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The Live Stock Industry on Indian Reserves

Canadians of Today are Depending to a Great Extent Upon the Redman for food--Fully one Quarter of the Total Population Engaged in Livestock Raising--Facts and Figures to Show the Growth of the Industry

By Max McD

HE possession of live stock to the value of more than \$4,000,000 is one of the assets of the Red Men of Canada. There are nearly 20,000 able-bodied adult Indians, and their herds would net them an average of above \$200 per capita. Twenty-five years ago, practically the sole occupation of the Aborigines of the Dominion was to gather weekly for their issue of beef rations raised by white men, and contracted for by the Department of Indian Affairs through ranchers adjacent to the Beserves. Last year the beef sold and consumed as food on Indian Reserves was valued by the agents at \$307,680, and nearly all of this was produced and sold by Indians themselves. Out of an industrial population of 22,000 there are approximately 5,000 Indians engaged in the business of stock raising.

DECEMBER 31, 1916

Figures supplied by the Indian Department at Ottawa show these Red Men to be possessed of 38,000 head of cattie. Milch cows number 15,000 head one-third of which are in British Columbia. and young stock runs slightly over 15,000. Of the total, 28,963 head are Lakes. British Columbia has 11,300; Saskatchewan ranks next with 7,756; Alberta has 6,570, and Manitoba, 3,321. Of the remaining 8,800, Ontario has 5,300 and Quebec and the Maritime Provinces 3,500.

In British Columbia Indians are realizing more and more the value of their hay meadows as a means of wintering cattle to advantage, and quite a number have made application for blocks of land for summer range. While the Okanagan Reserves ranges from 2,500 head and Kamloops 1,500 head, the bands are small and the cattle widely distributed. British Columbia Indians have laid an excellent foundation for an industry that will one day become great in their hands.

The cattle industry, in Saskatchewan, is one in which there are great opportunities for success, and on many of the reserves encouragement is given by the department to enlarge the herds, which is resulting in much profit to the Indians. Saskatchewan Reserves offer great areas of pas-ure lands, much of which is lying idle. There was a time when these Indians took very little interest in cattle, but they are realizing now the great worth of the industry. Losses among the cattle are not nearly as great as in early years, due to better care of the animals in winter.

Exceptionally favorable grazing conditions in Alberta and the natural fondness of the Blackfeet tribe for stock-raising are responsible for the rather shehomenal success of this industry on their reserves. The Blackfeet own 5,278 of the 6,570 head of cattle within the bounds of their province; and the Blood band of this tribe, whose reserve is situated between and south of Lethbridge city and Macleod, have 3,100 head. This herd is of the best beef types only, the bulls, some 70 in number, being Galloways and Short-

horns, and in recent years the purchases have been pedigreed Herefords from Ontario and Mani-

The Blood band has been exporting beef since 1907, and last year sold over 65 head of steers at \$105 a head. The money received from this sale was immediately spent in the purchase of female breeding stock. The first large shipment from this reserve was in 1908 when 102 head, exported to Liverpool, sold for one-half a cent a pound more than any other then on the market. In 1912, this band sold 103 steers at \$75 a head.

Although they put up in the heighborhood of 4,000 tons of hay, Blood Indians have never needed to feed steers during the winter. Beef is always gold off the grass. In the report of the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, Duncan J. Scott, he referred to this herd of Blood Indian cattle as "one of the finest range herds in the Northwest."

cess in cattle raising. It seems impossible to get. Indians who have cattle utilize to the full the benefits to be derived from them. Calves are allowed to run with milch cows, and the use of one valuable product is lost for buttermaking and for

What threatened to be a serious condition in the livestock industry at Fairford, has been checked. Tenents of the faith of adherents of a certain omination appealed to the instinct of the Indians, and they tried living by faith. They, however, found that faith without works is dead, and have gone back to their occupations and the caring of their stock. One Indian let 10 head of cat-tle die, another, two head, and the whole tribe of ome 2,060 Indians was affected to a degree.

In Ontario, the Six Nation Indians lead the cattle industry, having some 1,700 hand of stock. Last year these Indians bought three pedigreed bulls for the improvement of their herd. These were a Durham, a Holstein, and a Polled Angus. Milking cows has attained considerable headway, and milk is sold to factories adjacent to the re-

Quebec has approximately 1,800 head of cattle, 1,000 of which is milk stock. The maritime provinces have few Indians, and consequently few cattle. The bulk of their herds are milk cowskept for the use of the Indian families for the

Agriculture against the fallacy of neglecting live stock to garner grain exclusively, might well be sounded forth by Indian Agents to their industrially inclined wards. Canada's farmers have heavily liquidated their breeding animals and as a result there will be a marked shortage in every branch of the live stock industry. It would seem to be a time when the Indians with their broad reserve pasture and natural aptitude for the work we have to get down to the fundasept for the use of the lindian families for the misk of the lindians have made a great success of the lindians with their broad for ranging live stock, might well put forth the lindians with their broad for their many than the lindians with their broad for their linding with their broad for their linding with their broad for linding with the lindians with their broad with and have to get down to the fundancy or either feeling, well and happy.

