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The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL L., NO. 151 — VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1908 — FIFTIETH YEAR

SOCIETY TAKES TO BALLOONING

New Amusement Occupies the Minds of Habitues of Famous Hurlingham

INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

British Balloons First and Second in Race to Maidenhead

London, May 30.—Hurlingham, the erstwhile centre of fashionable amusements, has now taken the lead in Ballooning, society's latest recreation, and today was the scene of an interesting international aeronautic contest, in which twelve British, thirteen French, three German, two Belgian and one Swiss balloons competed.

The geographical conditions of the United Kingdom being such as to practically forbid a long-distance contest, the committee in charge decided upon a point-to-point race. Maidenhead was chosen, a distance of about thirty miles. The most interesting feature of the contest was the number of ladies who made the ascension. In addition to the Englishwomen, who included Lady Shelley, the Hon. Mrs. Ashton Harbord, Mrs. and Miss Brabazon and Mrs. Capper, wife of Colonel Capper, several French ladies specially crossed the channel for the purpose of making the trip in the air.

The band of the Royal Horse Guards, as each balloon was set loose, played the national anthem of the country which it represented. The weather was hazy and the wind very light, making the race a competition of skill in the search for helpful currents, in which the British competitors, with their local knowledge, had a distinct advantage. The Balloons varied greatly in size, from the Belgian Le Roltelet, of a capacity of 250 cubic metres, to the French Cognac, of 2,000 cubic metres, but a valve defect prevented the Cognac from ascending at the last moment. The largest English balloon was Pollock's Valkyrie, of 1,698 cubic metres.

There was an exciting incident at the start of the race, the Belgian balloon, Emulation, De Pard, striking a tree in the grounds. A pilot, Albert Crombez, instantly climbed a rope and his companion, Lieutenant Crombez, jumped overboard to lighten the contraction, but his pilot took advantage of two large branches of the tree. The aeronaut quickly continued the race.

The winner proved to be the Valkyrie, which made the descent very easily about three hundred yards from the winning post. Griffith Brewer's Loftus, also a British representative, finished second. The third prize has not as yet been decided.

AEROPLANE FLIGHTS

English, French and American Experts Competing for Leadership in New Line

Rome, May 30.—Delagrange, the aeronaut, beat the world's aeroplane record today, flying 12,750 metres and remaining in the air 15 minutes and 26 seconds.

Ghent, May 30.—Harry Farman, the English aeroplanist today covered 1,241 metres, or 4,033 feet, in his aeroplane with two men on board. His companion was M. Archdeacon. The feat was performed in a dead calm.

By this performance Mr. Farman wins the bet of $1,300 made with A. Charon in March of this year, who held that an aeroplane would not be constructed within a year capable of carrying two persons, one of them to weigh not less than 132 pounds, a distance of 1,000 metres.

Paris, May 30.—Wilbur Wright, one of the Wright brothers, the American aeroplanists, was informed today that Leon Delagrane, the French aeroplanist, had succeeded in flying 12,750 metres, or over seven miles, at Rome. He manifested considerable interest, but no anxiety, in this performance.

"We are not worried," he said. "We already have tripled the distance made by M. Delagrange this morning. Our confidence in our leadership rests upon the essential difference between our machine and those used in Europe. We have a practical aeroplane capable of flying in the wind."

SHOT BY NEGRO

Prominent Citizen and Clubman of Mobile Gets Fatal Wounds From His Own Revolver

Mobile, Ala., May 30.—Thomas Chamberlain, for many years city electrician, a prominent clubman and one of the most prominent Mobilians, was shot and killed today by an unknown negro.

Chamberlain was one of a posse headed by Chief of Police Rodeau that went to Warren and Texas streets to capture Brown, a notorious negro murderer.

The unknown negro was in the house, and believing the officers were after him, desperately tried to get away. After the negro had been caught and disarmed he got possession of Mr. Chamberlain's revolver and shot Mr. Chamberlain twice, both bullets taking effect in the right groin. The negro was shot dead.

Died in Ambulance.

Quebec, May 28.—Joseph Côte, between 30 and 35 years old, died in the ambulance this morning while being conveyed to the hospital, as a result of injuries received in jumping from the steamer Woburn to the wharf.

