

(Continued from page 7.)

records of the Company is made under the supervision of the Provincial Auditor, the cost and expense of the audit being borne by the Company.

There are 18,000 farmer shareholders participating in the profits of the Company. In each of the last five years a dividend in one year of six per cent and in four years of eight per cent has been paid to the shareholders out of profits. The sum of \$11.00 has also been added to the paid up value of each share subscribed in the first organization year. Shares subscribed in subsequent years have had a proportionate amount added to their paid up value out of profits, this sum having been taken from the profits and credited to paid up capital. Fifty per cent of the profits remaining on hand, after all expenses and a dividend not exceeding 10% have been paid, must, under the Act of Incorporation be placed in Elevator Reserve Account.

The Act of Incorporation provides, among other alternatives, for the distribution of surplus profits in the form of patronage dividends — at the discretion of the Company. So far, no patronage dividends have been paid. The Directors and Shareholders have decided that, meantime, at any rate, it is in the interests of the Company to accumulate surplus profits (after a dividend has been paid) and increase the paid up capital and reserves. The wisdom of this policy is evidenced by the fact that the Company has been able to finance the erection of its own Head Office Building, and is now financing the building of a terminal elevator. A further distribution of profits yearly should have entailed great additional expense, with a very small return to the individual farmer. By conserving a certain portion of their earnings, and using it, co-operatively, for logical development, the farmers are receiving profits and benefits of infinitely greater value to each one of them.

Year by year the application for the erection of new elevators far outnumber what the Company is able to undertake and absorb into its system in one season. Consequently, during the building season of 1916, the number of new locals organized, and elevators constructed, had to be restricted to 30. The Company now has a total of 260 Locals organized.

The first number of "The Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company News" appeared in April last. It is a sixteen-page bulletin in which the Company publishes bi-monthly, for the purpose of keeping its shareholders in close touch with their own Company and its activities.

The Head Office staff at Regina, numbering 100, is housed in a two-story building erected for the purpose, and owned by the organized farmers of the Province. It cost approximately \$80,000.00.

Terminal Elevator.

Legislation was introduced at a recent session of the Provincial Legislature so amending the Act under which the Company is incorporated as to allow of its financing and building a terminal elevator. Having in mind the success which has attended their efforts as country elevators owners, it is natural that the farmers, through their own organization, should have cast a business eye on the possibilities of a co-operative terminal elevator at the head of the Great Lakes. For the successful operation of a terminal, sufficient grain is the fundamental thing. In their own country elevators for four seasons the farmers of Saskatchewan have had the grain, but they have not had the terminal. By the time the 1917 crop is ready to be harvested they will have the terminal too. Thus are they planning to operate for their own benefit and profit another important and extensive branch of the grain handling trade. The Co-operative terminal will be situated at Port Arthur, Ontario, and will have a capacity of 2½ million bushels.

The building of elevators and the handling of an immense volume of business does not, however, in itself fulfil the purpose for which the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company was formed. Is the farmer in any better position over the marketing of his grain? There is good evidence that he is much better off. As the Company grows more influential, it is correspondingly easier for it to control the practices of the grain trade. A farmer receives a better price for grain marketed through the co-operative elevator than he would receive from a private company did the Co-operative Elevator not exist. Further, it is almost impossible to find any station where the price paid by the private companies is not determined by the price paid at the Co-operative Elevator. It is hard to say what this gain to the farmers amounts to, but conservative estimates place it at, at least, three cents per bushel.

Special binning of the farmers' grain now represents about two-thirds of the Co-operative Elevator Company's business. Other companies, prior to the entrance of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company into the grain trade, made quite inadequate provision for this class of business, nor did representations from the farmers change the condition. These, and other reforms, stand to the credit of this Company. Abuses arise partly from apathy and indifference on the part of those who suffer them, and a frank insistence on fair dealing, such as it is impossible to voice through co-operation, creates in time the atmosphere in which abuses cannot thrive.

Co-operative enterprise is doing more than amending the evils of the grain trade. It is educating and producing men from among the farmers to direct the affairs of farmers. On the Local Board men are learning to thresh out their own problems, rather than to agitate that others should come to their relief; in the country elevator, buyers are expected to adhere to the principle that honesty is the only sound rule to follow; in the Head Office and on the Directorate, farmers are becoming men of affairs in the handling of their own business, and the interests which surround and affect it.

Co-operation is a spirit as well as a method, and nothing can stand in the way of its prosperous future but the attitude of farmers themselves.

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Province Has Land in Limitless Quantity for the Settlers From Every Part of the Empire and the United States. Agriculture Witnessing a Great Revival. Attended With Fruitful Results in this Growing Province is Every Department of Agricultural Industry. Some Trade Revival and Expansion Proofs.

By CHARLES S. HOTCHKISS.

Chief Publicity Commissioner for Alberta.

Alberta is an agricultural country, and though its future history will witness a wonderful development in those industries dependent upon extensive mineral resources, the calling of the farmer embracing grain culture and live stock breeding will never fail in the land that possesses the soil and climate of the Foothill Province of the West.