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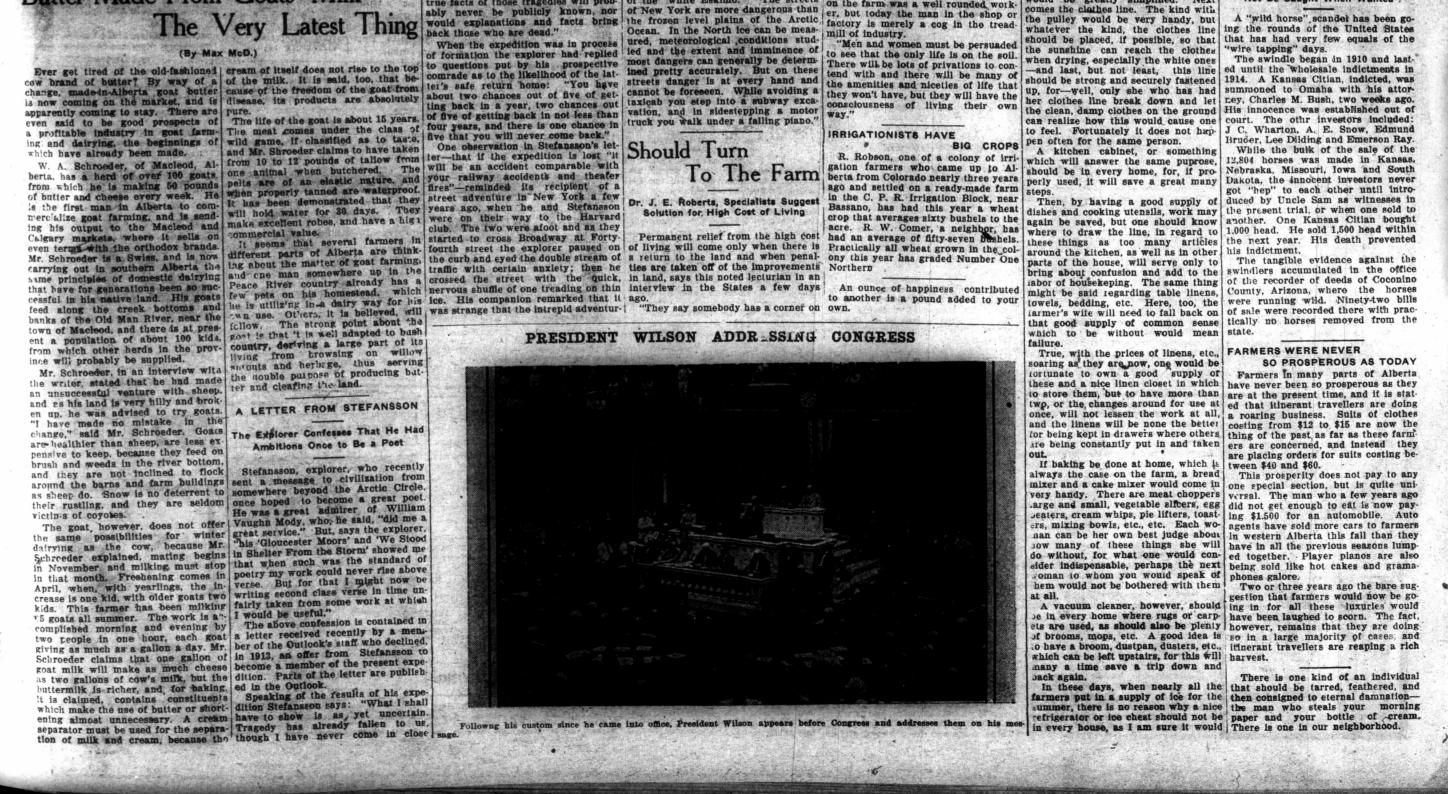
THE PROSPERITY HABIT

Since the war began Canada has been forming the habit of prosperity. Never before have mind and heart and energy ben so thoroughly co-ordinated in greater production and growth both in field and factory. Never before has the extent of business reached its present limits, and never before has Canada's balance of trade been so extensively in her favor.

There is every indication that this year's crops will total far above the average yield. There will not be the immense yield of last year, but there will be compensation in better prices, and it looks as if the farmers were going to receive as much for their crops this year as with last season's banner harvest. Although frequent rumors of black rust in parts of the country have been circulated, some of these have been exaggerated.

The balance of trade has been in favor of Canada to the extent of almost four hundred and twenty million dollars. Bank deposits in June of this year showed an increas of \$163,000,000 over the same month last year. On the whole, the year is full of promise. Canada has money to spend, and the Canadians are buying—Ford Times.

This is not within comparativity rectal years that it admins have thoughe of all by how in the case of the control of the cont



What Farmer's Wife Needs

Excerps From a Prize Essay, by Mrs. W. Patten, in Canadian Farmer

ways, if filtered, the other will not be missed so much.

A sink should be arranged at a convenient working height and a was pipe to carry the dirty water wen away underground should be added.

These are some of the things which help to keep the farmer's wife looking or rather feeling, well and happy.

An up to date cooking range is needed and if it could be one of the new high oven variety, all the better. Then, of course, plenty of fuel, good of its kind, which abould be kept in the most convenient place, as carrying wood and coal long distances is very wearing.

Butter Made From Goats' Milk