Royal Society Meeting.

Ottawa, May 26.—The annual meeting of the Royal Society of Canada opened here this morning, President S. E. Davidson presiding. Among the members assembled for the occasion are some of the best known figures in the Canadian fields of science and literature. Among the new members presented was Postmaster-General Lemieux. A meeting will be held in Quebec during the tercentenary.

Currency Bill Passed

Washington, May 30.—The senate late today passed the compromise currency bill by a vote of 43 to 22.

Japan's Water Power

Tokio, May 30.—The development of the water power of Japan has been undertaken by a Japanese-English-American syndicate. At a meeting yesterday $6,000,000 was pledged for this purpose. Japanese contributing half the amount.

Egypt Has Train Wreck

Cairo, Egypt, May 30.—An express train from Alexandria to Cairo collided with a freight train at Kuesna station yesterday evening. Two persons were killed, six were seriously and nine were slightly injured.

Mr. Rockefeller's Gift

New York, May 30.—The gift of an additional $700,000 to the Rockefeller institute at Sixty-sixth street and the East river by John D. Rockefeller was announced tonight after a meeting of the trustees of the institution. The money is to be used for the erection of a new building near the present institute. The gift makes a total of $4,500,000 given to the institute by Mr. Rockefeller.

Revolver Accident.

Montreal, May 30.—Jeanne Gauthier, a nine-year-old girl visiting friends on Orleans street, was playing with other children yesterday, when she was shot in the head by a revolver. The revolver was kept for shooting rats, and was found by one of the little ones beneath the carpet on a verandah. She started playing with it, with the result that a discharged bullet lodged in the little girl's head. Her condition is critical.

SUCCESSFUL TOUR BROUGHT TO CLOSE

Ministers Start on the Return Journey After Visit to Interior Points

Nelson, May 30.—Premier McBride closed his tour of the interior at Fernie tonight, where he, Hon. Dr. Young and Hon. Mr. Bowser addressed a large gathering, representing all shades of politics.

Last night a hearty welcome was extended the visiting ministers at Cranbrook, the successful reception in this city being repeated in both the East Kootenay towns.

Mr. McBride tonight referred to the [illegible] on Monday, since he first took office. The premier's address and that of Mr. Young were almost wholly non-political.

The party leave for the coast in the morning, going by way of Spokane, where they will rest for a day, having had an arduous two weeks of it, receiving countless delegations and many individual callers. The greetings extended all through Kootenay have been of unusual heartiness.

CAUSED FATAL WRECK

Runaway Engine on C. P. R. at Owen Sound Gets Witt by Express —Engineer Killed

Owen Sound, Ont., May 30.—As a result of the railway accident on the C. P. R. at midnight, Engineer Wm. Boskell is dead and seven men are injured. The names of the injured are: M. Wilson, fireman; E. McCreary, conductor; H. Stone, baggageman; W. V. Dockrill, express messenger; Mail Clerk Kearns; Charles Munroe, a passenger, and John Batts.

The accident was a most peculiar one. Engine 1490, which had just arrived in with a freight train from Toronto, was run up on the roundhouse siding and Engineer Griffith had left it and gone into the office. From some cause unknown the engine of its own accord evidently started to back up, and started down the long track at an ever-increasing speed.

A passenger express due here at 10 o'clock was two hours late and as it rounded the curve at Murray's cut and came down the grade at full speed, it met the runaway engine in front of the Keenan Lumber company's works.

TALK OF ALLIANCE

Question of Developing Anglo-French Entente is Considered by Governments and Diplomatists

London, May 30.—With the conclusion of the visit to England of President Fallieres of France, increased attention is being given as to whether the conversation between King Edward and President Fallieres and the British and French foreign ministers will lead to the developing of the existing entente between Great Britain and France into an alliance in which Russia will be a party.

At a conference between Sir Edward Grey, British secretary of state for foreign affairs, and M. Pichon, the French foreign minisret, the subject of a more formal agreement between the respective countries and the coming visit of King Edward to Emperor Nicholas was discussed, so that King Edward as well as Sir Charles Hardinge, permanent under secretary for foreign affairs, and former British ambassador to Russia, who will accompany his majesty, will be able to place before the Russian Emperor the views, not only of their country, but those of France also with respect to a closer understanding between Great Britain, France and Russia.

