

attention to the problem of high food prices; in fact, this is the most important work foreshadowed for the legislature in the speech from the throne. Similarly, in the United States the federal department of agriculture have named a commission to inquire into the whole question of food prices and find, if possible, the reason for the large increase in the cost of living during the past few years. The United States commission will address itself not only to inquiry at home, but is given authority to prosecute enquiries abroad, to determine whether or not the American consumer is paying more for farm products produced at his door than European consumers pay for the same products when they are exported abroad.

The investigation of the question of food prices will be followed with a good deal of interest. It is expected that considerable light will be thrown on the influence of combines; in fact, action against certain combinations said to be unduly enhancing the consumers' price of a number of food products has been started in Chicago, the presiding judge being K. M. Landis, he who inflicted the twenty-nine million dollar fine on the Standard Oil Company.

James J. Hill, in a recent speech on the question of the high cost of living has this to say and this solution to offer:

"If as a nation we could stop our rush for a few days and give ourselves over to solid thinking, to casting about us to see what is going on, the problem would soon solve itself. There is extravagance in government, in industry, in speech, and in promise. We are wasting our heritage more shamelessly than any people in the history of the world. It has been come easy and go easy with us for so long a time that we don't know how else to lie. In a word, our best thinkers everywhere must turn their thoughts to the problem of increasing the productiveness of the soil before we can arrive at the solution. Manufacturing, mining, industry and transportation have been absorbing too much thought of the world's leaders for half a century. We have those subjects in hand now; there is not much more to be learned in any of them. And so let's turn and solve the farm problem. It is simpler than any of the others, but it is harder to make practical use of the solution. We know how to make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, but we haven't the men and women out on the farms to do the work. So the chief feature of the problem is how to get the people back to the soil. They have got to come to it if we survive. The sooner the better. The movement from the city back to the country will start before long and we shall immediately feel its effects. Until that movement sets in I have no remedy to suggest for the present high cost of living—I should have said the present cost of high living."

### Agricultural Progress in Alberta

The annual report of the department of agriculture for Alberta for 1909 was issued recently. In it the deputy minister of agriculture sums up the features of the season and their bearing upon agriculture. He says, in part:

The acreage seeded to winter wheat was much greater than in previous years, but this did not compensate for the loss by drouth and winter-killing, which amounted to at least 50 per cent. throughout the province. The greater part of the acreage that suffered was reseeded to spring wheat, oats and barley. Frost and hail did some damage during the growing season, but on the whole the province reaped a very bountiful harvest. The sample of grain was almost uniformly good. The official estimate places the total at more than 130,000 acres. The tabulated estimates of the department gives the acreage and yield as follows:

	Acres.	Est. yield.	Est. bush. acre.
Wheat (spring) .....	250,000	6,250,000	25
Wheat (winter) .....	80,000	2,000,000	25
Oats .....	500,000	20,000,000	40
Barley .....	100,000	2,500,000	25
Rye .....	1,000	18,000	18
Flax .....	9,700	82,450	8 1/2
Speltz .....	500	11,500	23
	941,200	30,861,950	

"There were about 2,400 acres of sugar beets under cultivation; the estimated yield was eight tons per acre."

"Stockmen had the most favorable winter of the last four in 1908-9, with the result that the spring found the stock in good condition, the only exception being in the case of sheep and hogs, where there was some loss of the increase owing to the cold, wet spring. The subsequent season was exceptionally suitable for live stock. The range in the southern portion of the province has been disappearing by reason of the encroachment of the homesteader, but the number of small owners on farms is at the same time so rapidly increasing that there will be more cattle and horses for market than ever before. It may be true that the quality for a time will rank a little lower, but this will soon be readjusted by the introduction of pure-bred sires. The number of cattle marketed during the year is estimated at

128,000; prices, which were even better than those of the previous year, ranged from \$35 to \$50 per head. Prices of horses were well maintained at high figures; at least 17,500 head were sold within the province.

