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our national prosperity. It is not the head and front alone of the industries of this province. It is the primary industry upon which practically all other lines of production, work or trade depend for their existence.

Manitoba's agricultural history may yet be spanned by the memory of men living. But if brief, its records are none the less of interest. It began with wheat farming. Wheat followed wheat year after year. But gradually farmers came to see that wheat growing could not be incessantly followed. There was no diminution in yields due to the impoverishment of the soil, for the rich bottom lands of the old pre-glacial sea from which the Manitoba prairies are formed—a sea of which Lakes Manitoba and Winnipeg are the last remaining vestiges—contain fertility sufficient to go on producing wheat for fifty years without a break and at the end of that time they would contain the elements of plant growth in greater abundance than our Eastern American or older European soils. It is not any depletion of soil fertility that has of late years been turning the attention of the farmers of the province from the special one crop line of agriculture, into farming of a more diversified type. The two causes responsible for the supplanting of wheat growing with mixed farming in this province have been: First, the extraordinary problem which weeds of late years have been to the one crop farmer, and the difficulty or rather impossibility of combatting them successfully where one crop alone was grown incessantly on the soil; and second, the enhanced profits which could be made from the coarse grains by feeding them to stock. So we are getting more and more into mixed farming from which the products of live stock, beef, pork, mutton, butter, cheese, eggs and poultry, will, in a few years, have greater value than our wheat.

It is purposed here to give some data covering the development of the most important of our agricultural industries during the past few years. In 1896, the total acreage in wheat in Manitoba was 999,598, and this area in crop produced 14,371,806 bushels of wheat, a yield of 14.4 bushels per acre. The total acreage of oats in 1896 was 442,445 acres, and a crop of 12,502,318 bushels was harvested growing an average yield of 28.2 bushels per acre. In the season of 1896, 127,885 acres were devoted to barley in Manitoba, yielding 3,171,747 bushels at the rate of 24 bushels per acre. In 1906 the total wheat acreage of the province was 3,141,537, the total yield was 61,250,413 bushels, turning at the rate of 19.49 bushels per acre. Oats in the same year totalled in area 1,155,961 acres, yielded a total of 50,692,977 bushels at an average rate per acre of 43.85 bushels. Last year 474,242 acres of barley were produced, which yielded a total of 17,532,553 bushels on an average yield per acre of 36.96 bushels. Significant figures—marking not alone the extension of our grain producing areas but the increase as well in yield per unit area. Manitoba's grain crop last year trebled the area of 1896; the total yield was four times that of ten years ago and the acre increase in wheat was 35 per cent., in oats 54, and in barley 50 per cent.

Turning next to the development of dairying, live stock and mixed farming generally. Some notion of the manner in which dairying has advanced in recent years is furnished by the following figures taken from the Minister of Agriculture's report for 1906:

Year.	Pounds.	Butter Price per pound.	Value.
1897	3,397,464	10 2c	\$366,317.84
1898	2,116,644	16 0c	340,087.98
1899	2,357,049	16 3c	383,578.93
1900	3,338,431	16 2c	541,661.04
1901	3,208,740	16 1c	527,964.69
1902	3,915,875	16 3c	636,160.69
1903	4,271,703	16 5c	707,346.98
1904	3,948,594	16 7c	660,629.42
1905	4,160,956	18 4c	769,591.15
1906	6,251,294	18 9c	1,182,702.33

CHEESE			
Pounds.	Price per lb.	Value.	Total value
987,007	8.5c	83,895.50	\$450,213.43
800,084	8.6c	69,367.28	409,455.26
848,587	10 2c	86,980.16	470,559.99
1,039,278	10 0c	102,330.05	643,991.09
1,039,302	8 4c	88,348.32	926,314.01
1,039,653	10 2c	111,443.24	747,603.93
1,382,204	10.9c	151,362.28	858,709.26
1,672,130	6.5c	107,836.96	768,457.38
1,201,382	10.6c	127,346.40	896,937.64
1,501,729	13 0c	195,244.51	1,377,746.84

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