includes all the children of old Ontario. When they go back home they naturally talk of the west, and that is perhaps the reason the home folks get the idea that they have gone back on Ontario. But get any of them in conversation with some one who has never seen Ontario and they would soon realize that how ever extravagantly they boast the west, in their hearts is still a very, very warm spot for the old home. How we love to describe the old orchards and the great old maple trees, the beautiful farms and fine buildings and good roads! So often I have said to English people on the prairie, "Oh, I hope you will never go home without seeing Ontario." One who is in Atlantic Canada was suddenly surprised by a spontaneous and ringing cheer, just because he had said something particularly fine about Ontario. It is our country and our Ontario. We were from Ontario and what pride you could see in their faces! I was amused to see a man turn and look at his neighbor with an expression that plainly said, "What you were coming from that wonderful place, which the speaker is talking about?" And when he saw his neighbor looking at him with the same expression they immediately shook hands.

We love this glorious west of ours with its vastness and newness and wealth of beauty and the fascination of watching it "in the making." But we will never cease to be proud of the old home. It is like a part of us because it is so entwined in our hearts, being inextricably woven with so many sacred memories. And so I say from my heart, "Three cheers for Ontario and three cheers for the farmers who have made her what she is!"—A. B. C. Pioneer.

## Organization

**I**NTEREST in Ontario farming is right into this year. Recently Mr. Mary of the U.P.O. Chester, in Middlesex, was good enough to then went up to county, and again meeting was again promises to be in the Ontario in the farmers, without the side organizer, for own and decided to U.P.O. The Martintown F.O. in Glenside, ed to do something. On their initiative to hold a public meeting to boost the part of Ontario. The premier clubs of the matter of holding trial company, the having two shares. A strong interest was organized at Asphodel station county. Mr. J. J. M. the meeting in the time of the local cop. A couple of Ellis, of Farm and completing the organization promises to be a great

## Dries Cooperation

**P**ROBABLY the best above question to announcements to the Cooperative Elevator Company, on other pages is the unanswerable operation amongst the east. The statistics are conclusively that it is very best interests of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and what has to be done, may with equal success, Ontario, and is even way. In the second, the Cooperative movement of the Alberta creameries is business. Only one instance of results that have attended since its inception, a chester company can equally gratifying. These 15,840 farmers, 20,000 farmers of Saskatchewan certainly found it the line to cooperate.

We would call our attention to these organizations to them to carefully consider them. The store farmers' fight for will make fascinating comes to be written in Canada Number 1. A little story is given in statement of the Active Elevator Company, which is a cooperative company, which comes for the farmers of Ontario with no uncertain voice, with no uncertain voice of the grade of the cream, and the farmer is cooperative.

## Progress in Alberta

(Continued from page 913)  
this year the percentage run over 90%. "The ivy have done more than to assist us in improving of our butter," he said of the adoption of the grade which most of our graduates as determined by moment graders at Edmonton, and accordingly, the best cream. There are