

keep the plant running. So they required that before plants were erected and public money sunk in the enterprise that the farmers guarantee certain deliveries, that they sell to no other packing house other than the government owned establishment they have contracted with, and that if they do sell to a nother factory they shall forfeit a certain fine for each hog so sold.

This plan is a modification of the system in operation in Denmark, a system which is always favorably spoken of whenever one essays to talk co-operation, and which seems to have built up the bacon industry in Denmark to its present generous dimensions. Whether it will be equally successful in Alberta remains to be seen. The farmers have shown their willingness to give government controlled co-operation an honest test, and seem ready to do their share. The croakers say it can't be done; that the Alberta farmer and the Danish are different individuals; that the conditions that have stimulated this demand in Alberta for government pork curing plants are different from those that started the Danes to building co-operative factories; that there are a thousand and one reasons why the scheme will never be successful. But wait. Alberta farmers are serious on this hog question. They have had their fill of hold up methods of selling hogs, and when you get men in that mood they're liable to stick. The Alberta experiment is more likely to turn out successful than any scheme designed for the same end yet tried in the Dominion, for it starts with most of the factors necessary for success provided for.

### Barley for Export

Malting barley is quoted in British markets at present at from around 75 cents per bushel for grain of average malting quality to as high as \$1.10 per bushel for the superior grades. It averages 90 cents per bushel or better. Barley is quoted on the Winnipeg market at 48 cents. The transportation cost to Britain varies, but is rarely over 20 cents and seldom under 10 cents per bushel. It would average about 16 cents per bushel. At this difference a profitable export business in barley should be possible, but for this reason: we are not raising the type of barley calculated to sell to British buyers at the highest prices. We are producing feed barley almost entirely and the prices quoted above refer to barley for malting.

Would it pay to grow barley for export? At these prices it should undoubtedly pay as well as growing wheat for export. If the grain were worth from 60 cents to 80 cents per bushel at the head of the lakes, as it would be were we able to market malting barley in England, at average yields as compared with wheat there would be a balance of profit in favor of this cereal. This question is worth thinking about. Brewers in Western Canada profess to be willing to pay a premium on malting barley; exporters could handle barley as readily as they do wheat, if we had enough of it to make an export trade worth while; and from all accounts we can produce a superior quality of malting barley in this country if we set about doing it. It may take some little time to develop an export trade, but these prices seem to warrant that returns should make it worth while.

### Sound Advice for Saskatchewan Farmers

Possibly the impressions formed by one, who having spent almost a score of years in Manitoba and engaged in agricultural pursuits during that time, and who had therefore witnessed many changes in conditions as the years have gone by, and who having had occasion to spend a couple of months travelling in Saskatchewan recently, may be of some interest to your readers in that province.

About the first thing that attracted my attention was the newness of the villages and the number of elevators at every little place, taking me back at once to conditions as they were on my first acquaintance with Manitoba. I might remark here that development is going on at a pace in Saskatchewan that I never witnessed in Manitoba. Land values have advanced there in five years to a point as high as they did in Manitoba in fifteen years. Railways are being built with a celerity that we never saw in Manitoba. There are at least three great systems of railways, all building lines and all eager to get their lines through the best territory. It would seem, therefore, that Saskatchewan will very soon be completely grid-ironed with railways.

This development of the railway system is one of the chief factors in the marvellous rate at which settlement has gone on during the past few years and which, if all signs do not fail, will go on at a still more rapid rate until all the good productive lands of Saskatchewan are occupied. Another factor which has contributed largely to the development of the province is the fine class of settlers that have gone in. Everywhere there is a good sprinkling of Americans who have come across the line equipped generally with the means of making a good start, and, what is of still greater importance, equipped with a knowledge of Western life and Western conditions. There are also many settlers from Manitoba who went there with all the experience they had gained in their pioneering days in that province. Undoubtedly Saskatchewan has a high average class of settlers and I am satisfied that though adverse conditions may at times be encountered, the average settler "having once put his hand to the plow will never turn back."

Naturally almost every settler is striving to get all the land he can broken up for the production of grain, and herein it seems to me the majority of the farmers in Saskatchewan are falling into the same mistake the settlers in Manitoba made in the early years of its settlement. Many of the early settlers in Manitoba thought the stores of fertility in their soil would not be affected in their life time, and refused to keep stock or to put manure on the land, or in fact do anything but grow grain. Many of the settlers in Saskatchewan hold the same view and follow the same practice. It proved an improvident system in Manitoba. It will prove equally so in Saskatchewan. I found men expressing themselves in the strongest terms against anything but grain growing. I even heard a man of more than ordinary intelligence declare that the man who talked stock raising, or, in fact, anything but growing grain in Saskatchewan was simply "batty." He contended that by a system of thorough summer fallowing there would be no lessening of yield and a farmer would simply be wasting his opportunities if he engaged in anything else but growing grain.

