

# The Farm Page

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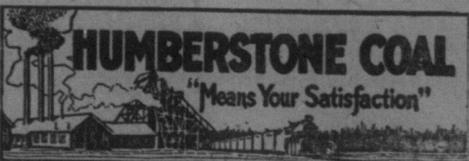
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## PROVINCIAL GOVT EXTENDS CREDIT FOR SUPPLIES

Credit Not To Exceed \$100 Per Family Given To Those In Drought Area.

H. A. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, who has been in the South, making arrangements for relief in the drought areas finds that the need is not widespread but is confined to small areas and cases in these areas are receiving immediate attention. Provision has been made whereby the Dominion and Provincial Governments will extend credit for relief cases, each bearing the expense equally. Relief offices have been opened at Medicine Hat and Youngstown and applications may be made at these points to Donald Gillis, at the former place and to O. H. Price at the latter. There are five field agents working out from these offices investigating the applications and these men have power to issue orders and pay for them. They take for security promissory notes, chattel or land mortgages. Coal and certain kinds of food may be secured, the total credit not to exceed \$100 per family.

The above arrangements apply to unorganized districts only as the municipalities are attending to their own cases and their credit is guaranteed by the Provincial government for the same matter of relief, so that application has to be made directly to the local secretary.

## J. H. HARE NEW COMMISSIONER OF POULTRY BRANCH

J. H. Hare who has been poultry marketing commissioner for the Alberta Department of Agriculture since July, 1917, has been appointed commissioner and head of the Poultry Branch of the Department of Agriculture for the province.

In the past two years Mr. Hare has been giving his attention to the establishment of a good type of marketing service for poultry and eggs at both Calgary and Edmonton, and the work has expanded satisfactorily. He will now direct the general poultry interests of the province. He has charge of the Provincial Poultry Plant, of the direction of all competitions and of extension and correspondence work.

The extension work is regarded by Mr. Hare as of special importance, and he will in all likelihood undertake useful expansions for the benefit of the industry. This will include the further improvement of marketing, the carrying on of general educational campaigns for better poultry keeping, with the establishment of demonstration poultry houses in different parts of the province. It is probable also that special agents will be furnished to give direct assistance to farmers who request it in the management and care of flocks for a period of two or three years, with a view to encourage the reaching of a better standard of efficiency in poultry work.

Previous to coming to Alberta, Mr. Hare was engaged in poultry work in Prince Edward Island and had an important part in putting the industry on the satisfactory basis on which it now is in the island province.

## DAIRY COUNCIL WOULD INCREASE USE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

The National Dairy Council of Canada at its recent meeting in Ottawa, adopted a program for an energetic campaign to increase the consumption of dairy products, to improve marketing conditions and generally to protect and develop the dairy industry in Canada. To carry on the work they have undertaken in a manner worthy of the great dairy industry of Canada, will require a large sum of money. The council proposes to raise money by the following plan:

"That the manufacturers of all milk products be asked to contribute the sum of one (1) cent per 100 pounds of butterfat or one-third of one cent per thousand pounds milk purchased by them for the current year, one-half of this amount payable November 1, 1919, and the balance February 1, 1920, to the Treasurer of the National Dairy Council.

"And that the producers be asked to contribute the sum of twenty-five (25) cents per capita per annum and that this be collected by the manufacturing concern to whom they deliver their product in the month of June, 1920, and that the same be forwarded immediately upon collection to the Treasurer of the National Dairy Council."

Milk or cream vendors are included in the term manufacturers. The first half-yearly instalment from the manufacturers is now due. The contribution is to be based on the first six months' business of 1919. The council will take steps to see that dairymen are accurately informed from time to time of the different steps taken by the council to carry out its program.

When preparing irrigated land for Alfalfa, level up the surface before the seed is planted.

## GRAIN INSPECTOR IS NOW LOCATED IN EDMONTON

Shipments of grain from the country tributary to Edmonton which are destined for that point and also through shipments which are billed to points where there is no inspector located, will in future be inspected at Edmonton by Deputy Inspector Stanley Thompson, who has recently opened an office in this city.

There have been many requests from farmers' organizations in the north, that an inspection office should be opened in Edmonton and this concession will be quite a convenience to shippers.

## PROBLEMS IN FARM MANAGEMENT AND THEIR SOLUTION

Efficient Direction of the Men is Most Necessary and is Usually the Weakest Spot.

Farm management has been defined as the science that deals with the organization and operation of a farm, for the purpose of procuring the greatest continuous profits. Continuous profits should be the watch-word in the consideration of our present-day agricultural problems. Continuous profits are the basis of all success in farming, but today, in many of the older farming districts, continuous profits are by no means certain. Continuous returns from farming must be made more certain, and this certainly will depend upon the proper solution of the following: The soil, the crop, livestock, labor, capital and the marketing problem.

The present-day soil problem is a result of the one-crop farming system. The old farming condition was approaching a crisis before the war, but the high prices put off the evil day. The problem is not, however, solved. Where one system of farming has been continuously followed, some condition has always arisen that has made it ultimately unprofitable, and forced some change. In the beginning, this forced change seemed a calamity—in the end it proved a boon.

The livestock industry affords an opportunity of securing a premium for the products that is scarcely possible in grain growing. To be successful with livestock, men must have experience, particularly in the dairy industry, and at the present time this is one of the real needs of the West. The final solution of the labor problem on the farm will, undoubtedly, be that owners will put up small houses and hire men with families, who will remain there the year through. This is the tendency now in many parts of the United States, and even in Minnesota, where conditions are similar to those of southern Manitoba.

Efficient direction of the men is most necessary, and data available indicates that one of the weakest spots in farm organization is usually in handling the labor problem. Another important problem in connection with labor is that of farm machinery, since it is a labor-saving device. The tractor question is the most vital of any of these at the present time. It is the consensus of opinion that more men, up to the present time have lost money in buying tractors than have made money by their use. There are at least two reasons for this. First, that the tractors have not been well built, and that men capable of operating them have not been available. Second, that very few horses have been displaced, consequently the cost of production has been increased unduly.

In the States of Minnesota and Wisconsin, where co-operation has developed quite extensively, no other kind of a co-operative marketing organization has developed so rapidly, and with such satisfaction to the farmers, as the co-operative livestock shipping associations. The reason for this is two-fold: First, they have been able to see definitely the saving that can be made by employing one of their own number to act as a manager and take charge of the ordering of cars to ship all the stock and the distribution of the returns, after the expenses have been paid; and second, no subscription of capital stock is required, since no buildings or other equipment are necessary; the only requirements are that the people agree to ship together and hire someone to take charge of the shipping. In Minnesota, in 1914, there were 115 local shipping associations that shipped over \$6,000,000 worth of livestock, with an average saving of approximately \$1,000 per association.—Prof. A. H. Benton.

Alsike clover is proving best adapted for central Alberta conditions. It does not require inoculation, is hardy and productive, making a much stronger growth than is usual with this clover in many other parts. Its chief value is as a part of a mixture. The following mixture may be sown with a nurse crop of barley: Timothy, 4 pounds; Alsike, 4 pounds; Clover, 4 pounds, per acre.

Wheat weighing 67 pounds to the bushel and believed to be heaviest ever inspected in the province has just been examined at Calgary. It graded No. 1 and was grown 25 miles northeast of Calgary on a field of 129 acres, which averaged 28 bushels to the acre.

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