

# FARMING AND LIVESTOCK

## How Saskatchewan in Encouraging the Dairy Business

Few countries in the world have given so much governmental assistance to the dairy industry as has Western Canada. The Western provinces of Canada, with their immense free grazing areas, naturally afford a natural field for the dairy industry; but the profits from wheat and other grain growing have had a tendency to retard the development of the dairy business.

The dairy business, of course, is not less than from other departments of agricultural enterprise; but the ease with which money has been made in wheat-growing, especially during the last three years, has led many Western Canadian farmers to look to the quick profit rather than to dairying. Yet dairying and its allied occupations are the sure, permanent basis of agricultural prosperity, and must not be allowed to drop into oblivion.

The government has therefore come to the rescue. Its assistance has taken the shape of financing creameries and cheese factories, supervision and grading, by which the quality of the output has been increased, and by a system of marketing, securing for the small producer the same advantages as are enjoyed by his big competitors.

Such a policy of encouragement is carried out by the Province of Saskatchewan.

Two years ago the Saskatchewan dairy branch adopted the system of grading each churning of butter made at the Co-operative Creameries. During the past season four grading depots have been operated in different parts of the province, where cold storage facilities were available and every creamery in the province was given the privilege of having its butter graded. Almost all of them took advantage of the opportunity.

The Canadian Pacific and other railroads operate a cool car on each of their lines once every week, the quality of the butter being held in the refrigerator at the creamery until this cool car comes along, when it is then shipped to the grading depot, where one or more samples from each churning are carefully examined by one of the expert graders employed by the dairy branch. This expert makes out three score cards, one of which is sent to the creamery where the butter was made; another is sent to the provincial dairy commissioner; and the third is kept at the grading depot.

All butter scoring 92 points in flavor, out of a possible 100, and having a total score of 92 or over, is classed as No. 1. Butter scoring less than 92 for flavor and with a total score between 87 and 92 is classed as No. 2, and that scoring less than 87 is classed No. 3. Space is reserved on the score card for remarks and the grader uses this to remark and also to make point out defects and also to make suggestions for improvement. This constant check has the effect of making the buttermakers more careful as to details and results in better work being done than if the creameries were visited occasionally by inspectors. It also tends to make the butter more uniform in grade, a feature which is worth much when the marketing is considered.

During the past season sixteen co-operative creameries have been operated by the Saskatchewan dairy branch, and in addition the branch offered to grade and market butter for any private creamery. The offer was taken advantage of by practically all the creameries in the province. In this way there was a uniform price in all parts of the province.

Ever since the grading system has been established the utmost care has been exercised by the graders as well as the dairy branch to maintain the high standards that were first set, with the result that buyers on the Pacific coast, where most of the butter was marketed, now demand a grade certificate and willingly pay more for butter thus accompanied. Altogether the system has been a big factor toward improving the quality of the butter, for which also a much better price has been obtained.

Notwithstanding the fact that butter-making is very profitable, the supply continues to be less than the demand. While wealth is being quickly made by the grain farmers, the governments are alive to the fact that all permanent agriculture must include livestock and dairying, and as far as the departments of agriculture are able to influence production, farmers are being encouraged to increase their output of butter. The whole situation, however, points to continued high prices for butter.

### ROAD DRAG RULES

Use a light drag.  
Haul it over the road at an angle so that a small amount of earth is pushed to the center of the road.  
Drive the team at a walk.  
Ride on the drag; do not walk.  
Begin on the side of the road, returning up the opposite side.  
Drag the road as soon after every rain as possible, but not when the mud is in such a condition as to stick to the drag.  
Do not drag a dry road.  
Drag when ever possible at all seasons of the year.  
The width of traveled way to be maintained by the drag should be from 18 to 20 feet; first drag a little more than the width of a single wheel track, then gradually increase until desired width is obtained.  
Always drag a little earth towards the center of the road until it is raised from 10 to 12 inches above the edge of the traveled way.  
If the drag cuts too much, shorten the width of the traveled way.  
The amount of earth that the drag will carry along can be very considerably controlled by the driver, according as he stands near the cutting end or away from it.  
When the roads are first dragged after a very muddy spell the wagons should drive, if possible, to one side until the roadway has a chance to freeze or partially to dry out.  
The best results from dragging are obtained only by repeated application. Remember that constant attention is necessary to maintain an earth road in its best condition.

## Alberta the Bright Spot

Below is reproduced in part an address by the Alberta Provincial Government:

Alberta is the bright spot on the crop map of Canada this year.

Alberta has safely harvested a crop of more than normal size. From such returns as have been received, we estimate the average yield at 28 bushels per acre for wheat, 45 bushels for oats and 30 bushels for barley.