The importance of Alberta to Canada lies in the fact that it has land in limitless quantity for the settlers from every part of the Empire and the United States. Railway development in Alberta will open more agricultural land than is possible in any part of America. The trek of the American farmer after the golden sheaf has begun and will continue until all the homestead and cheap land is taken up.

Agriculture to-day is witnessing a great revival. Nowhere will the new agriculture be attended with more fruitful results than in the new Province of Alberta.

Alberta is no longer the exclusive home of the ranchman. The great ranges have become vast grain fields, and where the cowboys drove their herds myriads of farms and homes have sprung up. The wilderness has been transformed by the railway. Towns and cities mark a new feature in the landscape and a new era has opened in the history of the province.

The variety and grandeur of the physical features, the diversity and extent of the natural resources of Alberta, represent in an outward form the infinite variety and opportunity of life within its borders. Its development bears an important economic relation to the growth of the Dominion of Canada and one might say to the Empire. Its importance lies in the fact that it contains one of the largest and richest solid areas of agricultural land in Canada or of any other British colony, and can sustain a dense and permanent population. In the early days it was the home of the most powerful of the Indian nations of the whole northwest. Its luxuriant pastures supported vast herds of antelope, deer and buffalo, and its mountains great canyons and lakes comprised the richest territory exploited by the fur companies. To-day the population is increasing at the rate of about 50,000 per year and attracting settlers from all parts of the world who find Alberta a place where opportunity and advancement is limited only by their own initiative and energy.

In 1901 the population was 65,000, in 1906 it was 185,000. The census of 1911 gave a population of 385,000. To-day the population is at least 550,000. If the same rate of increase continues for the next five years (and we believe it will) the population of the province will be nearly a million.

During the past five years the grain production has increased from 22,000,000 to 164,000,000 bushels.

But these figures do not tell the whole story of crop production, by any means. Not only has Alberta demonstrated within the last ten years that she can grow crops of wheat, oats, barley and flax unsurpassed on the continent, but she has also found that she can grow other crops which were not attempted ten years ago, or which were grown in such small quantities that they did not figure in the returns. Among the crops so classed may be mentioned rye, which last year amounted to 463,000 bushels, and alfalfa totalling in 1915 over 34,000 tons. Others crops of importance were potatoes, 5,155,000 bushels; turnips and other root crops, 1,356,000 bushels, mixed grains 67,080 bushels, fodder corn 5,700 tons; hay and clover, 311,000 tons.

Though Alberta is well adapted for wheat and other grains, stock raising was the first industry of importance in the development of the province, and still holds the premier place. The most prosperous

districts are those where wheat farming is carried on in connection with the live stock and dairying industries. Many conditions favorable to the live stock industry are peculiar to Alberta.

Livestock in Alberta:	1911.	1915.
Horses	407,153	620,000
Dairy Cows	147,687	210,000
Other Cattle	592,163	915,000
Sheep	133,592	525,000
Swine	237,510	400,000

The dairy products of Alberta for the year 1915 were worth 11,000,000. The production of creamery butter was in the neighborhood of 7,000,000 pounds compared with 2,000,000 lbs. in 1910. The province has an expert system of grading, handling and marketing its butter, which has resulted in a reputation on outside markets that assures to the Alberta dairyman top prices for its products. The dairy produce of Alberta in 1915 was worth more than the entire cereal crop of the province: wheat, oats, barley and flax, only ten years ago.

Roads have been built, schools and churches established, and the hardships of pioneer life to a large extent have become memories. Yet all this has been accomplished in a decade, and there is every reason to believe that the province is only on the threshold of its prosperity. Alberta has more agricultural land than any other province, but as yet less than four per cent of it is under crop. Moreover, Alberta has one of the largest irrigation enterprises in the world. Irrigation means, eventually close settlement, intensive farming, and enormous production in proportion to the area under cultivation.

Three transcontinental railways already traverse the province to the Pacific Coast. The Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway now reaches the great Peace River district and the great Waterways Railway will reach Fort McMurray in a few weeks.

The Hudson's Bay Railway connects with the Alberta Systems and gives the province a new and shorter outlet to the East. In fact, Alberta comprises a centre of production and distribution from which the great railway systems of Canada radiate to Vancouver, Prince Rupert and Fort Mann on the west, Fort Churchill on Hudson Bay and to Port Arthur and Duluth on the great lakes on the East.

Local transportation and communication are being developed as rapidly as the credit and resources of the province will warrant. 326 miles of new railway was completed last year. Over 13,600 miles of Government telephone lines are now in operation with 28,000 subscribers.

Intellectual and social advancement has kept pace with the material growth.

In legislation and education the province has followed the best models of the other provinces of Canada and other communities.

Education is under complete control of the State, law and order is administered with a jealous regard for justice according to British traditions.

The Statute book respects all classes, and affords equality to all.

Albertans have a healthy pride in their province. Its resources and the development thereof they regard as a task commensurate with the scourge and ideals of a great people, and at the same time one which duty and patriotism shall enable them to fulfill. It is their ambition to create a provincial spirit that shall enrich our national life with the elements as pure as the vitalizing air of her hills and forests.

CHARLES S. HOTCHKISS,

Chief Publicity Commissioner for Province of Alberta.

Edmonton, July 20th, 1916.