

# Farming on a Big Scale

Howe and Gray Farm and Pictures

One of the largest farms in central Alberta is that owned by Messrs. Howe and Gray, of Dalroy. This farm consists of 2,500 acres, of which 1,750 acres are at the present time under cultivation, and this work is made easy by using three Hart-Parr engines, this motive power being put to almost every use. The whole farm is in use and improved, and, with the exception of a small portion around the buildings, will be brought under the plow. Farming operations were started in 1910 and so quickly has the work been carried on and the farm developed that the 1911 crop harvested

they must be in the right direction, it has been stated by experts who travelled through the country last summer that in a 6,000 mile trip they did not see one farm to equal this one in uniformity of grain and evenness of stand.

## DEMONSTRATION FARMS

(From the Weekly Sun)

The Sun is not greatly impressed by some of the schemes of Mr. Borden, Sir James Whitney and Mr. Rowell for the welfare of the farmer. The farmer, who is already surfeited with counsel,

ful at the polls, Canada does not need foreign markets. The protected manufacturers and laborers and the farmers support each other by trading goods for farm products. The only limitation, it is therefore clear, of our industrial and national greatness is the farmers' productive power. Show him how to produce profitably, and in twenty years London or New York will not be a circumstance to Toronto. There are other possibilities. If the farmer in charge can hand his owners not five, but ten or twenty per cent. on the capital invested, the enterprise will become at once what is called a stock proposition and saleable, not at cost, but at the capitalized value of its earning power. A successful demonstration would send capital tumbling back to the land, and make farm management companies as thick as blackberries in June.

## RETURNS FROM GRIST MILL

Can you inform me whether there is a grist law in this province, and can it be enforced? If so, I think the miller here ought to be supplied with a copy of same, or do you think a grist of 30 pounds flour and 12 pounds feed is reasonable on a so-called toll grist (per bushel)?

JAS. DENT.

Asquith, Sask.

The following is the reply of the deputy minister of agriculture for Saskatchewan, to whom our correspondent's enquiry was referred:

Dear Sirs:—Replying to your enquiry of November 30th, I beg to advise you that there is no law in Saskatchewan regulating the operation and charges of gristing mills. The matter was at one time carefully looked into and data was secured as to the charges made for gristing and exchanging wheat for flour and wheat products at the various local mills throughout Saskatchewan. Data was also gathered from other sources, and the conclusion was reached that the situation did not warrant the passage of legislation to regulate this declining industry. Practically every flour mill in Saskatchewan stands prepared to buy wheat at the market price, and sell to the farmer flour, of whatever grade he desires, in whatever quantity he desires, at wholesale prices. This is a

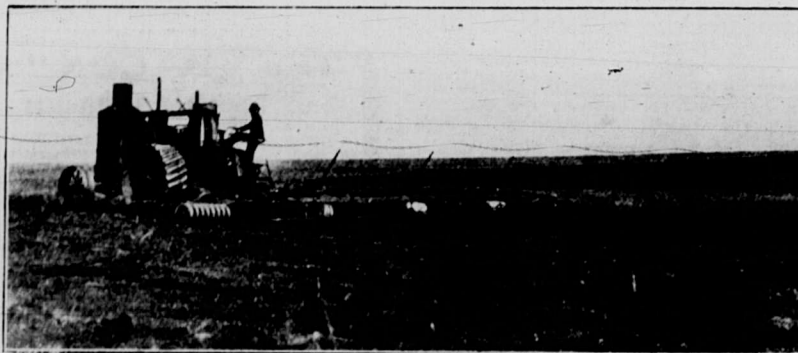
## DRY FARMING

By William McDonald, M.S., Agr., Sc.D., Ph.D.

This is the best and most reliable book on the subject of dry farming that has been published in recent years. It is highly endorsed by dry farming experts in Alberta, particularly by Prof. Elliott, of the C.P.R. demonstration farm at Strathmore. Hundreds of Western farmers have purchased this book from The Guide in the past year and are well pleased with it. The following are the titles of the chapters, showing what the book deals with.

1. History of Dry Farming.
2. Some Points in Practice.
3. The Conservation of Soil Moisture.
4. Rainfall and Evaporation.
5. The Problem of Tillage.
6. The Campbell System.
7. Dry Farming Zones.
8. Dry Land Crops.
9. The Traction Engine in Dry Farming.
10. Dry Land Experiments.

This book is kept in stock in The Guide office and will be sent to any address by return mail, postpaid, upon receipt of \$1.30.



Preparing the Soil

included 35,000 bushels of wheat and 12,000 bushels of oats. Messrs. Howe and Gray do not believe in robbing the land, however, but intend to return as much as possible back to the soil, and for this purpose have entered into a contract to winter 800 head of cattle on the farm, thereby disposing of their surplus straw and rough grains.

The farm is splendidly situated, and the house and buildings nicely located. The soil is a rich chocolate loam, while the irrigation secondary canal runs through the farm. Among some of the work undertaken during the past year is that of building seven miles of road, while eight 14-inch plows were kept constantly at work, plowing being kept up day and night (the night work being possible by means of a big headlight on the engine) and as a result, twenty acres were turned over every day.

