

FIELD NOTES

Sheepmen's Proposals

At the annual meeting of the Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association the following resolution was passed: Whereas the flockmasters of Canada have, since the imposition of the Dingley Tariff in the United States, been unable to dispose of their wool at remunerative prices, the average value of raw wool in Canada being generally little more than one-half its selling value on United States farms and ranches, and

Whereas millions of pounds of wool are annually imported into Canada, which could easily under more encouraging economic conditions be produced on the ranges of Alberta and Saskatchewan;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association, in meeting assembled, respectfully beg to impress on the Dominion authorities the necessity which exists for applying the spirit of the Customs Act, by providing a duty on wool entering Canada of classes which are produced in the country and to collect duty on wool as provided by law, which is not being done.

That in the opinion of this meeting, fine wools forthwith should be removed from the free list as such are now produced in large quantities in the West, and

That this meeting would respectfully suggest that wool rags should be subject to an import duty of ten cents per pound and shoddy twenty-five cents per pound, and

That the present faulty and antiquated classification of wools in the Customs Act be revised and made clear.

Roads Kept by Split-log Drag

Contestants in the split-log drag competition have sent to the secretary, G. F. Bentley, detailed descriptions of the stretch of roads to be kept in condition this summer by means of this inexpensive implement. Indications are that a clear demonstration of the merits of drags in keeping clay roads in good condition will be given.

The location of the one-mile roads to be maintained by the drag in each of the four municipalities that have entered the competition for prize money offered by Wm. Harvey and THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE are:

- Assiniboia—Ward 1: Lots 69 to 80, St. Charles, both inclusive on River Road (south)
- Ward 2: From McCreary Road to the west side of lot 31, St. Charles, on River Road (south)
- Ward 3: From lot 97 to 111, St. Charles, both inclusive, on Portage Road
- Ward 4: From lot 96 to lot 91, St. Charles, both inclusive, on Portage Road
- Rosser—On first Meridian, running along west side of section 24, 12, 1 W.
- On Oak Point Road, starting from Sec. 1, 12, 1 E., and running one mile northwest
- On Oak Point Road, starting from Rosser Road to J. U. Taylor's east line, on Sec. 32, 11, 2 E.
- Between section 4 and 5, 12, 2 E.
- Springfield—Ward 1: Main Road, north of sections 15 and 16, 11, 4.
- Ward 3: Between sections 36, 11, 5 and 1, 12, 5.
- Ward 4: Between sections 9 and 10, 11, 6 E.
- Ward 5: Between sections 34, 10, 6 and sections 3, 11, 6.
- St. Andrew's—Main highway, lots 1 to 10
- Cloverdale road, section 32, 33, 13-4; sections 4, 5, 14, 4
- Range Line, sections 19, 24, 14-4 14, 5.
- Selkirk and Clandeboye Road.

Changes at Ottawa

In no department of the Canadian Government, at Ottawa, have new lines of public service developed more rapidly and steadily than in that relating to agriculture. The necessities of the situation require this, if the resources of the country are to keep pace with the tremendous demands of the times upon it, and if live-stock husbandry and a host of special lines of farming are to be prosecuted with the greatest possible success. The Seed Branch, Cold Storage, Live Stock Branch, Agricultural Statistics, Market Division, Pedigree Records, and the new International Institute of Agriculture, organized in Italy, Canada and other leading countries of the world, participating for the trustworthy collection and distribution of facts in relation to the crops and food supplies of the world, as affecting market prices—all these involve the distribution of information in the form of bulletins and reports. So great has this work become that it has been found necessary to create a new branch, having charge of publications in a systematic way, and the work of the International Institute. T. K. Doherty, for some years the capable private secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Sydney Fisher, who has been on the International Institute work since 1908, will be chief officer of the new branch, with James B. Spencer as chief editor of publications, a work for which his extended experience in agri-

cultural journalism, as assistant in the Live-stock Branch, and secretary and editor to the Royal Commission on Swine Husbandry, last year, qualifies him in a pre-eminent degree. This change will naturally deprive the Live Stock Branch, under Dr. Rutherford, of Mr. Spencer's services. The immediate needs of this work are very great, and it is understood, in view of the increasing duties of Dr. Rutherford, growing out of the meat-inspection service, the Record Branch, etc., that a call was extended to Prof. H. S. Arkell, of Macdonald College, to assume the immediate direction of live-stock extension work in the department at Ottawa.

Elevator Commission

The commission appointed by the Manitoba government to superintend a line of government-owned elevators have met and plans are under way for action in the immediate future. Offices will be opened in Winnipeg. The intention is to visit various points in different parts of the province in order to ascertain what will best suit the needs of the grain producers. A staff of men, who understand elevators and elevator construction, will be employed to visit all parts of the province as quickly as possible. It is hoped to have this work done before July 1. A series of questions bearing on grain production and marketing at each point will be answered, thus giving the commissioners particulars about conditions all over the province.

Already several requests for petitions have been received. Last Friday's mail brought seven. An attempt will be made to ascertain whether it is best to build, lease or buy.

Motor Competition

Details of the motor contest to be held at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition were discussed last week by those in charge of this attractive feature. The judges, Prof. A. R. Greig, of Saskatoon, and Prof. L. J. Smith, of Manitoba Agricultural College, met Manager Bell and Geo. H. Greig, the director in charge, and made arrangements regarding the staff of assistants needed, full requirements, hauling course, area for plowing, and other particulars.

The competition will begin July 12. Plowing will be done on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 19 and 20. Arrangements are being made to take those interested in special trains to the plowing field. Indications are that the contest will be even greater than those formerly held.