King Edward and the British government, it is believed, favor a military alliance and the further isolation of Germany, but there is much opposition in this country to such an agreement on the ground that it would necessitate an increased military expenditure, and possibly conscription, and also would lead Great Britain into continental quarrels in which she was not interested.

A majority of the press and of the public are saying that it would be better for Great Britain to leave well enough alone and devote her efforts to assuring the continuance of the entente with France.

LITTLE REPUBLIC MAKES TROUBLE

President of Panama Adopts Usual Central American Tactics

ELECTION WILL BE FARCE

American Minister is Summoned to Washington for Consultation

Panama, May 30.—The political situation in Panama, which seemed to have been cleared for a time by the position taken by the United States with regard to the coming elections, is becoming more and more complicated every day. A presidential decree issued today revokes the appointments of Porfirio Menendez, governor of Colon; Tijo Ocana, governor of Coele, and Antonio Anquizola, governor of Chiriqui, and replaced them with strong supporters of Senor Arias, secretary of foreign affairs, who has been spoken of as a possible presidential candidate. The former governors are members of the constitutional party, and friendly to the interests of Senor Obaldia, the former Panama governor.

The American minister, Mr. Squires, has received instructions by cable to leave by the first steamer and proceed to Washington. This has caused considerable comment here.

Situation Complicated.

Washington, May 30.—Secretary Root tonight admitted the accuracy of the report that Minister Squires has been summoned to Washington from Panama. The secretary said that the political situation was complicated, and added that he had asked him to come here in order that he might consult with him regarding it.

New York, May 30.—Secretary Taft tonight received and read the Associated Press cable dispatch from Panama reporting that Minister Squires had been summoned to Washington, and that three provincial governors had been removed by President Amador of Panama. The secretary said: "It is not for me to comment on the significance of executive acts of governments with which we have relations. The instructions to Minister Squires were issued by the state department, and are entirely outside my province."

He would not comment upon the probable effect the removal of the provincial governors would have upon the complications involved in the approaching elections on the isthmus. The secretary explained that his previous statements concerning the appointment of commissioners to conduct the coming election covered all he cared to say publicly about the matter.

Standard Oil Case

New York, May 26.—Testifying in the government suit to dissolve the Standard Oil company, Edward W. McKenna, vice-president of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, said under cross-examination today that four directors of the Standard Oil company are also directors of the railroad. Mr. McKenna denied that any official of the Standard had ever attempted to influence him to make a lubricating oil contract, with the Galena Signal Oil company, which furnishes oil to the St. Paul railroad. Louis C. Fritch, assistant to the president of the Illinois Central, was the next witness.

REFUGEE STEAMSHIP IN HONDURAS PORT

Officials of Bankrupt Shipping Company Seek to Escape Extradition

New York, May 30.—C. W. Bennett, British consul-general in this city, received a cable message today from Puerto Cortez, Honduras, to the effect that the Goldsboro steamship, for which the authorities of this country and of Great Britain have been in search, is now in the harbor of Puerto Cortez. She returned to that port today from Celba, Honduras, for which port she left Puerto Cortez on May 25.

The receiver of the bankrupt Export Shipping company, the president and secretary of which corporation are supposed to be on board the Goldsboro, was notified that so long as they remain in Honduras they are immune from extradition. Mr. Bennett communicated today with Mr. Bryce, British ambassador, and co-operation between the British government and the department of state, to which an appeal was made on Friday by creditors of the Export Shipping company, is expected to result in some action through which some part of the $150,000 cargo of the Goldsboro may be recovered.

Bigamy Case Dismissed

Vancouver, May 23.—With the dismissal of the accused woman, Mrs. Arsith, in the police court, the validity in British Columbia of the United States law of divorce remains untested. The dismissal was secured on another point altogether. It appears that the former husband who, with the family, resides here, was unable to produce the certificate of his marriage. He stated that the certificate was in possession of the wife. Mr. Russell, for the defendant, took the ground that no evidence but the certificate of marriage is sufficient in law. On that ground, Magistrate Williams dismissed the case. Mr. Bird, for the prosecution, asked leave to state a case, but objection was taken that no case could be stated except on guarantee that expenses would be met. The court upheld this objection.

