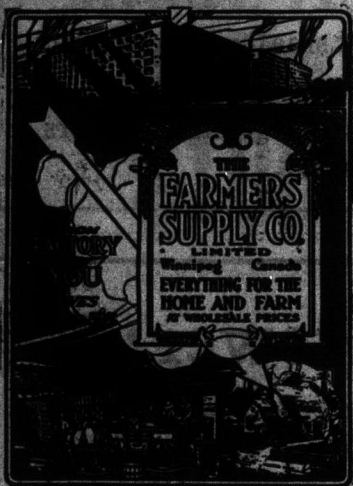


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with the experience of a long life of careful farming he sprang into the wordy fray.

"Manure, for one thing."

"But it's next to impossible in most cases," Cy came back. Then went on: "I get my threshing done anywhere from the end of September to the beginning of November. Even with an early start, like September, I haven't any time to spread and plow it under. Besides the frosts come too soon. Even the plowed under stubble has hardly begun to decay before the ground is ready for the new crop, let alone piling on a lot of straw."

Jonathan sat back, triumphant and pleased.

"Well," Cy remarked, "all you say is very true. Inventions have worked out all those different ways of utilizing straw. But that's all."

"Where are your factories to take the straw off the hands of the western farmer? Are they built? Are they on the ground handy; are their representatives on the job with a proposition?" No; they are not! You don't expect the farmers have the time or the capital to take up these matters themselves, do you?



And still later saw it hurled sheaf by sheaf into the gnashing, seemingly insatiable maw of the harvester

Jonathan tried again. "Well, there's lots of other things—bricks, for instance, are now being manufactured from straw." Then, with his old mania for figures to the fore and with statistics furnished by Cy, he went on: "The total yield of all kinds of grains in Alberta and Saskatchewan for the years 1913 and 1911 respectively—I'm taking different years for the sake of average—was 75,575,682 bushels for Alberta and 96,796,588 for Saskatchewan. Now, roughly, the ratio weight of grain to straw is two to one. The weight of wheat, oats, barley and flax, averaged according to their various weights, gives an approximate of 40 pounds to the bushel. The total grain yield of the two provinces was 172,489,080 bushels. Multiply this by eighty, or twice the average weight of the grain, and you have the enormous amount of 1,378,978,160 pounds of straw. By one of the latest processes, the product from ten pounds of straw makes one brick. So, this waste straw, devoted to brick making, would result in more than 137 million bricks. or enough to build a good sized city."

"As for baling the straw; it's like the manure proposition, we haven't the time or facilities to take it up. Now what are you going to do about it? Is the farmer at fault? Is he to be blamed for burning up a thing which, though valuable under certain conditions, is nevertheless useless to him under existing conditions?"

Cy sat back; lit a cigar, stared out into the dark, lit redly with the beacons of burning straw.

Slowly, piece by piece, Jonathan tore up his pages of calculation.

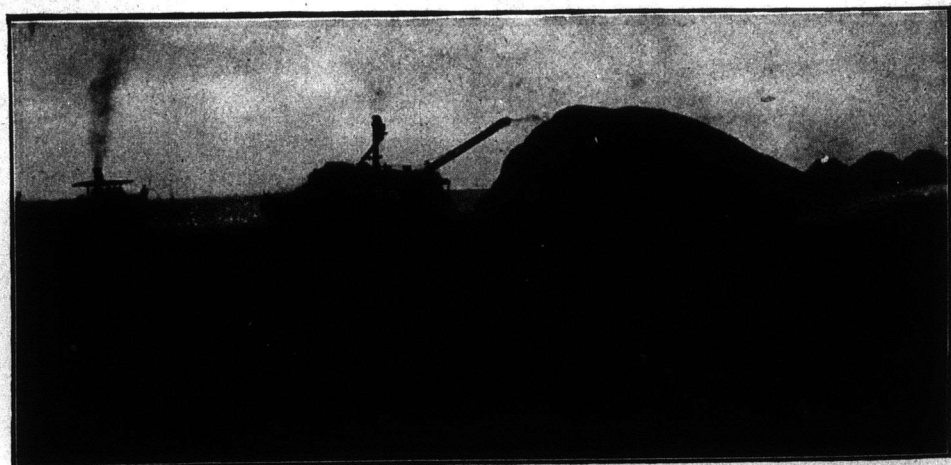
"Yes; that's right," he said after long minutes of reflection, "I never thought of it in that light before; but," he added: "the question is still here, it must be answered some day."

"What are you going to do about it?"

Advice for Grain Growers

Winnipeg, Aug. 31, 1915.

At a meeting held to-day, at which representatives of the farmers' organizations of Western Canada were present,



The straw of the Western provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan which is annually wasted, would bring at even half the eastern price, about \$50,000,000

"Then," he went on before Cy could interrupt: "there's low grade alcohol. Now, in Ger—," he caught himself to avoid an unpatriotic utterance, adding instead, "in Europe they devote straw to this purpose."

"Again, there is lumber; good lumber can be made from straw. Too, flax straw, for instance, at a low estimate is worth \$10 per 300 pounds for fibre. Over a million and a half bushels, or, according to our averaging of the whole, 60,000,000 pounds of this straw were wasted in the two provinces in one year. This alone would have brought \$200,000."

"Or, baled, the entire product of all the combined straws, would have brought at even half the eastern price, \$50,000,000

"How about all this?"

the matter of prices likely to be received for the present crop was discussed. It was the unanimous opinion of those present that a heavy movement on the part of the farmers to sell their grain at the present time would be almost certain to force prices to a lower level, and that if a more leisurely method of marketing were followed by the farmers in the disposal of their grain, a better average price all round would be secured for it.

While it was recognized that the matter of giving advice on the selling of grain is a difficult one, it was thought advisable by all present to make a public statement advising the farmers of Western Canada, as far as possible, to store a portion of their grain on their farms, and, in this way, spread the marketing