It is now estimated that there are probably 100,000 sheep in Alberta, 60,000 being south of the C. P. R. main line. The flocks in the south are decreasing, but the increase in the north will at least make up for this decrease. About 25,000 were sold for mutton at an average of \$6, and the wool clip was 400,000 pounds, selling at an average price of ten cents. The number of swine shows a substantial increase. The growth in numbers is most rapid in the central and northern portions of the province, yet there is a good increase in the country adjacent to the C. P. R. line from Macleod to Calgary. The number marketed is estimated at 80,000, and prices have ranged from six cents to nine cents per pound.

The dairy commissioner in his report estimates the aggregate selling value of the output of the cheese factories at \$28,000, and the butter from the creameries of the province at \$600,000 for the year ending October 31. In addition, butter from the private dairies has probably been sold in the same period to the value of \$275,000, making a grand total from the dairy produce of the province of at least \$903,000.

### Events of the Week

It is stated that Earl Carrington will succeed Earl Grey as governor-general of Canada when the latter's term of office expires this year.

Hugh McKellar, publicity commissioner for Moose Jaw, has resigned to accept the position of secretary and manager of the local agricultural fair board.

The British naval program for 1910 includes the largest item in building ever undertaken by the Admiralty in one year. Four super dreadnoughts will be laid down, together with a number of other vessels of large size and a large list of destroyers and submarines.

The railways are planning to make splendid exhibits at the coming Brussels International Exposition. The Grand Trunk Pacific are making preparations to run a continuous motion picture theatre in which the building of the line will be shown from the steam-shovel to the complete line.

The meat boycott, which was started two weeks ago in certain American cities is spreading rapidly, and those in the United States who are now going without meat in order to bring prices down, are numbering into the hundreds of thousands. In several Canadian cities "meat strikes" have been organized.

J. Pierpont Morgan, promoter of billion dollar corporations, multi-millionaire and collector of works of art and antiques, is behind a gigantic merger in copper which will be the second largest individual combination in the world. Practically all the leading copper mine owners of the United States are in the merger, the capitalization of the new corporation being one billion dollars. Copper is expected in the next few years to assume an importance among metals equal to steel, its use increasing very rapidly.

What cables describe as the most appalling calamity in the history of Paris, France, occurred last week. A tremendous downpour of rain followed by snow in the provinces drained by the Seine, raised that usually placid stream to unrecorded violence. The water rose high above high water mark. Bridges of historic associations were dynamited to give the waters free channel but nearly all the French capital was inundated. Thirty thousand people are reported homeless; the damage is figured at \$200,000,000. Food prices have soared and fever has broken out among the inhabitants. The flood is the worst ever recorded at Paris and it will be some time before the city recovers from the watery onslaught of the Seine.

The original white settlers of Rupert's Land and the Northwest Territories at a meeting in Winnipeg on January 13 adopted a resolution dealing with the rights and privileges guaranteed them when these territories entered confederation, which resolution was presented last week by James H. Ashdown, ex-mayor of Winnipeg, to the Dominion authorities at Ottawa. The petitioners assert that when the western territories consented to become a part of the confederated Dominion, certain rights which the original white settlers were conceded to hold would be respected by the Dominion government. These rights, it is claimed, have not been respected in the sense that was understood. The original settlers and their descendants claim in this petition that while their claims were prior to and other that could be advanced, other individuals any corporations have been dealt with by the government with a lavish hand, and the original settlers given only such rights as were granted to ordinary settlers. It is proposed, therefore, that the whole question be brought up in Parliament as a non-partisan subject and the matter gone thoroughly into. No reply has yet been received by the pioneers to their request.

Lloyd-George is expected to ask parliament to sanction the raising of \$850,000,000 for next year's public expenditure, one of the largest ever introduced. This sum will be raised in the manner proposed in the budget rejected by the Lords.