Castro Excites the Dutch

Willemstadt, Curacoa, May 26.—The steamer Christiansen hurriedly left here for Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, on May 25 with a Dutch government despatch for its minister at Caracas. It is supposed the despatch is connected with the latest events regarding the closing of Venezuela ports to Dutch vessels, and President Castro's decree prohibiting the transshipment of cargo on the island of Caracoa.

Killed by Rifle Bullet.

North Bay, Ont., May 26.—Larry Loughrin, formerly the well known chief fire ranger of Temagamie, was accidently killed at a lumber camp near Cartier. The trigger of his rifle caught and a bullet was the cause of almost instant death.

AIMED AT KAISER

Prussian Assassinated Here in Italian Prison Was Sent on Killing High Personages

Bari, Italy, May 30.—Two weeks ago the police arrested here as a vagrant Paul Nicholas, 29 years old, a mechanic of Charlottenburg, Prussia. The German consular authorities were notified and requested the police to hold the man until it was possible to ascertain the reason for his presence in Italy.

Becoming tired of waiting longer in prison, Nicholas has now confessed that he is an anarchist, and that he came from Berlin in April pledged to kill some person in the Imperial court who left with Emperor William for Corfu.

The man refused to give any further particulars concerning his errand, or a hint as to who instructed him to commit the crime, or who was the personage to be killed, but it is believed Emperor William himself was the intended victim.

MISSION TO FARMERS IN NORTH COUNTRY

Alberta Government Provides for Lecturing Tour By Experts

Edmonton, May 30.—A new departure recently made by the Alberta government is significant of the increasing importance of the north country. The government's superintendent of fairs in the Dominion seed grain agent for Alberta and British Columbia, are now on a six weeks' trip to the northern part of the province. A member of the staff of the provincial department of education accompanies them. The party left the place landing on the Hudson's Bay Company's boat on Wednesday last, and will go as far north as the Peace River settlement.

Never before has a move been made by either provincial or federal governments to exercise oversight over the methods of agriculture in the north country, or to give the northern farmers the benefits of more advanced agricultural education. Athabasca Landing, for instance, has hitherto been a fur trading post, and in no sense an agricultural centre; but during the last two or three years considerable impetus has been given to farming in the adjacent country, and the six weeks's programme was begun with a public lecture at the Landing along the lines of an ordinary Farmers' Institute meeting. The fact that a meeting of that kind is possible in a place which has been known to the outside world as a trading post, pure and simple, says a good deal for the changing north. It means that the farmer is following hard upon the tracks of the fur trader, whom he will eventually drive out.

But the meeting at the Landing was only the first of a series of similar meetings to be held through the Peace River country by the party. Arrangements will be made at the various settlements on the way up, giving an opportunity for the news to spread through the sparsely settled districts, and the lectures will be given on the return trip. It may be taken for granted that the Peace River farmers, who ordinarily hear little enough from the outside world, will be very well pleased to give the men whom the government sends them a hearing.

Another purpose of the trip, which will bear fruit in future years, will be to study the conditions, climatic and otherwise, of the northern farming country with a view to inaugurating a system of government inspection and education along agricultural lines. The fact is recognized that the Peace River district has a great future before it as a farming country.

ONTARIO CROPS

May Bulletin of Agricultural Department Shows Growth Delayed By Cold, Wet Weather

Toronto, May 30.—According to the Ontario Agricultural Department's crop bulletin for the middle of May, the general tenor of reports is favorable regarding fall wheat. Rye wintered even better than fall wheat. Reports of clover range from excellent to poor, Alsike doing better than clover.

The spring promised to open early, but cold, wet weather prevailed and delayed growth. Grass is relatively more advanced than tree growth.

All sort of live stock faced the winter with a poor prospect of fodder supply, but have come through well. The general health being good. Fruit orchards came through well, having suffered less than usual from severe cold, ice, storms, mice, etc.

Spring seeding in the Lake Erie district was almost completed by the middle of May, and in some other western counties the work is also well advanced, although, hindered somewhat by rain. In the eastern half of the province, more particularly in the St. Lawrence and Ottawa counties, heavy rains retarded seeding, and much is yet to be done.

