

and, but their  
Suppose two  
ne family there  
in the other  
The parents  
blame because  
The Creator  
urpose in view  
w steps in and  
the boys and  
is. Of course  
girls when they  
more equal,  
at matrimony  
securing a fair  
distribution,  
the family  
e homesteads  
nily with the  
e boys' family  
unily becomes  
of our land  
ordaining the  
fair that such  
as is done in

is practically  
construction  
ere is a lot of  
ge across the  
is. But still  
s ago. It is  
90 miles of  
Hudson Bay  
Albert Line)  
ed (by apella)  
government  
of Mackenzie  
an that they  
son Bay road  
is is the case  
nistrations.  
o away with  
keys of the  
mpanies and

the party  
endeavoring  
ministers for  
rd. This is  
ut we have  
and it is  
the general  
eme is lower  
are hatched  
Canada, bad  
spapers and  
such tactics.

Shackleton,  
innipeg the  
r the press.  
u believe in

ly. And not  
uture."  
w this. If  
isitors, they  
tical about

ement that  
inpurchase-  
uch papers  
am of sun-  
claim they  
le the best  
ind not by

one of the  
is has been  
smuggling.  
en will do.  
are liable

awa Mem-

# The Grain Grower's Guide

Published every Wednesday at 275-277 Sherbrooke Street, Winnipeg, Canada  
Authorized by the Postmaster-General, Ottawa, Canada, for transmission as Second Class Mail Matter.

Vol. II

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8th, 1910

No. 45

## Western Agricultural Problems

By W. H. Sharpe, M.P.

*The following address on the Problems of the Western Farmer was made by Mr. Sharpe in the House of Commons on April 14, 1909, and is reproduced from Hansard. It shows that western members are studying conditions.*

WE may look at our mines and forest departments, we are all proud of them, but we must admit that the agricultural department is the most important in Canada. The land will keep on producing, and will furnish employment and give support to many millions of people in this country, long after our forests and mines are exhausted. Therefore, I say that agriculture in Canada is the most important industry we have. Notwithstanding all that the Hon. Minister has been pleased to tell us this afternoon about what he has done for the people of Canada, when we come to investigate the other departments and come back again and look at what the department of agriculture is doing, we are compelled to admit that the department of agriculture is the most undeveloped department in the whole government. Take the estimate of 1909-10, when we look at the heading we find in staring figures \$1,114,000 for that department. But when we go through the estimates and sift out what is really spent in the interest of agriculture, we find that those figures dwindle down to \$657,000. I know that the minister figures in another item which brings it up a good deal higher, and that item is the health of animals. Knowing something about how this money is spent on the health of animals throughout Western Canada, I claim it is not being spent in the interest of the farmers. Take the estimates for last year. Last year the government was entrenching; they found that there was not enough money to go around, and they had to retrench. We find the other great departments cut down about ten per cent., but when we come to the agricultural department, we find it cut down from twenty to thirty per cent. I claim that if the governments, whether Dominion or provincial, have any function at all, that function essentially is to stand between the producer and the consumer, and to see that there is no undue toll taken from either. I would ask the minister when he has ever stood up in his place in parliament for either the producer or the consumer against the grafters. He has never done so during the two years I have had the honor of a seat in this House. Still, we find combines starting up everywhere, beef combines, pork combines, cement combines, and every other kind of combine, from one end of Canada to the other, which are taking undue tolls from the people; yet the minister has never raised one hand or finger to protect them. I consider that the conditions in regard to his department are in a deplorable state. Would you believe it, Mr. Speaker, the exportation of everything raised or grown on the farm, is dwindling except wheat? I claim that the condition in that respect is not only regrettable but deplorable.

### Canada's Export

Let me give you a few figures of our exportations to prove what I am saying:

Hams and bacon	1903	1909
	\$15,906,334	\$8,835,444
Decline of \$6,710,000		
Cheese	1903	1909
	\$24,776,406	\$20,384,666
Decline of \$4,000,000		
Sheep	1,655,681	569,364
Horses	1,457,173	367,256
	1904	1908
Salted pork	461,055	85,529
Potatoes	2,109,481	707,037
	1906	1908
Butter	7,086,020	1,87,242
	1906	1907
Cattle	\$11,689,551	\$10,933,669
		\$9,302,964

These are eight of the most important products of the farm, and I tell you, Mr. Speaker, unless the eight branches of farm production is kept up, the production of wheat cannot possibly last in this country. In the United States, some seven years ago, the average production of wheat was about twenty bushels to the acre; today the average production of wheat in that country has fallen to twelve or thirteen bushels per acre. Our average in Western Canada is about twenty bushels per acre at the present time, but if we do not keep up these eight branches in a flourishing condition, the production of wheat in Western Canada will very shortly be down to twelve or thirteen bushels per acre. Therefore, I say that these important branches of agriculture must go hand in hand with the production of wheat. Last year, we had Professor Robertson before the agricultural committee, and he told us that the farmers of Quebec, on account of their poor methods of farming were losing about \$100,000,000 a year.

