

# The Farm Page

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## RAINS REVIVE CROP CONDITIONS OVER PROVINCE

Damage From Outworms Estimated as High as 5% in Some Districts

### GRASSHOPPERS REPORTED FROM ONE DISTRICT

Nearly Every Part of Central Alberta Has Had Plenty of Moisture

The rains at the close of the month were scarcely sufficient to put an end to outworm troubles and this has continued to the point of bringing about an appreciable damage to crops generally at points such as Magrath, Carman, Retlay, Vulcan, Claresholm, Olds, Innisfail, Red Deer, Lacombe, and Ponoka; also at points along the open eastern side of the province. Gardens have suffered in an area considerably wider and more general than the area where field crop damage has occurred.

The damage from outworms is now practically spent. It is reported to amount to as high as 5% in a few districts in the south but this is probably putting it rather high. Outworms are somewhat bad in Carstairs and Olds districts to the north of Calgary. South of Calgary the worst area for outworms is between High River and Retlaw. Grasshoppers are reported from only one district in the north but not as a limiting factor.

#### Moisture

Since the general rain on the 28th and 29th of May there has not been a similar general rain but there have been in nearly all parts of the province fairly satisfying local showers. In the Peace River country reports go to show that the supply during the whole of the past month has been abundant and crops are in good condition both as to grain and hay but the progress of growth is not as rapid as it should be owing to rather cool weather. Heat and sunshine are the helps principally needed to speed up the crop. There is no damage reported in the north from outworms and very little soil drifting.

In the central part of the province there have been frequent rains of local character. Nearly every part of Central Alberta has been well served for moisture except along the eastern half of the Canadian Northern Railway between Edmonton and Lloydminster. In the Vermilion district conditions have not been very favorable since seeding. There have been strong winds and very little rain and in this neighborhood it will require very good conditions to bring the crop up to an ordinary average. Otherwise the crop for a hundred mile radius around Edmonton is good. It has not received the moisture that the farmers would like but grain crops are established in good condition and have only been held back by cool weather. The slow spring has somewhat bound up the growth of tame meadows and the top of vegetation on native pastures is not as forward as it might be but cattle and horses are both looking well.

In Southern Alberta conditions are somewhat irregular due to the unequal distribution of rains, the ravage of outworms in special localities, the effect of winds and the variations in the strength of crop due to differences in the preparation of land. The eastern side of the south has been rather fortunate in moisture and likewise the country immediately tributary to the foothills and rains have occurred along the middle district all the way from Red Deer to the boundary but chiefly in short showers. In the middle south moisture is needed to save the crop on land other than summer-fallow.

It is not yet possible to predict a full crop. Conditions over most parts of the province may be safely called good but in the area where moisture is most commonly below ideal supply there is still an aspect of precariousness. The weather, however, is apparently broken and there is ground to hope for ultimately good returns.

### EDISON FORESAW AUTO VALUE IN TRANSPORTATION

Thomas A. Edison, the electrical wizard, was the first well-known man to prophesy that the automobile would revolutionize transportation. Nearly twenty-five years ago he is quoted in The New York World: "The horseless vehicle is the coming wonder. Ten years from now we will be able to buy a horseless vehicle for what you would have to pay today for a wagon and a pair of horses. The money spent in the upkeep of the horses will be saved. A great invention, which facilitates commerce, enriches a country just as much as a discovery of gold." Looking back from the pinnacle of 1918 automobile development, it must be a source of great satisfaction to know his prediction was conservative rather than radical.

About the greatest drawback to a man's happiness is himself.

### PAPER INDUSTRY SHOWS INCREASE

The report on the pulp and paper industry of Canada in the Census of Industry series, recently issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, shows a considerable growth when compared with the report of 1915. The production was valued at almost one hundred million dollars in 1917. The report shows that during the year 1918 there were in operation in Canada 101 mills producing pulp and paper, 37 of which were in Ontario, 45 in Quebec, 7 in Nova Scotia, 6 in New Brunswick, and 6 in British Columbia.

### MIXED FARMING MORE ADVANTAGE THAN EXCLUSIVE

Farm Profits Depend on Ability of Farmer in His Line of Work

#### EFFICIENT HIRED HELP

Dairy Farming Affords Many Problems In Profit and Loss

Prof. Leitch, of the O.A.C., Guelph, went into the details of practical farming in an interesting way at the Dairy-men's Convention at Belleville. Speaking of the cost of producing milk, he showed conclusively from the results of tests made in Oxford County, one of the foremost dairy centres in Ontario, that everything depended on conditions, and conditions were extremely variable. Land, weather, labor, machinery, market, transportation and cost of supplies were important factors entering into the question. The average, however, figured out thus: Aggregating a large number of farms, milk cost \$2.17 per hundred pounds, and sold for \$2.19 1/2 for the same quantity.

Some producers, evidently, were losers. Such a serious condition of affairs, he declared, demanded serious thought. The efficiency of hired help or work done by members of the farmer's family must be increased. Overhead expenses must be kept down. The dairy farm must be large enough to give profitable employment to the help and the output must be large enough to yield a good margin over operating expenses.

It was found that some farmers were able to produce milk at \$2.08 per hundred weight. It cost other producers \$2.30. This difference showed that there were men in the business who were incompetent and should be otherwise employed for their own and the country's good.