Vancouver, May 22.—The agreement between the city and British Columbia Electric Railway company covering the use of the new bridges by the tram company, was formally signed yesterday. As soon as the ties are laid in place on the temporary bridge the company will proceed with the laying of tracks preparatory to abandoning its present trestle over the Westminster avenue structure.

PERSONAL TALK OCCUPIES HOUSE

Mr. Foster Challenges Sir Frederick Borden to Prove Statement

MINISTERS AND COMPANIES

House Finally Gets Into Supply and Takes Up Customs Estimates

Ottawa, May 29.—In the House of Commons today Mr. Oliver introduced a bill to revise and consolidate the Dominion Lands act. It was read a first time. Mr. Lennox entered a strong protest against important legislation of this character being introduced at this stage of the session, but the government volunteered no answer to this.

Mr. Fielding, in answer to Mr. Foster, admitted that the situation in regard to the Banque de St. Jean was a grave one. The question as to what proceedings the government would take was now under consideration.

Mr. Foster drew attention to the fact that on Wednesday Sir Frederick Borden had stated in the House that he had used his position as manager of the Union Trust company to use other people's money to make a personal profit. The statement was absolutely and wholly untrue, but it was the first time a member of the House had had the temerity to make it on the floor of the House, and he called upon Sir Frederick to prove or retract.

Sir Frederick in reply read for half an hour from the speech of Mr. Aylesworth on the findings of the insurance commission. Sir Frederick claimed that he had not been properly reported as to the statement in question by Hansard.

Mr Foster insisted on proof or retraction, and this Sir Frederick refused and the matter closed for the time being

On the motion to go into supply, Mr. Fowler continued the debate on the question of Sir Frederick Borden's connection with the bonus of $45,000 for a cold storage plant at St. John, N.B.

A. K. McLean followed in support of Sir Frederick, and the talk was continued by Messrs. Porter and Lennox, the latter moving an amendment to the effect that the House is of the opinion that a minister of the crown should not be connected with insurance or other companies seeking concession or subsidies from the government of which they are members.

This amendment was accepted by Sir Wilfrid, who stated that in view of the emphatic declaration by Sir Frederick that he had no stock in the company in question, he was bound to accept it.

The debate was continued by Mr. Foster at 12:15 a.m. Mr. Lennox's amendment was accepted without a dissenting vote, and the House went into supply, the customs estimates being taken up.

An order in council has been passed declaring that no animal imported for the improvement of stock shall be admitted free into Canada unless the importer is a British subject and produces a certificate of record of pedigree.

A proclamation will be issued tomorrow repealing the Scott act in Inverness county.

MANY PEOPLE HEAR MINISTERS SPEAK

Conservative Cause at Cranbrook Much Strengthened By the Visit

Cranbrook, B. C., May 30.—Between seven and eight hundred people of every shade of politics crammed into the new opera house here last night to welcome the Hon. Richard McBride, the minister of education, and the attorney-general. The occasion was a public smoker given under the auspices of the Conservative Association, and presided over by D. J. Johnson, who discharged his duties capitally. There was the best of good feeling from first to last, not a semblance of an interruption being indulged in by anyone.

The minister of education opened the eyes of the people with regard to his scheme of education. His speech was a most excellent one in matter and in form, and was listened to with the greatest interest.

The attorney-general opened in a humorous vein, but after a while he warmed into a withering attack on the Liberal administration at Ottawa, an attack bristling with fact, sarcasm and invective. He was in great form.

The premier was at his best, and fairly captured the hearts of his audience. He gave them a strong assurance that provided the Dominion elections be held in British Columbia as in the other provinces, the solid seven would be smashed out of all recognition, and in their stead would reign another solid seven, but of the true Conservative stamp.

The meeting was far and away the most successful ever held in Cranbrook, and will do a great deal to bringing many a wavering Liberal into the fold. There were some hundred of them present. Some very excellent songs were rendered between the speeches, which having terminated, the visitors mixed with those present, and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed.

The premier and his companions proceeded to Fernie by the afternoon train today, and it is said that the highest kind of high times has been prepared for them in the constituency of W. R. Ross

Viceregal Party in Hamilton.

Hamilton, Ont., May 30.—Earl and Countess Grey paid a formal visit to Hamilton yesterday, and returned to Toronto in the evening.

