

Party—Subserviency in Canada, 143.
Patronage—5, abolished, 1739, 1741.
Patterns—426, 715, 983, 1136, 1766, 1910, 2148.
Peace—German terms, 31; one attitude towards, 125; things making for, 1634; a reasonable man's, 1708; movement, 1750; Landsdown's appeal, 2041.
Peas—Growing in Sask., 253; as hog feed, 895; in Alta., 1574.
Pensions—To be increased, 1437; returned soldiers, 1741.
Peoria—Soil products exposition, 1565, 1577, 1532.
Pines—Isle of, 21, 262.
Plank Drag—600, Seager Wheeler's, 1195.
Poisoning—Hemlock, 1538; symptoms of flax, 1714; water hemlock, 1718.
Police—Mounted, 277.
Politics—And business, 316.
Porritt, Edward—7, 43, 1075, 2112.
Portraits—Hon. Geo. Brown, 7; Hon. Alex. McKenzie, 43; Miss Clara Holling, Mrs. Alice Holling, 46; H. Watkin Mills, 65; Officers and Directors Man. G.O., 1917, 87; R. C. Henders, 83; A. J. Avison, 85; J. S. Woods, 85; Peter Wright, 85; Officers and Directors U.F.A., 1917, 154; P. P. Woodbridge, 157; Man. Women G.O., 162; Women U.F.A., 206; E. J. Troit, 240; Canadian Council of Agriculture, 174; Sask. G.O. Directors, 298; J. A. Maharg, 300; J. B. Musselman, 301; Julia Lathrop, 350; Sask. Women G.O., 398; The Duke of Devonshire, 450; J. S. Woodworth, 452; Charles Darwin, 482; Can. Council of Agriculture, 498; Thomas Carlyle, 608; Mlle. Marcelle Saxmor, 649; Lachlan McNeil, 704; Leo Tolstoy, 869; Rev. Wm. Ben. 897; Corp. D. Barclay Brown, 966; R. D. Colquhoun, 975; E. H. Powell, 979; National Council of Women, 1036; Board of Grain Supervisors, 1079; W. M. Martin, 1103; Karl Marx, 1138; Henry George, 1163; Edward Edwards, 1205; Mervin C. Simmonds, 1205; R. McKenzie, 1249; Dr. Salem G. Bland, 1249; Hon. W. J. Hanna, 1281; Mrs. Louise Crumney-McKinney, 1404; James Weir, 1404; Earl Grey, 1431; C. S. Noble, 1531; Giuseppe Mazzini, 1546; S. Larcombe, 1558; Seager Wheeler, 1577; Quebec bridge, 1598; W. W. Nolyneaux, 1607; David Lloyd-George, 1609; Sir Douglas Haig, 1609; Thos. Beveridge, 1611; T. A. Crear, 1655; A. L. Sifton, 1655; G. W. Prout, 1659; J. A. Calder, 1690; historic photo, 1699; Ethel McLachlan, 1702; M. C. Berner, 1716; Charles Stewart, 1731; Hon. N. W. Rowell, 1739; Major-General Newburn, 1739; Hon. F. B. Carvell, 1739; Nick Tattinger, 1743; Hon. S. J. Latta, 1774; John D. Hunt, 1807; R. M. McCaul, 1814; W. V. Woodson, 1845; W. E. McTaggart, 1893; A. A. Kennedy, 1894; Carl A. Anderson, 1904; Lieut. J. C. Smith, 1974; Mrs. Nellie L. McClung, 1994; Sir Adam Beck, 1997; W. C. Good, 1996; Elmer Lick, 1996; J. J. Morrison, 1996; R. H. Halbert, 1996; B. C. Turner, 1996; R. H. Connor, 2042.
Potatoes—34; American, 211; growing, 248, 819; planting method, 445; use for small, 934; growing car lot, 1299; short circuiting in trade, 1304; Canadian's crop, 1347; blight, 1473; storage, 1480; digging and storage, 1525; B.C. Conditions, 1537; scrubby, 1677; marketing, 1715; selecting and growing, 1724; content, 1859, 1897; success with, 2099.