Considering present prices for grain and livestock, Alberta seems in a fair way to surpass last year's total agricultural production in point of value, and provide a greater net return per capita for the farmer than from any other State or Province to date.

Travelers through Alberta, a what belt have had revealed to them scenes of agricultural productivity unsurpassed in any other part of the world.

Alberta farms selected with even moderate discretion, have raised men to independence and affluence with records of wonderful development unsurpassed amongst the phenomenal industrial success of which Canada well may boast.

Many almost incredible yields have been reported by reliable authorities, wheat exceeding 70 bushels per acre and oats 145 bushels.

Numerous records show that the cost of farming has been more than repaid by this year's wheat crop. In one instance, land purchased for \$3,200 produced wheat which was sold for a little over \$10,000.

### ALBERTA'S COAL OUTPUT INCREASING

The output of the coal mines in the province of Alberta for the present year is estimated by John Stirling, chief mine inspector, at from 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 million tons, practically a million tons increase upon the production of 1915.

The output then was 3,400,000 tons. The province of Nova Scotia was the only province in Canada that passed it in production, with between five and six million tons. The output of the whole of the province of Nova Scotia will again be the second largest coal producing province of British Columbia.

### FARM LABOR

One of the problems which Western Canada has to face every year is the securing of an adequate supply of labor to handle the harvesting and threshing of its big crops. This problem, indeed, is always present in any country that has a big agricultural production; in the case of Western Canada, it is enhanced by the comparative sparsity of population and the long distance from industrial districts which can be expected to offer a surplus of labor. Harvest labor is always vitally necessary, but it presents many difficulties to the economist, in that, although well paid, it is temporary in its nature and entails the moving of men from one section of the country to another, to the disadvantage of industry.

In Western Canada, the present difficulties are increased by the war. A very large number of Western Canada's small population have enlisted for service in the Canadian forces in Europe, and at the present time there is, generally speaking, no surplus of labor for the ordinary channels of industry, to say nothing of the abnormal demands of harvest time. The situation, however, has to some extent been met by the action of the Canadian Militia Department, who have released all such men who are still in training in the western militia camps and who desire to engage in harvest work, for a period generally one month.

Large numbers of harvesters have in former years been obtained from Eastern Canada, but industry there is so busy that this year it was not anticipated that so large a supply could be relied upon. Nevertheless, and in spite of this, nearly 20,000 men were actually obtained from the East. The Pacific Coast province of British Columbia also furnished over 3,000, agriculture not being the exclusive industry of that province. Another source of supply was the United States.

The actual number of men engaged in harvest work this year was between forty and fifty thousand. Wages were higher than usual, running from \$3.50 to \$4.00 a day, with board, and from \$35 to \$50 a month.

**ILLINOIS MAN BUYS BIG ALBERTA RANCH**

An important land transaction has recently been closed by which W. J. Alexander, of Sibley, Illinois, has purchased a big ranch in Southern Alberta in the vicinity of Lethbridge, containing 4,840 acres. Approximately 1,500 acres of the ranch are under drill in spring. This past year, one 300-acre field of wheat produced a yield that averaged 42 1/2 bushels per acre.

**CANADIAN CLYDESDALES FETCH BIG PRICES**

Canadian bred Clydesdale horses fetched some high prices at the International Stock Show at Chicago this year. One of the best of the breed was sold by R. H. Taber, of Condit, Saskatchewan, sold to and exhibited by an Iowa man, fetched \$4,940.

**SCHOOL LANDS FETCH HIGH PRICES**

About thirty-three thousand acres of school lands in the province of Alberta were sold recently by public auction. When Western Canada was first beginning to settle up, the government made a generous endowment for the future of education by reserving two whole sections in every township (i.e., one-eighth of the total available land) the sale of which should principally defray the cost of education, thus greatly reducing the amount to be met by local taxation. As districts have been settled up, or the cause of education has needed financial assistance, these school lands have been disposed of.

At Sedgewick 16,636 acres were sold, and the price realized was in excess of \$200,000 per acre. The highest price fetched was \$500,000 per acre. At Provost, 17,911 acres were sold at an average of over \$14.00 per acre, the highest being \$38.00.

Purchasers were confined almost entirely to farmers in the localities concerned.

At two sales of school lands in the province of Saskatchewan this past week, lands in the Blaine Lake district ranged from \$7 to \$62 per acre. Over one hundred parcels of land sold at Biggar, prices ranging as high as \$35.00 per acre.

**FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE CO.**

The Grain Growers' Grain Company, with headquarters at Winnipeg, Manitoba, has just concluded the most successful year in its ten-year history, with a net profit of \$571,455. In addition to this a subsidiary company, the Grain Growers' Export Company, showed a profit of \$196,000. The company has a big terminal elevator at Port William, leased from the Canadian Pacific Railway, through which over 58,000,000 bushels of grain passed in the year. Lumber, machinery, twine, coal, apples, flour and other supplies to the extent of over \$1,200,000 were handled through the co-operative supply department, and over 600 cars of stock through the livestock department. The company, which has declared a ten per cent. dividend upon capital stock, is largely a co-operative enterprise, controlled by the farmers of the West.

