

\$532,992,100 !!

That's the Value of Farm Products for Canada 1909— Isn't it Great?

OTTAWA, ONT.—An increase of \$100,000,000 in the value of Canadian crops is shown in the final estimates of the 1909 production just issued by the Dominion Census Department. An area of 30,000,000 acres of field crops has yielded a harvest which computed at local market prices, has a value of \$532,992,100, as compared with \$432,992,100 from 27,500,000 acres last year.

Canada's principal grain crops are wheat, oats and barley. This year they aggregate in area 18,617,000 acres, and in value \$455,718,000, against 16,367,100 acres and \$359,070,000 in 1908. Hay and clover from 8,210,000 acres have a value of \$132,287,700, against 8,210,000 acres and \$121,804,000 in 1908.

Rye, peas, buckwheat, mixed grains and flax, grown on 1,457,311 acres have a value of \$24,987,000, as compared with 1,500,700 acres and \$24,944,000 in 1908.

The total value of wheat harvested in the Northwest provinces is \$121,500,000 and in the rest of the Dominion \$10,700,000, as compared with \$72,424,000 and \$18,500,000 last year.

It is a showing that every citizen is proud of, whether he had a hand in the production or not. The most gratifying story told by these figures is that they represent a gain over the previous year of \$100,000,000.

We are going ahead—going ahead rapidly. That is the best message we gather from this report of our results for 1909.

But, instead of being content with these figures, let us take them only as an indication of what our real possibilities are, and let us use them merely as a mile post in our climb to better things.

Let each of us, for instance, look back over our operations of 1909 to determine whether or not we did our share toward making this showing possible.

We ought to stop and think of what has made the gains of former years possible. We must stop to realize that this gain of \$100,000,000 for 1909 is not only due to more land under cultivation; but has been brought about by better methods of cultivation; by better methods of preparing the soil, sowing the grain and harvesting the crops.

Without the wonderful strides made in the development of farm machines, a \$532,992,100 crop would be entirely out of the question.

And yet there is room for progress—the rules of 1909 farming are not the rules for 1910. New machines mean new advances and new wealth. Do you keep abreast—are you posted about these things?

About traction plowing—how to plow more acres, in less time, with less expense, for better, bigger returns.

How a good disk harrow will enable you to make better seed beds.

Why it's to your advantage to spread manure the right way—as soon as you get it—instead of spreading it after half its value is gone.

Why it will pay you to use seeding machines that put the seed into the soil so that the best germination is assured and big crops result.

About the money-saving and money-making advantages of having a good, reliable, dependable gasoline engine on your place.

What the right kind of a cream harvester means to you in increased milk and butter profits—and skim-milk calves.

Why a good feed-grinder means fatter stock: How to increase the value of the 1910 hay crop by using the right mower, baler, etc.: How to know all about harvesting machines: How to know the ear marks of a good wagon.

If any of these will help you please secure a copy of our book—"Glimpses of Thriftland." That tells the whole story briefly and in verses that you'll like. Then we have some books that are still more business-like—the I H C Almanac and Encyclopaedia, and others. Say which you are most interested in. All are free if you will write nearest branch house of the International Harvester Company of America listed below.

There is an International dealer near you. He will be glad to see you to hand you one of our new 1910 calendars, posters, catalogues or pamphlets on harvesting and haying machines and tools, and tillage implements or any of the machines mentioned above.

CANADIAN BRANCH HOUSES: Brandon, Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, London, Montreal, Ottawa, Regina, Saskatoon, St. John, Winnipeg, Yorkton.

Look for a still bigger showing in 1910

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On account of sore feet 249 Metropolitan policemen had to go off duty last year.

whole world, and have shown what they can do by union. After a long and easily fought for government elevators, they have won.

The members of the Saskatchewan legislature and the Manitoba governments decided to carry out the wishes of the grain growers of these provinces, and commissions were immediately appointed to meet committees of the grain growers' associations with a view to immediate action and relief for the coming season.

Even our own premier, in a press interview this week, was gracious enough to say: "If the farmers of Alberta present a request to the Alberta government, to consider a scheme for government ownership of elevators in this province, the request would be granted, and any suggestion given full consideration. A great change in his attitude to this question since last February."

LAND TAXATION

Editor, GUIDE:—I am glad to see that you are taking up the matter of live stock markets, and I congratulate you on the part you have played in helping the farmer to remedy some of the evils of the grain markets. In these matters we have genuine grievances and I hope you will keep hammering at them till we get them put right. I was sorry though to read the short editorial in your issue of December 29th, entitled "The Land Question," as the writer of it can have but a slight knowledge of the system of taxing land in the rural municipalities of Manitoba. You say "No person can advance the claim that the present system is fair, by which a man is punished for leaving his land idle, and fined for building a house or improving his property. It does look ridiculous and shameful that such a system should be permitted in this enlightened age. There is no place in North America where the evil is more powerfully felt than on the prairies of Western Canada."

Now this may apply to our cities, towns and villages, but certainly not to the farm lands.