Poultry—Wgs. show, 372; industry, 395; loss of eggs, 405; colony house, 418; experience, 469, 515; shipping eggs and breeding stock, 536; turkeys, 580; home-made brooders, 667; spring work with, 668; incubator, 770; saving egg losses, 922; weed out males, 1166; egg marketing service, 1278; eggs in diet, 1281; experience in raising, 1287; marketing, 1524; eggs from tubercular hens, 1534; conditions on farm, 1633; paragraphs, 1678; finishing chickens, 4716; shipping dead or alive, 1762; wartime rationing, 1809; off color, 1810; shows, 1858; start pullets, laying, 1946; for Xmas, 2015; holiday trade, 2098.
Preparedness—Imperative, 345.
Prices—Regulation in Australia, 531; protest fixing wheat, 653; wheat, fixing, 693; resolution re wheat, 699; control of food, 998; based on corn, 1204; wheat not fixed, 1266; comments on wheat, 1237; coal, 1567; wheat, fixed, 1571, 1841; fixing flour, 1579, 1619, 1698; fixing food, 1605.
Prisoners—Of war, parcels to, 231.
Profits—Cannery, 512; Maple Leaf, 513.
Proportional Representation—In Brit., 628; in parliament, 818; plans outlined, 824; discussed at Ottawa, 952; bare system, 1711.
Prophecy—Of modern times, Charles Darwin, 482; Thos. Carlyle, 608; Leo Tolstoy, 869; Friedrich Nietzsche, 1058; Karl Marx, 1138; Giuseppe Mazzini, 1546.
Protection—On olefin, 5, 16; benefits of, 254; Essay, 254; handicaps, farmers, 255; breakdown of European, 649; and immigration, 693; western farmers on, 1285; advocated, 1456; fallacies of, 1877.
Public Ownership—30, 183; notes on, 1838; progressing, 2074; of coal mines, 1459; dumping, 1459; new doctrine, 2076.
Pullies—Proper size of, 932.
Railways—Killing stock, 22; car shortage, 243; Ackworth report, 197, 817, 828, 831; in Man., 644, 721; nationalization, 828; and fuel, 942; English, under war conditions, 1054.
Reno, H. D.—Book review, 566, 726, 519, 757, 800; sermon by, 562, 1071, 1611.

Raspberries—For Western Canada, 2134.
Rats—Extermination of, 895.
Real Estate—The game, 126.
Recall—Bill killed, 317.
Red Cross—Workers, 1913, 1967; the fourth Xmas., 1995.
Referendum—1573.
Registered Seed—Value of, 1742.
Religion—Sabbath reading, 1963; head of our Lord, 1992; the deeper life, 2116, 2185.
Rogers, Hon. Robt.—"Sanctified", 1271; replies, 1305.
Root—Seed selection, 1852; care of, 2154.
Ross Rifle—212; contract cancelled, 346.
Rural Schools—44, 150; helping, 396, 626, 804; trustee's con., 849, 915; plantations and garden, 1098; benefits of consolidation, 1169; educational equality, 1222, 1458; con. at Foam Lake, 1685; revitalizing, 1906; message to, 1989.
Russia—Revolution, 525, 545, 550; progress of revolution, 597, 638; exiles returning, 683; distracted, 1566, 1870; civil war in, 2108.
Rye—On drifting soil, 1000; winter growing, 1216.
S
Sample Market—Discussed, 154; assured, 733; trading at Minneapolis, 963; re-commendation of Grain com., 1044; pays, 1157; discussed in Sask., 1187; established, 1360; regulations, 1461, 1639.
Saskatchewan—New legislation, 596; Census, 1622; Alpine experiments in, 1680.
Sask. Co-op. Elev. Co.—Trading activities, 448; annual report, 1943.