**ALBERTA BARLEY FOR BREAKFAST CEREALS**

Nick Taitinger, of Claresholm, Alberta, a well-known grower of high-grade barley, has received several requests from Eastern Canada for carload shipments of barley for purposes of making breakfast cereals. Mr. Taitinger's barley crop this year averaged 75 bushels per acre, and is worth at present prices over \$1.50 per bushel. Three years ago, he achieved distinction by shipping two whole carloads of barley to Glasgow, Scotland, for milling purposes.

### SHEEP

**GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO SHEEP RAISING**

The Ontario department of agriculture has just entered upon the initial stage of a campaign with a view to further encouraging sheep raising in the province, particularly among young men. Thirty good grade ewes have been purchased and are being assembled at the Ontario Agricultural college, where they will be bred before being distributed. They will then be placed with young farmers, each taking six sheep. The men to take the sheep will be chosen from among those who have attended the course in agriculture under district representatives, and will be selected after competition in sheep judging. They will be expected to follow instructions for the care and handling of the sheep and to give a report from time to time as to methods and results. After the first year they will also be required to give back two lambs and two more each of the two following years, so that they will thus give back as many as have been placed with them. These in turn will be placed with other young farmers and thus constitute an increasing chain of sheep raising.

The plan is being carried out under the direction of the Live Stock Branch in co-operation with the district representatives.—W. Bert Roadhouse.

### POULTRY

**THE HEN'S DESTINY**

"There is waste plenty in a fresh laid egg, but no more air than there is in a hammer," said a dealer in eggs. "So long as you can keep air out of the egg it will remain sweet and fresh, but no one has ever succeeded in keeping it out by far means more than six days. The oxygen is bound to find its way through an eggshell's pores, and the only way to save that egg then is to eat it. It sounds funny, but the moment you give an egg fresh air that moment you ruin its health."

"A good, healthy hen—not speaking of any particular strain breed, but just hen—does not fatten up until she has accomplished 600 eggs—fifty dozen. That's what nature has fitted up the hen to do in the way of just uncoached and unstimulated egg production, and she gives the hen eight years to do this."

"The hen divides the fifty dozen stunt up among those eight years. Some years she may not turn out more than a couple of dozen, but when the eight years are up she has managed to lay annual output so that the total has come out all right. Then the hen has ended her career as an egg producer, and too often, if she is in the hands of a thrifty owner, begins another career, short and distressing, this time as the summer boarder's spring chicken."

**CANDLING EGGS**

Few consumers appreciate the fact that the quality of an egg can be accurately determined without breaking the shell. The process of candling eggs is not difficult, and with the view of encouraging consumers generally in the art and practice of candling the poultry division of the Live Stock Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture is distributing gratuitously throughout the country in the same manner as bulletins are distributed, simple convenient cardboard egg-candling appliances. These may be obtained upon request to the Live Stock Commissioner, Ottawa.

It is not generally known that an egg appears semi-transparent when held before the light in a darkened room, and the contents, including even minor defects may be seen. Pamphlets dealing with this matter have been prepared, and illustrations included showing in detail the characteristic appearance of both good and bad eggs when held under candle light. The contents of an egg when laid completely fill the shell, but as cooling takes place contraction occurs, and an air space is formed in the large end. The yolk is only slightly perceptible and readily turns round in the albumen when the egg is rotated. A stale or shrunken egg may be detected by the size of the air cell. A bad egg is easily recognized through the contents having become dark and opaque. The size of the air cell, the consistency of the albumen, the color and mobility of the yolk, and the general transparency of the whole egg are the factors most generally recognized as determining quality.

The candling of an egg is not a difficult process. It requires but little skill to tell at a glance the difference between good and bad eggs, and anyone with practice can learn to differentiate between the various grades of good eggs.

The appliances mentioned above are of two different types, one suitable for use with the kerosene lamp and one suitable for use with the electric light. Neither the small amount of trouble required to secure one of these appliances nor the amount of labor entailed in candling presents any valid reason why the public should be obliged to use or accept bad or incubated eggs. Storekeepers will find it to their advantage to acquire facility in candling, and it is recommended that every housewife should provide herself with one of these simple candling appliances, by the diligent use of which she may safeguard her family from many unpleasant occurrences at the breakfast table.

## SHOPPERS' AND BUYERS' GUIDE

## STANDARD BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## FARMERS, RANCHERS AND HOUSEHOLDER

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