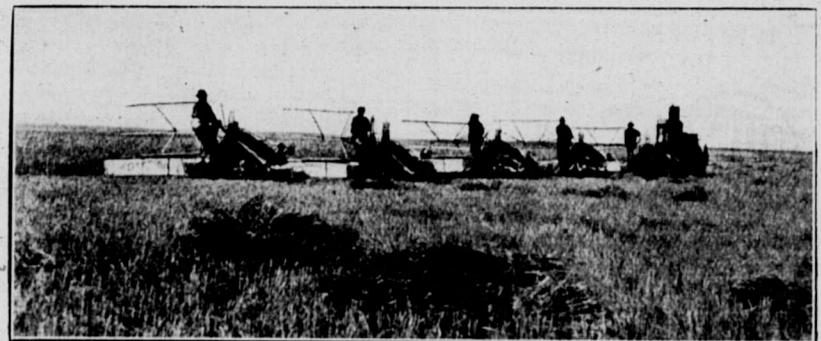
## Extensive Work

The accompanying pictures will give some idea of the size of the farm and the method of carrying on the farming operations. The illustrations show, in the panoramic view, the engine working 1 1/4 miles away from the house in a field consisting of 1,000 acres of wheat and 150 acres of oats. Another illustration shows an engine drawing eight four-disc harrows, four with out-throw ahead and four with in-throw behind, while attached to them are forty feet of drag harrows. All the work on the farm is done by means of the engines and the outfit for carrying on the work includes complete threshing outfit, plows, packers and a 120-foot drag harrow, while five binders are attached behind an engine at harvest time.

Messrs. Howe and Gray are Americans, both gentlemen making their home in the state of Maine, but they are very proud of their investment in Alberta, and it is rapidly becoming one of the show places for visitors. The manager is always pleased to show what has been done and to explain their working operations, and, to show that

knows quite well, doubtless, the economic forces which are influencing him, and that these are not to be removed by the administration of a new profession which Sir James is creating, nor by the homilies and demonstrations of Mr. Borden and Mr. Rowell. In default of measures to reduce cost and extend markets, the Sun has a suggestion to make. Mr. Rowell is quoting his friend, Mr. Flavell, daily, and there are good grounds for believing that Mr. Flavell is not without influence in the councils of Mr. Borden. Let these gentlemen come together and establish a real demonstration farm, or, indeed, half a dozen of them, in which the contention being quoted that the farmer would be prosperous, if he adopted good business methods, can be put to the test. If true, this contention is the most important matter now engaging public attention. Let an average farm of 200 acres in Bruce, Huron or Grey be bought at the market and stocked with implements and animals in the average way. Let \$500 be put in the bank and called savings. Let a farmer be put in charge, skilled in business science, with instructions that he is to pay five per cent. on the \$12,000 invested, make repairs, pay himself and wife and children wages according to a fair standard, charge himself with house rent, fuel and everything he receives, distinguish in his bookkeeping between capital and operating expense, freely invest the savings fund, and deliver over to the investors the profits. Let Mr. Flavell be a committee of expert advice for this farmer so that the experiment may not fail. Let a careful history, romantic and statistical, be written of the experiment so that, if it is successful, it will fire the imagination of youth and gladden the heart of age.

Nothing, we repeat, could be of more importance to Canada than the success of such an experiment. According to the home market theory lately success-



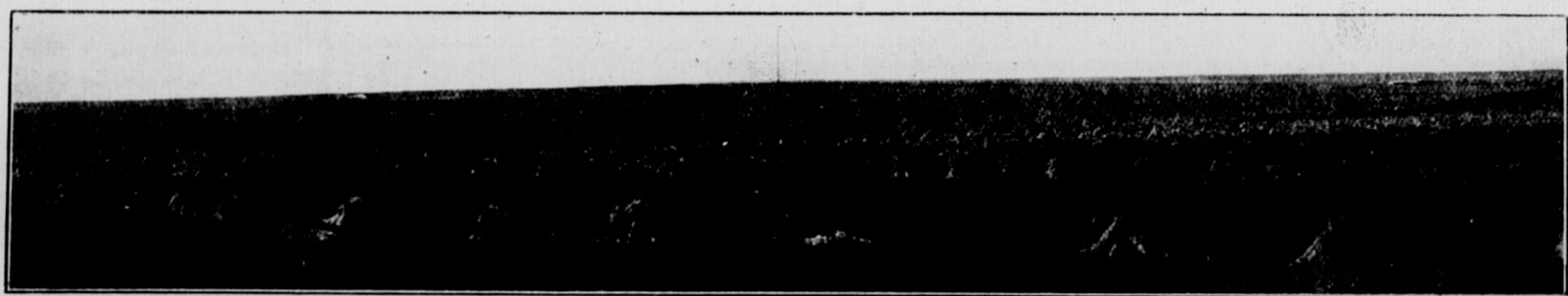
Reaping the Harvest

perfectly satisfactory and fair arrangement. Modern flour mills do not admit of persons bringing grists and receiving the actual product of the wheat they bring. What actually happens in the present day in the matter of gristing is that the persons bringing wheat exchange it for the products of other wheat previously delivered at the mill. Under these circumstances, and in view of the willingness of the miller to sell flour at wholesale prices to the farmers bringing him their wheat, there would appear to be no sufficient reason for endeavoring to bolster up by legislation a practice and custom that is simply a relic of con-

approximately the proportions that the wheat would yield of each. In the case of gristing done for a cash charge, the customary rate is 15 cents per bushel, and the farmer should receive 58 pounds of flour, bran and shorts for each 60 pounds of wheat in the grist. Here, again, the proportion of flour should be approximate to that yielded by wheat of the grade of the grist.

Yours faithfully,

A. F. MANTLE,  
Deputy Minister.



Something that gives scope to the imagination