Sask. G. O. Association—80, 160, 187; resolutions, 296, 297; con., 300; Women's, 306; election, 315; adopt farmers' platform, 316; financial report, 320; Women's, 331, 333; Sunday, 399, 552, 606, 741, 899, 1127, 1565, 1383; Central board meeting, 652; life membership certificates, 657; fairs, 895; language question, 825; political action, 1112; life membership, 1187; grain competition winners, 1279; ex. meeting, 1376; Women's, 1389; subjects for debate, 1443; district con., 1484, 1573, 1664, 1794, 1727, 1747; directors' meeting, 1836; con., 2002.
Saving—National campaign, 32.
Screenings—Conference on, 1584.
Seed Grain—90; repaying charges, 125; germination test, 253, 349; certificates, 505; cleaning, 556; at Ft. William, 1223; selection, 1243; forming a seed centre, 2083; securing, 2162.
Senate—Reform, 893; on production, 1362.
Service—Civil, 49; national, 71; military (see conscription).
Settlers—Advice to, 600; problem, 601.
Sheep—Feeding in stubble, 207; determining age of, 672; feeding lambs, 1161; wool, 1193; marketing lambs, 1600; in Alta., 1938.
Shipping—Ocean control, 5.
Shilling, 1537; handling, 1635; in Alta., 1870.
Shops—Monopoly, 161.
Shrimps—Breeding, 518; eye and drifting, 1000; fertilizers, 1051; preparing the seed bed, 1151.
Soldiers—Providing for returned, 23; Returned Assn., 128; pensions, 160; govt. assistance, 721; settlement plan, 739; make demands, 756; work for, 867; education of returned, 1830, 1833; returned medical exams., 1863; families of fallen, 1515; refused insurance, 1800; number in France, 1841.
Sow Thistle—31; description of, 1300; killed by fallow, 1686.
Steel—On war basis, 2117, 2121.
Straw—Take care of, 2143.
Strawberries—In Sask., 1677; success with, 2110.
Submarines—Threat, 734; significance of blockade, 249, 345; victims increase, 1089; victory over, 1877.
Swine—Pasturing, 207, 1000; self feeders, 1046, 1687; castration of young pigs, 1296; production costs, 1608; finishing, 1661, 1857; selling prices, 1925; parading, 1952; housing, 1974; production, 1989, 2017.
T
Tattinger, Nick—and his methods, 1743.
Tariff—Corn, syrup, 125; tin plate, 153; making laws, 441; making sugar barons, 616; subsidies, 748; and politics, 862; Liberal views, 929; reduction demanded by Liberals, 931; reform defeated, 962; R. McKenzie on, 974; from farmers' standpoint, 1152.
Taxation—5, 15; municipal, 45, 124; C.P.R. exemption, 125; income, 214; unimproved land, 228; succession duties, 274; on food a crime, 654; L.V., 658; income in U.S., 671; income in Antipodes, 754; increased corp. tax, 777; American increases, 893; vacant land, 970, 973; land values, 1116; on national resources, 1150; land values in N.S.W., 1191; income tax light, 1228; New Zealand, 1115; income in Canada and U.S., 1116; New Zealand, 1425, 1613; titles, 1540; and tractors, 1582; incidence of 1804; municipal, 1940; Sask. assessments, 1940; and free trade, 2007.
Teeth—Care of, 1792.
Telephones—Man. report, 318.
Thanksgiving—1576.
Thrift—381.
Timothy—Market for seed, 1964; handling seed, 1950.
Tractor—Fuel problem, 411; power 281-

ings, 444; Ford fake, 567; auto, 612; proposals for free rejected, 776; duty on, 786; and production, 788; fundamentals of design, 829; demonstration for farmers, 1128; drawbar, 1212; Brandon demonstration, 1256; and taxation, 1582; homemade, 1623; buying, 1661; deciding on, 1794; take tax off, 2117; tendencies in design, 2126.
Trade—With Britain, 277.
Trees—Plantation, 549; and shrubs to plant, 736; at schools, 986.
