

A Grain Growers' Census

The following information was compiled to show the superior standing of the organized farmer over the unorganized

BASED on the record of conditions as they prevailed throughout the west in 1917, an investigation was launched from The Guide office some time ago with the idea of ascertaining, if possible, the value of the organized farmers' movement to its individual members. The results of that inquiry have been tabulated and issued in circular form, and they show beyond dispute that the organized grain grower, on the average, is much "better off" in the material sense of that expression, at least, than the western farmer who remains outside of the organization. The investigation, it should be explained, was carried on mainly through the local secretaries of the Grain Growers' Associations in all three prairie provinces. One phase of the investigation, namely, that concerning the worth of The Guide's subscribers, was conducted through the managers of some 113 branches of the Bank of Commerce, scattered throughout the three provinces.

Elucidating Facts

In regard to the means of The Guide subscribers the following facts are illuminating:

| | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| Average size of farm— | 282 | 302 |
| Per cent. of farms owned— | 92 | 93 |
| Per cent. of farms rented— | 8 | 7 |
| Average capital worth (land, buildings, machinery, livestock)— | \$11,010 | \$25,878 |
| Per cent. owning automobiles— | 27% | 40% |
| Per cent. owning large threshing outfits— | 54% | 14% |
| Per cent. owning small threshing outfits— | 6% | 11% |

When The Guide subscribers with small sized farms average two and one-half times in assets the general farm average there can be no doubt but that they are more progressive and possess more improvements that go with modern agriculture, such as up-to-date farm buildings, machinery, livestock, etc. To some extent, however, the high average capital worth of The Guide subscribers is accounted for by several instances in which individuals were rated from \$250,000 to \$400,000. Excluding these, The Guide's subscriber average runs very considerably more than the general average.

Livestock Investigations

To test the truth or otherwise of the statement sometimes put forward that members of the Grain Growers' Associations of Western Canada do not compare favorably with farmers outside the membership of these organizations in regard to the number of livestock on their farms, The Grain Growers' Guide sent out a questionnaire to secretaries of Grain Growers' Associations throughout the provinces of Manitoba, Sas-

katchewan and Alberta. In answering the questions asked, secretaries were requested to take into account only such farms as they could give fairly accurate figures for. The results of the investigation showed that not only do grain growers keep livestock in considerable numbers, but the number they keep exceeds the number kept by the average farmer in Western Canada. Below are the Dominion government figures giving the number of each class of livestock in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the average number of each class of livestock per farm, together with the average on the farms reported on by the secretaries of Grain Growers' Associations:

| | Dominion | Estimated Number of Grain Growers' Farms | Estimated Number of Livestock per Farm |
|--------------|-----------|--|--|
| Horses | 882,441 | 3.5 | 5.4 |
| Milk Cows | 2,423,990 | 10.8 | 14 |
| Other Cattle | 485,446 | 2.1 | 3.7 |
| Sheep | 1,418,188 | 6.0 | 11.2 |

In regard to poultry the figures for Saskatchewan only are available. According to the Dominion government Bureau of Statistics (1916), Saskatchewan had 4,415,100 hens and chickens, or an average of 42.5 per farm. The average reported by Grain Growers' Association Secretaries in Manitoba, 57.5, Saskatchewan 58.3, Alberta 58.5. Total average 58.3.

More Livestock Data

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 19.2% | of farms reported on have some registered horses. |
| 23.3% | of farms reported on have some registered cattle. |
| 4.2% | of farms reported on have some registered sheep. |
| 26.3% | of farms reported on have some registered swine. |
| 9.9% | of farms reported on exhibit at larger fairs. |
| 35.1% | of farmers reported on ship milk or cream to creameries. |
| 64.3% | of farms reported on have cream separators. |
| 14% | of farms reported on have incubators. |
| 33.3% | of farmers reported on ship livestock to commission firms. |
| 25% | of districts reported on have livestock shipping associations. |
| 53% | of 12,529 farmers reported on have mechanical milkers. |
| 26 out of 12,529 | farmers reported on have silos. |

Things in General

84% of The Guide subscribers have electric lighting outfits.
53% of The Guide subscribers have telephones.

5 people live in each home into which the Guide goes.
4 read the paper.
80% of The Guide homes have women who read the paper.
74% keep the paper after reading for future reference.
46% lend it or give it away for others to read.
23% of The Guide subscribers have children attending school or college outside their local district.
45% carry Waltham watches.
12% have rural mail delivery.
55% carry life insurance.
95% ask for advertised goods, by name, at their local stores.

