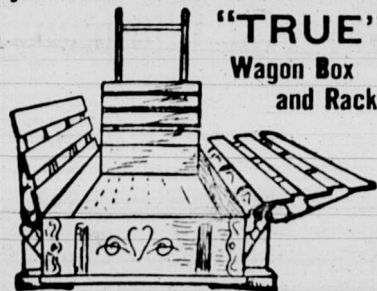


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The Grain Growers' Guide

C. F. CHIPMAN, Managing Editor

Published under the auspices and employed as the Official Organ of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and the United Farmers of Alberta.

THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNCOLORED NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF THOUGHT AND ACTION and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continually be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the wisest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

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DRY FARMING: Its Principles and Practice

(By William McDonald, M.S., Agr., Sc.D., Ph.D.)

The readers of The Guide have demanded reliable information on "dry farming" as it is called. After considerable search and consultation with experts this book was selected. The author is one of the leading agricultural scientists of the day and has studied conditions in South Africa and United States. The author treats of the "Campbell System" of dry farming and also devotes a chapter to "The Traction Engine in Dry Farming." Professor W. J. Elliott, who is in charge of the C.P.R. farm at Strathmore, Alberta, and one of Canada's leading Dry Farming Experts, says: "I could certainly recommend 'Dry Farming' to all those who are considering this work in any one of its phases, and in fact for any man who is farming under more humid conditions there are many points that will aid him very much in the handling and treatment of his soil." The book is written in a simple style that may be understood by every man who reads, and in fact, so well has the author prepared this work that it reads like an interesting novel. It contains 290 pages and is well illustrated. This book is kept in The Guide office and will be sent by return mail, \$1.30, postpaid.

Conservation Committee Report

A very valuable report has just been issued by the Dominion Commission of Conservation on the Lands, Fisheries, Game and Minerals of Canada. The commission, which has among its members and in its service, a number of the leading authorities in this country on the subjects with which it deals, was established by the Dominion government in 1909 for the purpose of holding investigations and advising the people of Canada as to the best method of preserving and utilizing the vast wealth of natural resources which is their common heritage. If the work of the commission is to be of any effect, the information which it gathers and the advice which it gives must be studied and made use of by every person who is occupied in the use of those natural resources. The chief and the greatest of the natural resources of Canada is beyond question its lands. All the gold mines of Canada produced last year \$10,224,910 worth of the precious metal, and the total mineral production, including metals, non-metallic minerals and clay products, had a value of \$105,940,958, but the value of the grain crop alone in the one province of Saskatchewan in the same year was considerably in excess of that figure. The total value of the field crops of Canada was nearly \$550,000,000.

The chief work of the commission in regard to lands reported in the present volume is the survey made last year of 985 representative farms in the various provinces of the Dominion, of an average of a little more than 100 in each province. From the survey it was gathered that not more than nine per cent. of farmers follow any intelligent and effective system of rotation of crops. "Many farmers," Dr. J. W. Robertson, chairman of the committee on lands, states, "take rotation to mean any order of sequence for one crop to follow another. Instead of that, rotation of crops implies that during each year, while its crop is growing, the best preparation is being made in the same field for the succeeding crop and for the preservation of the fertility of the soil, and its freedom from weeds. In some localities the percentage of farmers who follow a good rotation is as high as fifty per cent.; in other localities not a single farmer reports any systematic rotation in his crops. Lack of rotation in one large area of the Northwest, extending to

about five hundred square miles, is given as the reason for the destruction of the fibrous material in the soil which formerly held it in place. From that area it is reported that from want of root fibres in the soil, winds in the spring sometimes carry off the surface soil, including the seed, or else leave the seed bare."

To Increase Crops

Dr. Robertson also says that the survey has brought out the fact that if farmers on the average throughout Canada would farm as well as the fifty best farmers whose farms were surveyed, the result would be the doubling of the quantity of field crops, from the land now occupied, in Canada within three years. It is not suggested that it is practicable to bring about such a change in three years, but by such means as may be taken the quantity of field crops from the farms of Canada could be increased one hundred per cent. within twenty years, besides all the additions that would be made by the occupation of new lands. One of the best means which Dr. Robertson suggests toward that result is for municipal authorities, provincial governments and the Federal powers to join in recognizing these best farmers as illustration farmers and in holding up the example of their good practice in attractive ways in order that others may follow their systems and methods. The report, which covers 525 pages, contains a large amount of statistical information, and includes an article on agricultural production in Canada which gives the crop areas and yields of the different provinces, together with a statement of what each province has produced in field crops, fruit and live stock since 1891.

With regard to fisheries, game and minerals, the report is equally informative. An article on the North Atlantic fisheries dispute, which was recently settled by the Hague tribunal, is included. The decline of the oyster production, in spite of the great natural advantages of the Canadian coasts is attributed to the long-standing dispute over jurisdiction between the provincial and Dominion authorities, and for the conservation and extension of the supply of whitefish in the Great Lakes and lakes of Western Canada, the establishment of more fish hatcheries is recommended. Last year 1,024,282,000 fry were planted in Canadian waters by

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