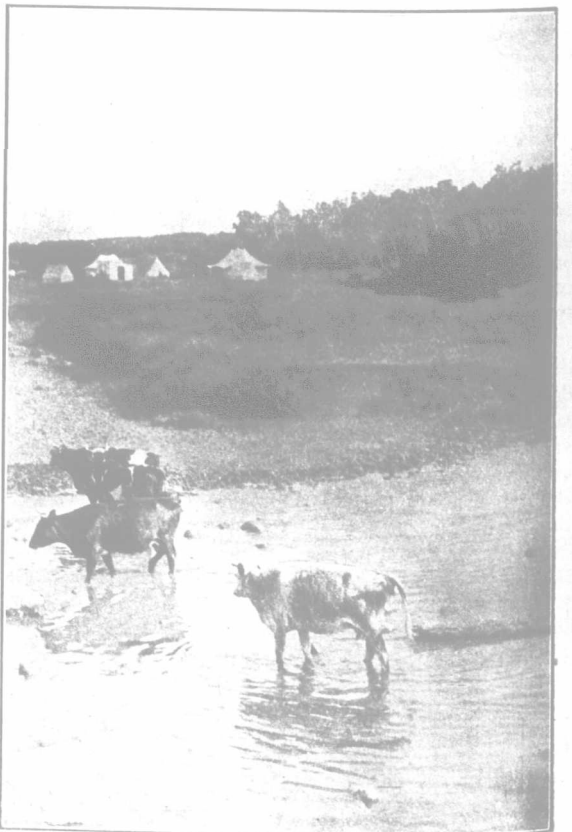
The Western Fair Association presented the following resolutions before the House of Commons' committee on the Miller anti-gambling bill: that racing is necessary to the development of the Thoroughbred; that its results aids the farmers in obtaining good stock to cross with his own; that racing cannot continue without the betting privilege; that the prairie provinces are the only part of Canada from which saddle horses for home purposes and remounts "as in Strathcona Horse regiment" can be obtained for the imperial army.

Dominion trade returns for December show a record volume of business done. The total trade was \$72,527,465, an increase of \$12,250,534 over December, 1909. The exports of domestic products totalled \$30,774,900. The increase in exports, about \$9,000,000, are credited to agriculture, reflecting the results of the record harvest of last year. For the nine months of the fiscal year the total trade has been \$512,486,678, a comparative increase of \$83,288,506. The imports have totalled \$267,041,935 an increase of \$58,381,762. The exports of domestic products have totalled \$221,116,813, an increase of \$26,533,626. During the nine months the agricultural exports increased \$23,000,000, and the exports of the forest have increased by \$7,000,000.

### Grain Growers to Federal Government.

A delegation representing the grain growers' and milling interests of the Dominion met the minister of trade and commerce last week and renewed the request that the government take over the terminal elevators at Port Arthur and Fort William. The delegation consisted of R. Mackenzie and R. C. Henders, secretary and vice-president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association; Messrs. Watts, Shaw and Rice of the Dominion Millers' Association, and Mr. Ewing, M.L.A., representing the Dominion Grange. R. C. Henders, speaking for the Grain Growers', presented the resolutions adopted at the association's annual meeting in December. R. Mackenzie, along the same line, pointed out that the elevator situation had materially changed since the delegation approached the government a year ago. He urged the taking over of the terminals by the federal government as a necessary step to ensure of the grain growers' interests being adequately guarded, and for the establishment of a sample market at Winnipeg.

G. B. Watts, secretary of the Canadian Milling Association, emphasized the necessity of the government taking over the terminal elevators so as to guard against the lowering of the standard of grain, suggesting that conditions ought to be such that grain would be delivered to the consumer in the condition that it is disposed of by the grower. Under the present conditions the grain is tampered with in transit and neither grower nor the manufacturer of flour gets full benefit. Mr. Watts pointed out that Ontario millers give a preference to grain shipped from C. P. R. terminals over grain shipped from the privately owned elevators.



THE COWS ENJOY A STREAM.