### Loss in Revenue

If the province of Quebec lost a revenue of \$100,000,000 because the farmers do not farm the land in a proper manner, what did it mean for the whole of the other provinces of this country? If that statement is true in connection with Quebec, then the whole Dominion of Canada lost a revenue equal to \$400,000,000 or \$500,000,000. The minister says that the reason our farmers are not more

successful is because of their shipshod methods, of their lack of interest in their work. I want to tell the minister that is not the fact. I am speaking particularly in connection with Western Canada, because I am more in touch with the work there than in Eastern Canada. When, some years ago, the government and the Canadian Pacific railway joined hands and sent a train through Western Canada to give demonstrations to our farmers, I remember quite well the day the train struck the town that I lived in. It was in the dead of winter, there was a blizzard, it was cold and stormy, but I know that a lot of farmers throughout my constituency drove 12 to 20 miles to be there to get the information that these men had brought for their enlightenment. Farmers, throughout Western Canada particularly, are hungry for information. They want to have demonstrated to them the way they should do things and they would be only too glad to follow up the instructions that were given them. I spoke a little while ago in connection with the export of products of this country falling off year after year.

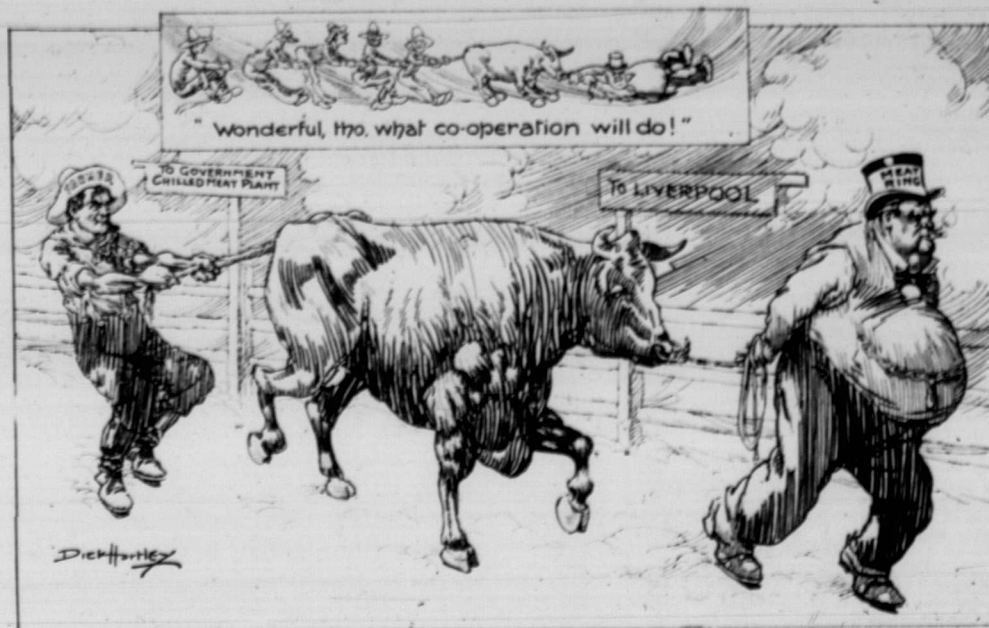
### Expansion not Cause

I have spoken to several in connection with it and the argument that I have received from each one was that it was because of the great internal expansion throughout this country. When I first heard that argument, I thought perhaps there was a good deal to it, but when I looked into the records of other countries

that were expanding and going ahead practically on a par with Canada, I found the condition altogether different. Instead of the productions of the Argentine Republic, New Zealand and Australia going down from year to year as ours are, they are going up. They are exporting more of their farm products than ever year. The Argentine Republic is expanding just as fast as we are if not a good deal faster.

In 1898, 11,667 immigrants arrived on their shores; in 1893, 143,493; and in 1907, 342,122. So you see they are getting quite as many immigrants, if not more, than we are in Canada. They exported in 1887, 13,183,000 bushels of wheat, and in 1907 they exported 86,360,000 bushels. Their exportation of wheat is practically on a par with ours. We find that in 1909 they exported wool to the extent of 101,113 tons. That shows that they have gone into sheep breeding, and in 1907, the exportation of wool had increased to 134,818 tons. Instead of their being the same as we are in Canada, instead of the exportation of sheep and wool going down year after year, the exportation of sheep and wool from the Argentine Republic is going up year after year. I wish to speak particularly in connection with the cattle trade of the Argentine Republic. We find that they have two systems of shipping their cattle. They ship some on the hoof and some in a frozen state. In 1900 they exported 66,496 head of cattle; in 1903, 249,000; and in 1906, 509,114. That shows in my opinion, that they must have some persons in the Argentine Republic, who are looking after the interest of the great producing population of that country. In Australia, our sister colony, they are expanding too. They are developing their country according to population as fast as we are. They exported beef, in 1906, 294,392 quarters; in 1907, 308,114; and in 1909, 390,626, showing a gradual increase all the time.

Continued on page 16



The Livestock Man's Difficulty and Opportunity