

The Grain Growers' Guide

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Annual Crop Report

For several years The Guide, by the assistance of local secretaries, has published several reports of crop conditions. This year we have decided to ask all our readers to assist by sending in reports on local conditions. It is important that a careful and complete survey of conditions should be made in order that this year's crop be well handled and ample provision be made for large production next year. The readers of The Guide therefore have an opportunity at this time to render valuable assistance by sending in a report on their own neighborhood conditions. On page 44 of this issue is a form containing a number of questions which we would ask each and every farmer to fill out as accurately as possible and mail to us promptly. We shall summarize these reports and publish the results in the next issue of The Guide after they are received. The Guide reaches every corner of the prairie provinces and this report should be a most comprehensive survey of conditions.

The Two Offensives

The fourth big German offensive on the west front, which was launched along the Marne river at the beginning of last week, not only has been utterly checked, but also has been converted into a defensive operation by reason of the offensive counter-attack of the French and American armies at Soissons. As these lines are being written, the full effect of the Allied advance against the German salient on the Marne is not apparent, but as a result of General Foch's timely stroke, there is a strong possibility that over 500,000 Germans will be forced either to retire from the sharp salient extending from Rheims to the Marne river, or be entirely cut off and forced to surrender. The French and American troops already have recaptured a front of over 50 miles to a depth of over 12 miles. Over 17,000 prisoners have been captured; 400 big guns were taken, and the French forces now dominate all the railway lines upon which the German army, along a considerable front, are entirely dependent. All of which means that the plans of General Hindenburg and the German military staff for bringing about a decisive defeat of the Allied armies on the west front, and thus forcing a victorious peace, have been frustrated. It is now fairly evident that with the additional strength given to the French and British armies by the United States within recent months, and with that strength rapidly increasing, General Foch can invite Germany to do her worst along the west front. It is also apparent that, in due time, General Foch will be able to take offensive tactics, and drive the Germans from their recently-acquired territory, and very probably, from the soil of France. The counter-attack of the French-American army at Soissons which is regarded by the military experts at Washington as only a minor operation, at least reveals the power inherent in the present Allied line on the west.

But while the spectacular events on the west front occupy the centre of the public stage at the moment, other movements of no less importance are taking place in the far east where Germany is using every means at her disposal to embarrass the Allies in their dealings with the Russian situation. The Bolsheviks, reinforced by German prisoners in Siberia, are reported to have undertaken an offensive against the Russian and Czech-Slovak forces which are guarding

Allied stores at Vladivostok. The Czech-Slovaks, according to reports from Peking, China, defeated the Bolsheviks in a battle which occurred at Nikolsk, just north-west of Vladivostok. The evident efforts on the part of the Germans through their influence with the Bolshevik forces to penetrate Siberia, and gain the control there that has been exerted in European Russia, have quickened the actions of Great Britain and her Allies in adopting aggressive measures in the far east. The British have dispatched troops to support the Czech-Slovak and Russian troops in Siberia, and there is also under way an arrangement between the United States and Japan by which a joint policy of intervention in Russia may be prosecuted. Japan is determined to oppose Germany the very moment that Siberian territory is seriously threatened by the Hun. But according to official word from Tokio, Japan does not want to take action until a united arrangement is made with America and the Allies. The increasing seriousness of the situation in Russia and Siberia undoubtedly will oblige the Allies, including Japan and the United States, to enter upon a campaign which will probably result in the reconstruction of an eastern front running through the Ural mountains, thus protecting Siberia from the invasion of the Hun and the Bolshevik revolutionaries. The inclusion of Japan as an integral factor in the Allied military operations of the war, and the establishment of a working agreement between Tokio and Washington, involve new possibilities of great importance for the democratic nations of the world. On the west front, the issue between Germany and the Allies is clear and decisive—a military victory or a defeat. On the east, the cause of the Allies is complicated by political factors which might easily prove the undoing of democracy for years to come.

The McAdoo Award

In order to avert the threatened strike of some 50,000 railway men in Canada as represented in the Federal Railway Trades, the government last week put into effect a scheme of wages known as the McAdoo award. When the government of the United States took over the railways of that country last December, and Mr. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury, became director-general of railways, he appointed a Wage Commission to investigate the problem of wages in connection with railroad transportation. As a result of the report he received from that commission, Mr. McAdoo made a general order fixing wages and hours on all the American railways. On May 25, the McAdoo order, or the McAdoo award, as it is popularly known, went into effect. It was not acceptable to the railway unions in every particular, and since it was first introduced, has been amended in several minor respects. As it now stands, the McAdoo award is being applied to meet labor troubles on the railways of Canada.

The McAdoo award deals with wages on the following bases: Monthly, daily, hourly, piecework and mileage. To those on a monthly basis there was an increase of \$20 a month to employees paid less than \$46 a month. The percentage of increase ranges from 43 per cent. to slightly over eight per cent. to those getting over \$200 a month. The rate of wages for those on a daily scale ranges from 100 to 25 per cent. Somewhat similar increases were granted to those working by the hour and by piecemeal. The award declares that the piece workers shall

receive for each hour worked the same increase per hour as is awarded to the hourly worker engaged in similar employment in the same shop. The principle of the eight-hour day is also recognized, but with it a corresponding adjustment in wages.

The sequel of the McAdoo award in the United States was an increase in freight rates amounting to 25 per cent. in order that increased costs of operation might be met. Canadian rates already have been raised 15 per cent., and it is not unlikely that they will be advanced another ten per cent. at least. In one respect, however, Canada does not seem to be following the railway policy of the United States, and that is in bringing the Canadian railways entirely under the control of the government. Must we confess that Canada has no McAdoo to handle the job of director-general of railways?

The Fuel Problem

The difficulty in getting from the United States this year our usual importations of hard coal has indicated quite clearly the serious national problem involved in this question of fuel supplies. Unless Canada can find some way of developing her own coal areas, which at present are so placed geographically as to be of little economic value to the nation, there is no use in trying to make any pretence about our dependent relationship with the neighboring republic. On another page in this week's issue is published a synopsis of a report which has been sent out from Ottawa by the Honorary Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research on the Briquetting of Lignites. In this report the facts of the coal situation in Canada are presented, and certain suggestions are offered in the way of solving a hard national problem. It is pointed out that the fuel resources of the Dominion of Canada are second only to those of the United States, the greatest coal country in the world; and that, in spite of this fact, Canada imports at present and always has imported, 50 per cent. of her fuel from the United States. The report recommends that under these conditions the problem of providing a larger proportion of our own fuel must be attacked preferably by the government, and not by isolated commercial agencies working in competition with each other. The logical place for the attack on Canada's fuel problem is Saskatchewan, where it is proposed that a plant costing \$400,000 be established immediately for the purpose of making briquettes out of the abundance of lignite coal which underlies the southerly districts of that province. The Honorary Advisory Council, under whose auspices this report on fuel recently has been issued, has started something, and it is to be hoped that the government will pay serious attention to the recommendations which have been made.

Country Life

Ten years ago, when he was president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt appointed a special commission to make a report on conditions affecting the life of the rural districts of his country. Accompanying that report, when it was completed, was a message from President Roosevelt, delivered to the people of America, but broad enough to be remembered by the world at large, and especially by the neighboring people of Canada. Mr. Roosevelt's words on that occasion are particularly apt today. He said: "Upon the development of country