Body of Cedrino Removed

Baltimore, Md., May 30.—The body of Emanuel Cedrino, the famous automobile driver who was killed here yesterday, was taken to New York at 6.35 o'clock this evening.

Spring Wheat Growth

Regina, May 30.—The most remarkable growth of spring wheat in this district is at the farm of J. D. McInnes, seven miles east of Regina. Grain there is twelve inches in length, by measurement, and the whole of the large field is uniformly high.

Workmen Strike.

Owen Sound, Ont., May 30.—The cement handlers of the Northern Navigation Company are on strike for increased wages.

Toronto, May 30.—Forty-five iron moulders of the Moffat Stove Works, Weston, are on strike against a reduction in piece work of about 20 per cent.

Attacked by Mad Cat.

London, Ont., May 30.—Excessive heat in Perrin's confectionery factory caused a cat to go mad yesterday, and in its violence it attacked two young women, the Misses Poulter and Kishel, inflicting a number of scratches before it was killed. The wounds were immediately cauterized. Hydrophobia has not yet developed, although there is thought to be some danger of it.

MASSACRE REPORTS FROM SAMOS ISLAND

Stories of Refugees Received With Doubt in Turkey and Greece

Constantinople, May 30.—According to an official telegram from Athens, a small steamer with 150 women and children refugees from the island of Samos, has arrived at Syra island, and reports the continuation of a serious situation on Samos.

The refugees say that a battalion of Turkish troops recently arrived at Vathy, the capital of the island, and at once commenced to fire indiscriminately. Many people were killed or wounded. The story of the refugees is not believed here.

The Greek government is urging the three powers under which Samos is being protected, France, Great Britain and Russia, to send warships to the island. The porte is anxious for a settlement of the trouble with the least possible bloodshed and has instructed its officials there to act with the greatest moderation. There is little sympathy here for the Samoians, who are thought to have brought on the troubles by their own folly.

Athens, May 30.—A body of panic-stricken refugees from Samos, who have arrived here, report that eighty women and children were slaughtered by Turkish troops during the first day's fighting at Vathy.

They declare also that the troops fired persistently on the foreign consulates. The refugees are all Greeks, and as they have an inborn hatred of the Turk, their statements are accepted here with considerable reserve.

BLACK HAND CRIMES

Supposed Agent of Nefarious Organization Shot Down By Indignant Brooklyn Mother

New York, May 30.—With an infant clutched to her breast, Mrs. Teresa Fellpia, of Brooklyn, today meted out summary vengeance upon a man who she declared she had surprised in the act of attempting an assault upon her six-year-old daughter. The man was John Maro, who had made his home with the Fellpia family since his arrival in the country from Italy four months ago.

Three bullets from a revolver which Mrs. Fellpia carried in her free hand sent him to death before he could utter a sound. When arrested and taken to the police station, Mrs. Fellpia admitted that she had killed Maro, and told of a most outrageous plot of which she said she and her family had been made the victims. She declared that Maro, while living on the bounty of herself and her family, had conspired with two other men to ruin their two daughters and through the shame of the children to extort money from the parents. The other men named by Mrs. Fellpia are Dominico Francesco, aged 65, and his son, Gaetno Francesco, aged 21. The father and son are now under $5,000 bail, the son as principal and the father as an accomplice, on a charge preferred by Mrs. Fellpia's twelve-year-old daughter, Giovanini.

The Brooklyn police believe that the conspiracy against the Felipia family is an outgrowth of systematic blackmailing of well-to-do Italians carried on by the Black Hand and other associations of criminals.

LIQUOR MEN MOVE

Saskatchewan Petition for Continuance of License System and Against Local Option

Regina, May 30.—The liquor men of the province presented a monster petition to members of the government yesterday, and addressed a personal letter to each of the members of the legislature. The petition asks for a continuance of the present system of licensing, and particularly sets itself against local option. It is signed by 16,788 names. Of these 9,898 are farmers and ranchers, 4,159 are business men and bankers, 327 are professional men, 2,177 are artisans and 302 are travellers. The remaining 15 are clergymen. The licensed victuallers point out that the vested interests of members of the association amounts to nearly eight million dollars, and that they employ over two thousand men.