Clause 28, Municipal Assessment Act, reads:—"All lands in rural municipalities improved for farming or gardening purposes, shall be assessed at the same value as such lands would be assessed if unimproved; but in case of lands improved for other purposes the value of such improvements shall be added to the assessment of such lands;

(a) Provided that the ordinary farm residence and buildings upon any piece of land shall be considered as improvements for farming purposes within the meaning of this section;

(b) Provided also, that, in cases where the lands are improved for the purpose of a local industry, other than farming or stock raising, the said lands and such plant, machinery and implements may, if the council so direct, be assessed at not less than one half of the actual value."

Clause 3 reads:—"All lands and personal property shall be liable to municipal taxation, subject to the following exemptions:

(j) All horses, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry and other farm stock, and all farming implements and machinery used by farmers in the ordinary occupation of farming, and when kept upon the lands or premises of bona fide agriculturists or farmers."

Should Speculation be Penalized?

The express purpose of these provisions is to prevent a farmer being fined for improving his property and to make the speculator pay as much taxes on his idle land as the farmer pays on his improved land. Some people would like to go further and put a penalty on the owners of idle land. I doubt the wisdom of that. Land speculation has its evils no doubt, but once the land is purchased from the government or any of the corporations exempt from taxation it becomes liable to taxation. The Union of Manitoba Municipalities has done good work in inducing the Dominion Government to sell the school lands and the Manitoba University to sell its lands, all of which were exempt.

In the municipality of Wallace nearly all land is now liable to taxation and the result is that we now have a great deal more money for roads, schools, etc. than we had a few years ago when so much land was exempt. Our lands are assessed according to quality of land and distance from shipping point, the highest assessment being \$7.50 per acre

while some lands only fit for pasture are assessed as low as \$3.00 per acre, and no farmer pays any tax on personal property.

If our farmers are suffering in any way from unjust taxation it is their own fault as they elect their own municipal representatives. In Wallace they are given every opportunity of discussing these questions at the ratepayers meetings, but unfortunately these meetings, like those of the G. G. A., are not as well attended as they might be. The Union of Manitoba Municipalities holds a convention once a year at which all these topics are discussed and the Manitoba Legislature generally gives effect to recommendations made by the U. M. M.

Of course these remarks apply only to local taxation for local purposes, and not to the general revenue of the country, which is mostly raised through the customs tariff, and they apply only to Manitoba. I believe that the new provinces have not yet organized many municipalities and I do not know much of their system of taxing lands.

CHAS. E. IVENS,

Reeve of Wallace Municipality, Virden, Man.

Note.—We are very glad to have such a valuable letter as the one from Mr. Ivens. The fact that improvements and personal property are exempted and the improved land is taxed the same as the unimproved land is not a solution to the difficulty. This very fact is forcing the farmer and bonusing the speculator, who holds his land out of use. If not, wherein does the farmer benefit for the work he does in enhancing the value of the vacant land adjoining his property. This is a vastly important subject and should command the attention of the farmers of the country. Once it is thoroughly discussed and every farmer is as well informed upon it as Mr. Ivens there will be no difficulty in making improvements.—Editor.

DRIVEN FROM CATTLE RAISING

Editor, GUIDE:—Enclosed find \$1.00. It pays me up for three years commencing with August issue 1908. You have called the dog off the government, now send him after the railroad people. I have shipped stock many times from Cartwright, which is only 147 miles to Winnipeg and had to pay ten to twelve per cent. shrinkage. I had to give it up. Some cattle south of here have been shipped to Chicago. I know of more that will go the same way. I had a bill of \$300. against the C.P.R. for cattle killed, and they would not pay. The GUIDE has my best wishes for its success.

JOHN WALLACE,

Cartwright, Man.

BENEFIT BY EXPERIENCE

Editor, GUIDE:—Enclosed please find postal note for \$1.00 to renew my subscription for the G. G. GUIDE up to January, 1911. Follow on in the path you have been travelling: leave party politics alone and victory will be ours. During my 25 years' farming experience in the northwest, every attempt made by the farmers to better their position as to markets and better treatment was always frustrated and killed through party politics. Your paper is the greatest educator for the farmers interest and benefit ever published in Canada.

W. H. MONTIMNICK,

Churchbridge, Sask.

BRAND NEW INFORMATION

Editor, GUIDE:—Reading your editorial in a late issue of THE GUIDE, with regard to the reduction in the duty on farm implements, prompts me to tell your readers something that many of them are not aware of.

A traveller for the Cocksbutts of Brantford tells me that his firm has been shipping for years past, several carloads of implements to points in the United States, and selling them in competition with American goods after paying a 25% duty on them. This does not look as if free trade in implements would close up our Canadian factories and throw Canadian mechanics out of employment. Free Trade in implements with the United States will mean millions of dollars a year less taken out of Canadian farmers and put into the pockets of the protected manufacturers. But the farmers won't get it till they put up a stiff fight for it. It will be a "Battle for Millions." But will not the prize be worth the struggle?

FREE TRADE.

Plumas, Man.



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