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* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.*

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The Crops and Markets.

As is usually the case when there are prospects of a good big crop, there are lots of people who get interviews published in the daily papers, in which wild guesses at the yields are made. This year we have been favored with prophecies of 35 and even 40 bushel averages of wheat for the Province and Territories. As we come closer to the only reliable standard of the crop yield, the weigh scales, these fabulous yields diminish. The Local Government crop report makes the yield 24.28 bushels per acre, and the Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture for the Territories estimates on a 21 bushel crop for the Territories. With a 20 bushel average all round, the country is doing well, and it will mean prosperity not only for the Northwest, but to the manufacturing centers of the east. A wheat crop of 50,000,000 bushels at 50 cents a bushel means a lot of money distributed among comparatively few producers.

The Manitoba Government crop estimate is as follows:

	Acres.	Bushels per acre.	Total yield.
Wheat.....	2,011,835	24.28	48,857,255
Oats.....	689,560	43.78	30,206,775
Barley.....	191,069	33.68	6,433,919
Total grain crop.....			85,497,949

The wheat market promises at this writing to open fairly well, probably between 50 and 55 cents. It nearly always pays to sell wheat early. Nine times out of ten, the man who sells on the opening market makes the most money. Not only is the price generally highest during the early season, but the man who converts his wheat into cash early saves all loss from shrinkage in weight, saves insurance and risk of loss, has no need to dread a grain blockade, can promptly meet all outstanding obligations, and thus enhance his credit with those who have trusted him and with the world. He can save money by buying at cash prices, and is freed from the feverish anxieties of the grain speculator. The cashing of the wheat checks oils the wheels of commerce, and every industry is thereby benefited as well as the farming community.

Seasonable Precautions.

With favorable weather, and assisted by the large importation of harvest hands, the crop will be rapidly harvested. Modern harvesting machinery, with plenty of horse power and a little careful planning, makes it possible for comparatively few men to handle a large crop. With good weather, stook threshing saves an immense amount of labor, but it is unwise to have a force lying idle waiting for a machine. It is always safe and prudent to get as much stacking done as possible, as if well stacked, the crop is safe against almost any contingency. It should be quite unnecessary to caution people against careless stacking. The man takes big risks when, instead of building solid, full-hearted stacks, he throws together piles of sheaves. Many have had this lesson taught them at heavy cost. It pays to be careful in the drawing in of grain, as sometimes much is lost by shelling. A good plan is to use racks with close-boarded sides and bottoms. The threshers also require attention, to see that the grain is properly threshed, none blown into the straw stack, and that the weed seeds and dirt are not run into the bushel measure, although the man who grows weeds is to a certain extent entitled to pay for the threshing of them. There is no sense in hauling weed seeds to market, or in paying freight on them. It's all very well to say

that the grain buyers dock as much on clean grain as on dirty, but the man is slack who lets them do so. Have the machine settings cleaned up. Remember the scarcity of feed last year, and the old motto, "Waste not, want not."

From past experience, more value will be placed on straw, and what is intended to be kept over should be stacked as carefully as time will permit. There is danger of prairie fires this fall. Don't neglect every precaution in the way of fire-guards.

Fall plowing should be started as early as possible, as the earlier in the season it is done the better are the chances for next year's crop. If plowed early, the soil goes over firmer and more compactly, and is in better shape to retain moisture. If the weeds on the fallows have made much growth during harvest, the land should be gone over again with a cultivator, or if that will not suffice, use the gang plow as shallow as possible, so as to cut all weeds. Stinkweed, shepherd's-purse, peppergrass, prairie wallflower, tumbling mustard and the cut-leaved goosefoot have become winter annuals, and the fall growth will live over and give trouble if they are not killed with cultivator or plow before seeding, and the late fall is the best time to kill them.

Farm Siftings.

Everybody feels good because the farmer has a bumper crop in sight. Right here, though, even should the wheat be in the granary or elevator, there is no excuse for neglecting the dams of your stockers, creatures which helped many of you through a pinching period last year. The drought south and the rush to market there of everything salable is likely to keep up the price of beef stock.

