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EDITORIAL

Crop Reporting

The Manitoba Grain Growers' Association proposes now to establish a crop-reporting service, or rather, to use the service it already has in the form of local branches in all parts of country, to report the acreage and condition of the various crops during the growing season. The purpose of the Grain Growers is to furnish the world each year with authentic information regarding the crops of the Canadian North-west, and to prevent, as far as possible, the depreciation of our wheat values in the world's market, due to the "bulling" of our crop at the season when the bulk of our grain is being sold by the producer.

A farmer's association, or anybody else, has every right in the world to form estimates of the probable crop yield of this country on whatever information, or by whatever means, they choose to employ. Crop reporting may be made the business of class associations or individuals, and nobody can offer any objections. It should, however, be the business of the Government. It is a regrettable fact that in this country, as yet, our public crop-reporting service is woefully deficient. Crop estimates that are a month old before they reach the public have little influence on market conditions, however authentic they may be. The result is that, except for comparative purposes, one year with another, nobody pays much attention to official crop figures, and private individuals, largely, take upon themselves the duty of keeping the world in touch with up-to-date information on crop conditions in this country. The Grain Growers' Association has certainly every facility for gathering early and complete data regarding acreage, condition and probable crop yields. Its efforts in this direction ought to be of considerable value to the country as a whole.

Combining Our Efforts

There is a growing presentiment in the minds of those directing the activities of our farmers' organizations, that at no distant date, an understanding must be arrived at among these various organizations, and effort made to have agriculture placed, in the matter of organization, upon an equal footing with other industries and professions.

No industry has a larger number of organizations endeavoring to speak for it than agriculture, and this multiplicity of organizations is the chief weakness of the agricultural classes, when they attempt to express opinion on any question touching their interests. There are too many differently organized bodies trying to interpret and express the opinions of the rural mind.

The manufacturing industry, as compared where our most profitable and least remunerative efforts are expended as a study of organization—at least, in numbers. It has one statistics. Districts having the same natural organized body of national dimensions that advantages are known to differ widely in the represents every branch of the manufacturing amount and value of the commodities they put business in Canada, and can speak at all times on the market. In a general way, a rough guess is made at the reason of this, but if it is what agriculture, in a large sense, needs. We were possible to determine exactly the amount of land cropped, fallowed, seeded to grasses and other crops, the numbers of cattle, hogs, horses and other stock kept per acre of cultivated land, the number of cows that contribute to creameries, and the number of people that live upon given areas, a more intelligent knowledge of our private and public business would be had. Provincial Agricultural Departments will be well advised in extending their services in this direction. Such services would be of immense value to the general educational campaigns.

The Principle of True Co-Operation

Each year adds new instances of success and failure to the record of farmers' co-operative organizations. The latest failure reported is in the Sunny South, where the drawing of the color line was one of the chief causes of the breaking up of the co-operative undertaking.

As one seeks for the cause of failure in these downfallen co-operative organizations, he finds that it is generally for as small a reason as the color of a man's skin, sometimes for reasons even smaller. While the sense in which these movements were conceived was large enough, altogether too large as a rule, the individuals comprising them never seemed to grasp their own individual responsibilities, never seemed to realize that they existed as much for the institutions they helped to rear as these institutions existed for them. The selfishness of its members has wrecked more than one co-operative organization in America.

The trouble with about ninety per cent. of the co-operative movements projected, both here and in the United States, has been that they were cast in altogether too large a mold. Their methods were revolutionary; experience shows that co-operative methods, to be successful, must be the opposite of this, must be of evolutionary growth. They aimed to accomplish much in a little time. Some of them started in advance of where older organizations, co-operative in nature, had reached after half a century or more of growth. They wanted to do everything that required doing, at once, and were not content to wait until some experience had been gained and some tools fashioned for the doing of the large things before them. The old story again of much haste and little speed.

Despite failure, or rather through repeated failures, we are learning the true principle of co-operation here in America, and some day may be able to conduct co-operative enter-

Efforts for Better Farming

With the advance of the season, interest deepens in the campaign of education that is being carried on in the three provinces. The Alberta meetings are being well attended; Saskatchewan, having completed her series of seed fairs, is now engaged in a vigorous campaign of farmers' institute meetings; seed fairs and institute meetings are being held throughout Manitoba, which will lead up to a climax at the conventions and seed fair at the agricultural college this month. Later on, the winter fairs at Brandon, Regina and Calgary will complete the season's efforts in the dissemination of agricultural information.

Each year, these campaigns become better organized and more vigorous, especially in the new provinces, where the appropriations for agricultural purposes are worthy of an older, more diversified agriculture. But no one questions the value of the winter educational campaigns. Agriculture, being not only the sole industry that organizes inert and separate elements into new wealth, is also larger than all other industries in the new provinces combined. It is the special industry of Western Canada, it is the life of our commerce and therefore should be nurtured and nourished by the best executive and educational talent available.

There is one branch of our agricultural educational fabric that demands immediate attention, and that is the statistical departments of the different provinces. There is nothing that assists so much in determining