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MIXED FARMING AND MANUFACTURING IN WESTERN CANADA

Recorded observations of one whose duty in life is to scan closely men and matters are far more likely to be correct and convincing than those of one who merely takes a casual glance and writes what appears on the surface at that immediate moment.

Mr. S. R. Tarr, M.A., has a close acquaintanceship with Western Canada, and the proof of the foregoing statements will be shown in the following quotations from an address he gave before the Canadian Credit Men's Association at Winnipeg:—

There is a dual development under way in Western Canada that bodes well for sound progress. Movements towards diversified agricultural and industrial production are now characteristic of rural and urban development, respectively throughout the West. And the movements are co-related more closely than appears at a casual glance.

Take, for instance, the relation between the cereal milling industry and animal husbandry. Partly, no doubt, to take advantage of the Panama route, and partly on account of the cheapness of power (which in milling is of relatively greater importance than in industries requiring more manual operatives), the milling and packing companies are gradually making Southern Alberta an industrial territory of importance.

Now glance at what this means to diversified agriculture, as well as to the revival of ranching over less fertile districts. In the first place, the upgrowth of industrial centres supplies ready and profitable markets for the varied products of the soil. Produce too perishable for long shipment will find ready sale close at hand. Then the available by-products from cereal mills should do much in re-establishing and expanding the live stock and dairying industries throughout the West. Lately,

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

Editorial:	PAGE
Manufacturing and Mixed Farming in the West...	825
Borrowed in One Month	825
Controlling the Interest Rate	826
Bridges and Banks that are Weak	826
Finance and Economics:	
Provision for Depreciation	829
Bank Act Enquiry Resumed	831
Investments and the Market	832
Interest Rates on Farm Loans	838
Corporation Financing	856
Stock Exchanges:	
Prices of the Week	852-3
Canadian Securities in London	854
Bonds and Municipal Credit:	
Medicine Hat to be Industrial Centre	828
Commerce and Transportation:	
Pacific Coast Harbors and Docks	830
Cuba's Commercial Requirements	838
Manitoba, A Mixed Farming Province	839
Insurance:	
Value of Life Insurance, XI.	827
Life Insurance and the Agent	827
Investment of Life Insurance Companies' Funds...	834
How New York Life Invests its Funds	835

the provincial governments, the railroads and the packers have turned their hands in a systematic effort towards the upbuilding of the live stock industry. The increased interest along these lines is having a salutary effect already upon the financial condition of the Western farmer. The manager of a large loaning institution not long ago remarked that he could always tell when any district began to go in for mixed farming by the increased promptness of the company's collections throughout the locality.

The drop in wheat prices will not have been an unmixed evil for the Western farmer if it prompts him to realize the advantage of having other strings to his bow.

The matters of better local roads and of improved marketing and storage facilities for supplying Western towns and cities are now coming in for careful attention. Around Winnipeg the leaven had been working notably of late. And all through the West similar interest is growing. A mixed farming convention has been held at Lethbridge.

As to manufacturing, during the five years from 1905 to 1910, the three prairie provinces more than doubled the annual value of their industrial output, the census figures for 1910 being \$77,000,000. That the annual total now runs well up to the \$100,000,000 mark admits of small doubt.

In the laying of foundations for industrial development, individual cities have an important part to play. There are mistakes to be avoided—and among the foremost is the bonusing fallacy, which has in so many instances brought set-back to the real progress of various Eastern towns.

It is a matter for encouragement that at the recent organization convention of the civic and industrial commissioners of Western Canada a resolution was adopted, deprecating the bonusing practice and calling upon the several Western provincial governments to take steps