Farm Machinery

Auto Trucks—How many farmers could use profitably?—50%
Tractors, large—How many farmers own?—10%
Tractors, small—How many farmers own?—7%
Tractors—1917 (to July 31st only) increase over 1916—73%
Manure Spreaders—How many farmers own?—11%
Straw Spreaders—How many farmers own?—11%
Corn Seeders—How many farmers own?—3%
Corn Cultivators—How many farmers own?—3%
Corn Harvesters—How many farmers own?—7%
Corn Acreage—Average under crop in 1917—74 acres
Corn Acreage—Is it likely to increase?—99% yes
Corn—Is it a profitable crop? 96% yes
Potato Machinery—How many farmers own?—2%
Threshers, large—How many farmers own?—54%
Threshers, small—How many farmers own?—6%
Gas Engines, small—How many farmers own?—11%
Wind Mills—How many farmers own?—12%
Stamping Machinery—How many farmers own?—20%
Stamping Machinery—On how many farms would it be a profitable investment?—49%
Flour Mills, small—How many farmers own?—5%
Binder Engines—How many farmers own?—4%

Farm Buildings

Data was secured from representative farmers in from 200 to 300 districts in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and represents averages for

these districts. Percentages are based on replies covering from 7,000 to 9,000 farms:

Barns or Stables—How many farmers built in last three years? 254%
Houses—How many farmers built in last three years? 17%
Granaries, metal—How many farmers built in last three years? 10%
Granaries, wooden—How many farmers built in last three years? 50%
Paint—How many houses painted in last three years? 23%
Paint—How many barns painted in last three years? 20%
Lighting Bells—Number of farms equipped with—14%
Latter Carriers—Number of farms equipped with—8%
School Houses—How many districts considering new building?—17%
Lighting Systems—Farm houses using electricity—9%
Lighting Systems—

| | In country | In country schools | In country churches |
|-------------|------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Coal Oil | 90% | 75% | 75% |
| Gasoline | 63% | 91% | 19% |
| Electricity | 2% | 4% | 4% |
| Acetylene | 1% | 4% | 4% |

Houses—

Average number of rooms per house 5
Average number of rooms with bathroom—2
Average number of rooms with carpets—1
Hardwood Flooring—How many farm houses have? 22%
On how many floors per house—11
Heating systems in farm houses—Hot air furnace—74%
Hot water furnace—16%
Stove—6%
Steam heat—4%
Wall board—94%
Number of houses using—94%
Sanitary—Number of houses using—80%
Roofing—Kind of Roofing—Metal—Felt—Wooden Shingles—
House—24% 21% 51%
Barn—24% 91% 25%
Granary—17% 34% 15%
Implement Shed—15% 1% 0%
Stable—9% 3% 4%
Shed—4% 96% 1%
Garage—4% 4% 1%
Poultry House—2% 9% 23%
100% 100% 100%

The wealth as indicated above is concretely illustrated by the official list of automobile licenses issued in Western Canada in 1917. The average for the Dominion of Canada as a whole is one auto to every fifty-seven people. The average for Western Canada (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) is one auto to twenty people.

Nationalizing a Farm Movement—(Continued)

The committee was held in Winnipeg in March 1916 and the number of representatives was then increased to 50 or 25 from each side. That first meeting was a very successful occasion. The discussions centered mainly around the subjects of mortgage loans and banking credits, and largely as a result of the better understanding which developed out of the first conference, several beneficial changes were made by the banks in their system of dealing with the western farmers. The joint committee of commerce and agriculture has continued to meet periodically during the past two years, and has developed into an influential and responsible institution.

Since the outbreak of the war and particularly since the federal government has taken action in controlling the prices of foodstuffs, the Canadian Council of Agriculture has occupied a very important position. It has been called upon to deliberate in such important matters as the fixing of the price of wheat and the disposition of supplies of flour and grain to the Allied countries overseas. The council of agriculture has also issued statements concerning its views on the railway problem

which called for solution over a year ago, and the co-ordinating of the railway lines of the country into one system under the railway war board, really coincided with the suggestions made by the organized farm men through their council.

The future of the Canadian Council of Agriculture is as bright and certain as that of the country itself. Its aim is to represent thoroughly established farmers' organizations in every province of the Dominion. At the present time, the prairie agricultural provinces are represented in this central organization. The farmers of British Columbia, who organized themselves into an association last year, have now an application before the Council of Agriculture for membership. Just this spring, the farmers of New Brunswick were organized into another unit with the aid of Mr. J. R. Murray, one of the United Farmers of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have still to affiliate themselves, and before long it is hoped that the chain of supplies from the Pacific, one strong chain of agricultural organizations shall be bound together through the influence of the Canadian Council of Agriculture.



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might be taken to further a solution. It was arranged to limit the total representation on the committee to 40, 20 from each side. The first meeting of



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