Tuberculosis—Bovine, 152, 435, 767.
Turnips—In Alta., 1608.
Twine—Alta. farmers ordering, 1246.
U
U.F.A.—Con., 111, 153, 155, 157, 159, 163, 165, 188, 192, 304, 401, 449, 551; 1917 report, 192; patriotism question, 249; Sunday, 345, 700, 739, 823, 1041, 1080; co-op. amendment, 651; formation on, 783; sec'y's. con., 866, 1005, 1154, 1706, 1749, 1789; insist on conscription of wealth, 1198; directors' meet., 1219; discuss co-operative trading, 1306; shipping, 1375; legal dept., 1375; incorporation of locals, 1375; con., 1918; date set, 1521; competition for locals, 1612; ex. meeting, 1665; how financed, 1835; did its duty, 2078.
U.F.C.—Ex. meeting, 1170; and farmers' platform, 1588, 1642, 1707; to be re-presented, 1843.
U.F.O.—Comments on, 645; organized progress, 1327; farmers alert, 1377; co-developing, 1835; meet city editors, 1931; movement, 1996.
U.F.W.—Con., 485; resolutions and pledges, 2162.
U.G.G. Ltd.—Amalgamation, 351, 354; Musselman's reply to Crear, 466; company formed, 1335; organizer appointed, 1838.
United States—1916 crop returns, 665; income tax, 671; good roads in, 671; wheat prospects, 714; freight rates, 767; war budget, 768; conscription in, 808; fixing wheat prices, 815; soldiers for France, 829; war organization, 1043; subscriptions to loan, 1094; farm loans, 1283; coal trade commission conclusion, 1335; war loan, 1369; insurance for soldiers, 1384; wheat prices fixed, 1401; farm loans, 1624; wheat purchased from, 1625; losses in banks, 2011; packers' profits, 2027.
V
Vacant Land—Taxing, 920; survey suggested, 920; curse of speculation, 954; promised purchase, 1033; taxation of, 1273; conscript, 1841.
Vegetables—Growing farm, 831; drying, 1253, 1271; conserving canned, 1401; rule repealed, 1581; at Peoria, 1632; storing, 1677.
Victory Bonds—1438, 1606, 1697, 1706, 1710, 1793, 1829, 1844, 1877; A.B.C. of, 1891, 1911; Laurier on, 1957; consequences of, 2118.
W
War—Conference, 39; savings certificates, 277; revenue, 394; loan, 345; declared by U.S., 645, 656; loan successful, 645; and democracy, 693; U.S. budget, 768; debt of Canada, 810; economics of, 861; debts and fiscal policies, 861; situation today, 988; in the air, 1184; Wilson's statement, 2111; bonds should be exempt, 1273; weakness of Canada's loan, 1282; Gerard's statement, 1369; loan in U.S., 1369; financing orders, 1578.
Water—Prospecting for supply, 1328.
Weeds—Control of, 1276.
Westwood, Horace—Prophecy of modern times, 482, 608, 869, 1058, 1128, 1546.
Wheat—Barum, 9; factors affecting yields, 251; prices, 345; fixing prices, 497; handling Australian, 503; Foster on fixing prices, 578; protest fixing prices, 653; prices rising, 693; support for free export, resolutions re prices, 699; U.S. prospects, 714; put on free list, 737; history of free, 733; prices should be accepted, 746; depth of roots, 749; Ladoga, 749; permanent free proposal, 776; Dr. Clark on free, 810; fixing prices in U.S., 815; Can. cornered, 851; not trading closed, 940; when to cut, 931; the grade and the loaf, 1035; fixed prices requested, 1094; prices for 100 years, 1156; prices not yet fixed, 1264; comments on fixing prices, 1337; produce more, 1337; embargo opposed, 1383; prices fixed in U.S., 1401, 1444, 1477, 1563, 1512; reasons for fixed prices, 1516; production costs in Sask., 1595; low prices fixed, 1571; as security, 1579; free for Australia, 1619; rust, 1622; purchased from U.S., 1625; reserves in Australia and Argentine, 1704; dry farmed and irrigated, 1714; prices fixed, 1841; prevent rust, 1892; cost of growing, 2174.