If possible, clean your grain at home, or take it to an elevator where you can get your screenings back. There will be lots of coarse grain this fall, you say. True. It looks like it; but is that any excuse for waste? If you should have coarse grain enough to carry over for a second winter's feed, it will do no harm. Money will be made easily by feeding some chop, and thus having the calves in good order for the buyers.

Human nature shows queer freaks sometimes. The other day a neighbor was seen who for several years used the stud bull of a nearby pure-bred herd on his grade females, with very beneficial results. Last year, however, he gagged at the service fee, which was reasonable, and bought a bull of no breeding or beef character for about \$40, and is using him on his herd, and now, instead of progression, it's retrogression in his herd.

What about the threshing machine this fall? Have you arranged your work so that you can keep an eye on the separator when running, and avoid your profits going out with the straw? There is no doubt that, in the anxiety to make big runs, many a machine is crowded too hard, and as a consequence a big loss results to the farmer.

Why not encourage the thresher to take his own boarding outfit with him, and thus save the women folk a lot of hard, unprofitable labor?

See to the fire-guards, that they are sufficient in number and properly made.

Wet days may come in harvest, and if not already done, those days will come useful to white-wash the stables and hennery.

It will soon be time for the goodwife to cull her poultry flock. Pen the culls for a few weeks, feed well, and get the difference in price between a first-class article and a third-class one.

Don't overfeed your horses because you have lots of it. Green oats, if not carefully fed, will demoralize your working force very easily. Keep a half gallon of raw linseed oil on hand in case of emergencies, and if necessary, give a pint and a half or quart, and then call your veterinarian at once. Delays are dangerous.

If you can afford it this fall, invest in a good set of scales. If large enough to weigh a mature animal, all the better. They will come useful in two ways: to check up the elevator man and to keep tab on your live stock, whether they are making gains or not? If not, why not?

Danger from Fires.

It seems to us a pity that there is a probability of the farmer suffering from fires this fall, due to lack of plowing proper fire-guards by the railroad companies. The great growth of weeds along the track, which are now about ripened, and consequently in a condition easily set on fire, as well as the great amount of stubble, renders chances of a big conflagration, which will mean ruin to many, very great. Along the main line of the C. P. R. west, up to the middle of August, no efforts seem to have been made to ward off such disasters; the usual fire-guards have not been plowed, nor the space burned off between. While fire-guards are not made by the companies in Manitoba, the complaint still applies, as the weeds are not even cleaned out from near the ties. Farmers along the railroad will do well to lose a day's stacking and employ it making a thorough job of fire-guards, not only along the track, but all around the farm. See to it also that a few barrels of water, and pails, are handy during the threshing period, so that any incipient blaze can be quickly smothered.

A Champion of the T. N. P. A.!

I noticed a short article in your last issue re the Threshers' National Protective Association, and as I do not think your criticism at all fair, trust you will insert this letter in your next issue. First of all, as a thresher and one who knows the organization, I think that anyone writing as you and others have done, should try and get facts before making statements you make. It seems that other business men can form associations to better their interests, and there is not a word said or written about it. No association can exist without funds, and those who know what this money is used for are very well satisfied. Some think it should be higher, and those farmers who will this year be in the localities where the associations exist, will realize that they all pay the one price, a fair price to both threshers and farmers, and that the threshers will be put on a higher standard than they have heretofore been. I trust that before any further complaints are made you will investigate this matter, and you will see that this Association does not impose on any farmer that means to live and let live, but it will catch a few who think their money is a little better than others, and that their work should be done a little cheaper, or that a machine may thresh a little more on their farm than on others. Would like to see this published in your paper in justice to the threshers in this district, as I know that the prices are lower here than they were last year, and I know, now that the Association in Brandon has fixed their prices, that the prices are lower than advocated by the threshers of other districts where these Associations do not yet exist.

CHARLES KOESTER,
Brandon Lodge No. 1, T. N. P. A.