Dakota's Special Train

A two weeks' run in a special train to give encouragement to the improvement of agriculture, has been arranged between the Northern Pacific railway and the North Dakota Agricultural College. The circuit extends from June 6 to June 17. The equipment will include flat cars, on which types of farm machinery will be shown, and a baggage car, in which agricultural literature and exhibits of horticultural products will be exhibited. All phases of agricultural and horticultural operations will be discussed by authorities. Special attention will be paid to plant diseases and weeds and approved methods of combating them. One car will be devoted to live stock, including cattle of beef and dairy type, sheep, hogs and poultry. Arrangements also are under way to provide a day coach, in which special lectures in domestic economy will be given to ladies.

Alberta Crop Conditions

Crop Bulletin No. 7, issued by the statistics branch of the department of agriculture of Alberta, dated May 16, contains a digest of reports sent in by correspondents, dated May 1. Spring seeding has been completed early and indications are for a greater acreage of new breaking than has been possible in the past.

It is pointed out that a large percentage of the winter wheat wintered well, the area now under crop being 26 per cent. above that harvested in 1909. Further it is noted that this crop is being extended over the province although the bulk of it is grown south of the main line of the C. P. R. Scanty precipitation last season and a light snowfall resulted in a loss of about 30 per cent. of the area sown last fall. An early spring followed by a number of severe frosts contributed largely to this loss.

Other things being equal, wheat that was sown in July has come through better than that sown later. As this has also been true in past years, an increasing number of farmers acting on this experience are endeavoring to finish their fall seeding at an earlier date than formerly.

The abundant rains that fell from the 9th to the 14th inst., over the country from Red Deer south to the international boundary, will save large areas of winter wheat that were beginning to fail. Doubtless, many fields in that part of the province which to-day are thin, will stool out and with a favorable season give every good results. On this account farmers should not decide hastily to re-seed fields of wheat that have been winter-killed. Experience has shown that in this province under favorable conditions a return of from twenty to twenty-four bushels per acre may be reaped from land on which

the loss during winter has amounted to even fifty per cent.

CONDITION OF SPRING GRAINS

Unlike the spring of 1909, farmers were able to get on their land very early this year. With the opportunity to prepare a large acreage and to sow early it was to be expected that prices being high, there would be a very marked increase in the area devoted to spring wheat. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that a total of 488,183 acres has been seeded, an increase of 51 per cent. over 1909.

The increase in acreage sown to oats is not so marked as in the case of spring and winter wheat, being only 10 per cent. greater than that harvested in 1909. It must be borne in mind, however, that the area of last year was enormous, being 61 per cent. more than in 1908 and 126 per cent. greater than in 1907. The spring of 1909 proving backward, farmers sowed to oats much land that had been intended for spring wheat and this area was further unexpectedly increased, by the re-seeding to oats of a proportion of those fields of fall-sown wheat that had been winter-killed. The present low prices of oats and the fact that a part of last year's crop is still in the farmers' hands, have also had an influence in keeping the acreage down.

The amount of land sown to barley shows an increase of 36 per cent. over 1907. The high prices secured for hogs and beef cattle for some time past have doubtless led to the setting aside of so liberal a proportion of land for the production of this useful feed grain.

INCREASE IN TIMOTHY

An increase of 53 per cent. in the acreage of timothy shows a decision on the part of many farmers not to be dependent on the growing of grain alone and also to adopt a healthful rotation of crops. Prices for timothy hay in the larger towns have been good, and with a yield of two tons or more per acre, many farmers find that they get as large returns from timothy as from grain.

Below is a tabulated estimate based upon the returns from correspondents of the acreage in crop to the various grains in the province in 1910, also acreage for timothy, alfalfa and sugar beets.

Winter wheat	128,670
Spring wheat	488,183
Oats	762,460
Barley	147,150
Flax	18,390
Speltz	1,695
Rye	6,385
Timothy	29,025
Alfalfa	600
Sugar beets	415

Total 1,582,973

Events of the Week

Sir Ernest Shackleton, the British Antarctic explorer, is on a lecturing tour of the West.

The King's Plate was run at the Woodbine, Toronto, on May 24. Parmer, owned by Colonel J. S. Hendrie, winner; time, 2:12 2-5; distance, 1 1/4 miles.

It is announced that the Governor-General will start early in July on a trip to Hudson's Bay, following somewhat the line of proposed railway to the bay and coming back via Baffin Straits and the Atlantic.

Tornadoes and hail storms are reported to have done a good deal of damage in the Southwestern States, following frosts that are estimated to have damaged crops to the extent of half a billion dollars.

A permanent commission will be appointed to deal with disputes between Canada and the United States on all matters effecting international waterways. The commission will consist of six members, three from each country.

British Columbia fruit inspectors made a bonfire last week, destroying some thirty thousand insect and disease-laden trees from Ontario, United States, France, Belgium and Holland, part of one million trees shipped to British Columbia last winter.

The government of Alberta resigned last week, Chief Justice Sifton being called upon to form a ministry to succeed that of Hon. A. C. Rutherford. The resignation of the Rutherford government was due to disclosures in connection with the Alberta and Great Waterways Railway deal. It is expected that a new election will be held shortly.

A thorough survey of the forests along the proposed line of the Hudson Bay railway will be made during the present summer. Three parties will be engaged in this work, one beginning at the Pas, Saskatchewan, one going in by the way of Norway House to Split Lake and the other going to Oxford House. The first party will be under the direction of James R. Dickson, the second under the direction of J. T. G. Whyte, and the third under W. Creighton. The two latter will be provisioned for a year and will remain in the field at least until the summer of 1910. It is probable that by that time arrangements will be made to continue the parties in the territory, as it is expected that they will be required there for some years.