I am quite willing to admit that a system of thorough fallowing will maintain yields for a longer period than a more exhaustive system of continuous cropping. There are some men following such a system from the first, but the great majority, according to my observation, are taking as many crops as they possibly can from one plowing, generally discing the land and seeding it again. I observe in such cases the land is getting dirty, and, in fact, that is the inevitable result of such a system. The summer fallow system generally keeps the land clean, and for that reason, and for another very important reason, namely, conservation of moisture, is to be commended. I am inclined to think that thorough fallowing owing to climatic conditions, will be regarded as a permanent factor in successful farming in most portions of Saskatchewan.

But the following system alone, I am satisfied, is not going to measure up to the requirements of a permanently successful agriculture. Rich as the soil is in many portions of the province it is certain in due time to come under the same general laws of sound agricultural practice as other and older countries. The point I wish to

make here is that the wise farmer will not practice the continuous grain growing system until he has reached the point where reduced yields and poor samples compel him to do so. Rather he will start in before that stage is reached and work into the different branches of live stock raising and a system of crop rotation suitable to his farm and locality. He may take warning from the conditions now prevailing in many parts of the old settled districts of Manitoba, where the results of exclusive and continuous grain growing are plainly to be seen in weedy fields and dwindling yields of grain. Where this destructive system has been practiced too long the farmers find themselves in a most unfortunate position. They allowed the time when their land was producing good yields of grain and when they were in a good position financially, to pass by without getting their farms equipped with fences and suitable buildings. The time has come when their very existence depends on being able to keep stock, and they find the production of their farms has fallen off so seriously that no surplus revenue remains to put up fences and buildings and to buy stock to engage in a system of farming changed conditions imperatively demand. Twenty years ago in parts of the Red River Valley one could drive for miles through fields of beautiful clean grain where today one sees weeds in evidence everywhere and their stands of grain, except on such farms as have been worked on stock and rotation lines.

The summer fallow system will endure for a time but as the years go by the farmers of Saskatchewan will find, unless I greatly err, that their fields will work into a fine powdery soil that will grow great crops of straw but will not yield their old time bushels to the acre, nor their old time plumpness of grain. Good work on the land, good seed and the other requisites to successful grain growing will all help to defer the change, but, I am satisfied, it is bound to come.

I know it will be said that there are no satisfactory markets for other produce than grain. That is probably correct. For many years there were worse markets in Manitoba than there are in Saskatchewan today. Markets must be developed and will be developed. It seems to me markets will open up much more rapidly in Saskatchewan than they did in Manitoba, if for no other reason because of the great development in railway construction now going on. These railway systems will be interested in the development of all the resources of the country. In Manitoba many farmers in the old settled districts are working along the lines of restoring fertility to their lands. In Saskatchewan too many farmers are engaged in depleting their lands of fertility. Let me say, speaking from experience, that it is very much easier and vastly more profitable to husband fertility than to restore it; and the same observation may be made with equal force to weeds. It is easier to keep land clean than to eradicate weeds after they are established.

There is another matter it seems to me should be given special attention, and that is the setting out of tree plantations. One can travel great distances over the prairie sections of Saskatchewan, without seeing tree growth of any kind. There is no reason why any farmer should not have a grove of trees 5 or 10 acres in extent in a few years time, that would afford him excellent shelter for his buildings and stock. Trees can very readily be grown from seeds, cuttings and young stock, and planted in a well worked piece of ground will make wonderful growth in a few years, if given reasonable cultivation until fairly established. The time and labor expended would be many times recompensed in increased value to the farm, besides the advantages of shelter, adornment and even fuel. The first few years of the settler I know are busy years. There are so many things to do, prairie to be broken, wells to be dug, fences and buildings to be built, but just as soon as it is possible to do so time spent in setting out shelter belts will prove to be time exceedingly well spent.

Altogether I was very favorably impressed with Saskatchewan, its vast extent, its great stretches of wonderfully fertile soil, its capabilities for producing most of the staple farm products, and the excellent quality of those products. If her farmers but pursue an intelligent system of farming it would not be drawing on the imagination to picture Saskatchewan in the years to come as the home of a prosperous and contented people, a province of vast and varied resources and producing wealth in totals that will make present figures look small in comparison.

Morden District.

G. H. BRADSHAW.

### EDITOR

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