Diversified farming had many advantages. It was not good policy to put all one's eggs in one basket. Where one man could make money in exclusive dairying work, ten would do better to have some pigs and chicken to turn by-products into ready cash. Fruit, grain and vegetables, to a limited extent, would provide variety of employment and help fill up the day which dairying on most farms failed to do profitably. There were cases where milk fed to pigs brought better returns than that sent to the factory. This everyone would have to figure out for himself or learn from experience. It would largely depend upon his knowledge of the two lines of business.

There were exceptions to every rule. "Stick to dairying if you like it best and are adapted for it. A skilful dairyman is safe, but 90 per cent of farmers will be safer to generalize," said Prof. Leitch. The farmer that produced only 3,300 lbs. of milk per year or less, equal to about \$70.00, were not profitable. A five per cent decrease in butter fat production would counter-balance a fifteen per cent increase in crop production, because of the greater expense connected with the crop.

The motto of some was: "Work hard and keep down expenses." Others believed in expanding business, investing all the capital possible and not working so hard. This class was likely to make economy and good judgment were exercised in all departments. No man, Mr. Leitch declared, could work 45 acres of land in crop and do justice to a dairy business at the same time, by himself. While it was a good policy to be very careful in regard to expenditure, one could be unprofitably penurious.

While the dairy farmer did not make profits proportionate to the amount of work he had to do, the business would yield him a living if given the same attention as other lines of business. Many were content with a bare living and with turning out an inferior product. This might partly account for the comparatively low prices of dairy products, and so long as producers were easygoing their returns would be below the proper mark.

Mr. Leitch did not advise any man to give up dairying and go into hogs or fowl. Raising pigs would not be as profitable a business by itself as when carried on in connection with a dairying business. As for poultry, he knew of very few kenneries of over a thousand birds that were profitable ventures. Weekly Star.

Bad luck in small ventures makes good luck more palatable.

### CONGRESS WILL GET OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE INTEREST

Farmers' National Council Plan To Make Political Power Felt

The program announced by the Farmers' National Council at Washington is in striking contrast with the time-honored policy of making the American farmer a stool pigeon for the benefit of the protective tariff advocates and railroad adventurers. The farmer has come to see that if he wants his interests attended to by Congress he must make his political power felt. The Non-partisan League of North Dakota and neighboring states has begun the work, and the Farmers' National Council is planning to bring the influence of its great membership to bear upon Congressmen. Its immediate program includes the four recommendations of the Federal Trade Commission for the meat packing industry; government ownership and democratic operation of railroads; the heavy taxation of excess profits, incomes, inheritances, and land values to pay for the cost of the war, and preservation of natural resources. Congress will now have an opportunity to make good its oft-repeated professions of interest in the welfare of the farmer—The Public.

### DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE GIVES ASSISTANCE IN FLAX INDUSTRY

The Department of Agriculture is giving practical assistance in the development of the flax industry in Canada, and the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Creer, recently stated in the House of Commons that the quality of flax fibre produced in the Dominion is fully equal, if not superior, to the best produced in any of the European countries. The Minister pointed out that the future of the industry depended to a large extent on the development of labor-saving devices for harvesting the crop and for manufacturing it into the finished linen.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture, the Minister continued, have been able to develop a flax-pulling machine which has been tested and improved until it can pull from four to six acres of flax a day, and thus do the work of twenty to thirty hand pullers. In Russia, Holland, and Belgium, where labor was comparatively cheap, the flax could be economically pulled by hand, but in Canada the high cost of labor made it very expensive to employ laborers to pull the plants from the ground.

### HOME BUILDING ENCOURAGED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The British Columbia Electric Railway Company has placed \$50,000 at the disposal of the British Columbia Electric Office Employees' Association, out of which sums will be loaned to their members at six per cent over a term of twelve years for the purpose of helping them to build or acquire homes. A joint committee of representatives of the management and the association was formed for the purpose of administering the funds, and early in April it was reported that all the money had already been allotted.

### MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE FEES

1. \$5 in case of a motorcycle, and for any other motor vehicle according to the length of wheel base in inches as follows:

For motor vehicles not exceeding 100 inches.....	\$15.00
Exceeding 100 inches but not exceeding 105 inches.....	17.50
Exceeding 105 inches but not exceeding 110 inches.....	20.00
Exceeding 110 inches but not exceeding 115 inches.....	22.50
Exceeding 115 inches but not exceeding 120 inches.....	25.00
Exceeding 120 inches but not exceeding 125 inches.....	27.50
Exceeding 125 inches but not exceeding 130 inches.....	30.00
Exceeding 130 inches but not exceeding 135 inches.....	32.50
For every motor vehicle exceeding 135 inches.....	35.00

2. The foregoing fees shall include the cost of one set of number plates.

3. The fee, payable after October 1 in any year, shall be one-half of the fee above prescribed.

4. Fire engines and fire patrol apparatus, police patrol and municipal owned ambulances shall be exempt from payment of the above fees, but such motor vehicles shall be registered and number plates issued on payment of fee of one dollar for each pair of number plates on filing of the statement required under section 3 of "The Motor Vehicle Act."

E. TROWBRIDGE,  
Deputy Provincial Secretary.  
Edmonton, April 24th, 1919.

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