Wheeler, Seager—297, 725, 921, 1107, 1151, 1195, 1243, 1784; and his work, 2162.
Wholesalers—Defence, comments on, 861, 864, 896.
Women—National council con., 1026, 1037; judge in Sask., 1702.
Women's Institutes—Con., 1907; Alta. institutes, 1978.
Woodworth, J. S.—On child welfare, 225; on co-operation, 416; the community, 452.
Wool—Commission, 891; Western crop, 1275; situation, 1477; wartime riddle, 1494, 1941.
W.M.C.A.—At front, 251; helping the, 1280; soldier, 1609.

PRACTICAL POULTRY POINTERS
The cold snap of the past week or so has certainly pulled down the egg production. The pullets were coming along just fine. Warm or hot mashes will help out in bringing back the eggs again.
Pullets that are laying now are well worth looking after. Mark them with a leg band. These bands are cheap. Pick out 12 or 15 of the pullets and hens that are laying now or likely to shortly, put them separate and next spring use only their eggs for hatching. Do this for a few years and see what you can do in the way of increasing your egg yield from year to year.
A lot of complaints are coming in now from farmers who have colds and roup in chickens and turkeys. This fall seems to have been especially bad for this. Coal oil in the drinking water may help to prevent further spread. Coal oil injected into the nostrils will also help some. Washing the head with a weak solution of carbolic acid or Zenoleum will often give relief. The swollen portions should be lanced and the matter pressed out, afterwards applying the solution. Often the sore will have to be cut open every few days and the matter pressed out. At best it is a tedious process to try and cure a case of roup. Generally the bird is not worth the trouble. The danger to the rest of the flock is usually more than the whole trouble is worth. Killing off any badly affected ones is the best practice. When birds are so far gone that flock treatment will not save them, it is just as well to kill them off.
Prices for holiday poultry have been well maintained. There is a scarcity of turkeys all round. Prices to the consumers are from 30 to 35 cents a lb. Poultry coming in now is in a pretty well finished condition generally. Farmers would do well to hold what chickens they have left until two weeks or so after the holidays. Prices are likely to go up a little higher by then.
The fool situation is getting more acute as the days go by. Our farmers would do well now to plan on raising more poultry next year. Every pound of poultry grown will release a pound of food for the boys overseas. Raise more poultry, eat more poultry and sell more poultry should be our aim for 1918.
Diseased livers in turkeys are very common now. It appears that blackhead in turkeys is prevalent also this fall again. The first symptoms are drooping inactive dull condition. Head is drawn back into the shoulders. Usually there is diarrhoea present. The turkey seldom lasts more than two or three days before the disease gets into the virulent form. Numerous diseased livers have been sent in lately and all have the same appearance, viz. large white ulcers covering the lobes of the liver. The liver is also considerably increased in size. The general symptoms are the same or similar in every case. There is no cure for the disease. From my own personal experience I would say that a liberal use of charcoal previous to any symptoms may help to prevent the disease.
Any disease of the liver is an indication of digestive disorder. The charcoal evidently helps to correct these. The best way to administer it is to mix the ground of crushed charcoal with water to make a nice syrup. About a handful of charcoal to a quarter of a pint of water is quite sufficient. Pour this down the throat of the turkey. By straddling the turkey you can hold him firmly with the legs and with one hand open the mouth. Put the forefinger in the angle of the jaw and hold the mouth open in this way. With the other hand pour down the dose. Repeat it every day for a week or so. You can do the turkey no harm with it. A few drops of muriatic acid in a gallon of drinking water is supposed to be a preventive also.
At best it is a difficult disease to handle on account of taking the bird so suddenly and so quickly. This is perhaps the worst and most fatal disease in turkeys and one that gives the least evidence of being present until it is pretty well advanced.

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