PRAIRIE CROPS PROMISE WELL

Reports Covering All Districts Show Large Increase of Acreage

NOW IN GOOD CONDITION

Record Harvest in Prospect if Weather Remains Favorable

Winnipeg, May 30.—Now that there is every indication that the crop has a good start under exceptionally favorable conditions, the question of the area seeded to grain in the prairie west, and particularly in regard to the prime cereal, becomes of considerable interest. No official reports are at hand, although the agricultural departments of the three provinces are busy collecting statistics.

The Western Associated Press, however, has endeavored to find out by inquiry from its correspondents at the principal centres just what the increase in acreage is likely to prove, and the general result appears to be that quite 25 per cent more land was brought under cultivation this spring, the main increase being in wheat, this being because the farmers got on their land so early, and were able to carry on seeding operations with so little interruption that land which was perforce in the average year sown to coarse grains, was this exceptional spring seeded good time for wheat. Indeed only in districts where there is very active railway construction is there any marked increase in oats.

Speaking generally this remarkable increase in the area seeded, is primarily because this spring is beginning to feel the full effects of the heavy immigration of the last three or four years. Some districts report as much as 50 per cent of virgin land brought under cultivation, while the Battleford district, where the tide of immigration has been steady and constant, reports the acreage seeded has actually doubled.

Of the three provinces, Manitoba, of course, shows less proportional increase, it being the oldest settled and mixed farming and stock raising growing year by year more popular, but from official figures already received by the department of agriculture the indications are that the total acreage seeded will be increased by from 10 to 20 per cent, the latter figure being probably nearer the mark. Brandon reports all seeding completed with the exception of a small amount of barley, and an increase of about 10 per cent in acreage in wheat, partly accounted for in the slight increase in coarse grains.

Reports from Saskatchewan are far from exclusive, except that there is a gain in area under wheat of quite 25 per cent, and large gains in oats and flax. The improved market for the latter crop has led to a great increase in the land given over to it, especially on the Soo line and Arcola branch, where American farmers are in the majority, and are not affected by what they consider the groundless prejudice against flax as robbing the soil.

On the main line of the C.P.R., a long settled country, there is not a great amount of land to be brought under cultivation, but Moose Jaw district expects to grow four million bushels this year as against three million last year, with 15 per cent increase in acreage, and much new land being brought into cultivation by steam plowing outfits.

Prospects are everywhere extraordinarily favorable, whether it be at Saskatoon, Westburn, Regina, Humboldt or Swift Current, to mention widely scattered points. Lloydminster reports 20 per cent increase in acreage, and an enormous area will be cropped for the first time all along the main line of the Canadian Northern railway.

Coming to Alberta characteristic reports are as follows:

"Winter wheat is a marvellous crop." "Fall wheat, Southern Alberta's principal crop, is twelve to twenty inches high and never looked better." "Great increase of virgin land under cultivation."

Calgary reports spring seeding completed, with 20 per cent more wheat and 25 per cent more oats. Prospects are good for the hay crop, which is indispensable for ranchers. Medicine Hat and Lethbridge both report 20 per cent more acreage seeded, while McLeod claims 30 per cent increase with prospects of fall wheat harvesting starting August 1 and spring wheat cutting at the end of that month.

Edmonton says 95 per cent seeding is done with 20 to 25 per cent increase in area, 30 per cent being in wheat, 25 per cent in barley, and 45 per cent in oats, farmers evidently taking advantage of the good demand of the latter by railway construction camps.

Speaking generally the rains of the early part of the present week, followed by the warm weather, brought the crop along nicely. To talk at this stage of a "bumper" yield would be ridiculous, but the plain fact is that never in the history of the prairie have conditions been more promising at the end of May.

Whitmore Jury Disagree

New York, May 30.—The jury in the trial in Jersey City of Theodore Whitmore, of Brooklyn, charged with the murder of his wife, Lena, today reported a disagreement. Judge Swaysey sent the jury back to their room with a request that they agree if possible. After a few hours of deliberation the jury again reported that they were unable to agree on a verdict, and they were discharged by the court. It was reported that the jury stood one for murder in the first degree, two for murder in the second degree and nine for acquittal. Prosecutor Vickers said that Whitmore would be tried again, probably next fall.