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Vol. 12, No. 3

REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1910

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THE SASKATCHEWAN FARM RECORD AND REVIEW

PRICES WILL BE UPWARD

Secretary Wilson of United States Explains the Cost of Dear Beef—United States Must Look for Outside Supplies.

"Chief beef," says United States Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, in the New York Sun, "is not the product of high priced land." The day of cheap grazing land in this country has passed, and the inference is plain that with it there passed the day of cheap beef. So recently as ten years ago vast herds of cattle were fed and fattened on the free ranges of the West, on the public domain, at a minimum of cost to their owners. The market price of the range fed animals fixed the prices of the herds of the rest of the country. A large percentage of the beef supply of today is what is described by Secretary Wilson as "the product of two raw materials, corn and an animal body in a raw state, an animal unprepared for Chicago." There is no reason for belief that the value of the substance produced by this combination will be materially reduced in the years to come.

The changed conditions of production are in part at least responsible for the striking decline shown in the export figures of recent years. Exports of live cattle reached their maximum in 1904, with 593,409 head. Exports in 1905 were 567,806 head, and in 1906, 584,239 head. Then came a decline to 424,051 in 1907, to 349,210 in 1908 and to 207,542 in 1909. Shipments of fresh beef fell from 300,000 pounds in 1904 to 123,000, 000 pounds in 1909. This decline continues. Cattle shipments for the first eight months of the current fiscal year were 117,125 head, as compared with 140,958 head for the corresponding period last year, and shipments of fresh beef have dropped from 90,917, 689 pounds to 55,401,938. Compared with the hundreds of millions of dollars annually paid by the American people for beef and beef products the export trade in those articles is now a matter of very little importance, aside from its influence in trade balances. Prices would be little or not at all affected if exports ceased entirely. From official estimates it appears that the annual slaughter in the United States is approximately 13,000,000 head, with a product amounting to not far from 6,500,000, 000 pounds. Alongside such figures as these our export trade is quite insignificant.

It may be assumed that from one cause and another there will be fluctuation in beef prices, but it may also be assumed from known facts and from probable conditions that the tendency of prices hereafter will be upward rather than downward. There is at present no visible domestic influence even suggesting a permanent decline in prices or a check on further advances. The only possibility of such an influence or such a check seems to lie in a transfer of cattle to the free list on our tariff schedule, and the force of even that is uncertain. The argument in favor of free cattle is of possible benefit to American consumers. The arguments against it are a reduction of national revenue and injury to American interests. The first of these may be dismissed entirely for the reason that present revenues from that source are so small that they are not worth considering. The second involves some questions of fact and some of theory. American cattle raisers meet any proposal for free cattle with assertions that such a proceeding would drive them out of business. They are frightened by a bugaboo. All the cattle that could be imported would not be enough to equal the variation frequently shown in the annual enumeration of the herd of the United States. The only possible sources of shipment to this country are our neighbors of the Western Hemisphere and Australia. Shipments and possible shipments from any South American country other than Argentina are very limited. Argentina and Australia sell chilled and frozen beef and not live cattle. Few live cattle would or could be brought from those countries, and it is even doubtful if the removal of our present duty of 1 1/2 cents a pound on fresh beef would result in any large importation of that commodity from them. It may be regarded as certain that not enough would come to effect materially any American interest. The notion of enormous re-

ceipts from Argentina and Australia is false and foolish. Our immediate neighbors, Canada, Mexico, Cuba and other nearby countries, remain as possible sources of supply. From these countries a few hundred thousand a year might be obtained, and it is in such receipts that a possible protection to consumers is found, but no menace to producers. The total herd of all the countries within 2,000 miles of any American port would probably exceed by little if at all one-third the number of the cattle in the United States. Deduct from the number annually available for slaughter in all those countries the beef required for domestic consumption and the surplus that might be sent here as cattle or as beef would serve rather to steady prices than to reduce them materially. Canada's herd numbers about 8,000,000 and surplus for export is a little over 200,000 head. Few Mexican cattle would be wanted because of the inferior grade of the stock. Cuba has a herd of about 3,000,000 and limited shipments could be made from there. While the Payne tariff was under discussion there were assertions that free hides would ruin some American industries and impoverish others, but they have not done so, and will not do so. There would be no injury and there might be benefit in free wheat, free coal, free lumber and free cattle.

POULTRY.

A Necessary Part of a Successful Farmer's Stock.

By Geo. Robertson, Ottawa. That poultry should be kept on every farm, is acknowledged, if not by word, then by deed. There are so few farmers who have not some fowl that I am safe in saying that poultry is kept on every farm. True, on perhaps the majority of farms, they are kept in a very haphazard way, but at any rate, they are found there. What I want to emphasize here is, that farmers are making a great mistake in not paying more attention to their poultry than most of them do. With eggs ranging in price from twenty cents a dozen in summer to sixty cents in winter, and dressed fowl selling up to twenty and twenty-five cents a pound for roosters, as at present, it is not hard to see that there are large profits in the business.

Start in Spring The spring season is the best time to make a start. If you already have some good, vigorous birds, select about a dozen of the best, and get a good, strong, healthy male to mate with them. Keep the breeding pen separate from the general flock, so that eggs will be set from none but the best birds. If you have no birds that you consider good enough to breed from, get some eggs from a reliable breeder, and don't let a dollar or two hundred stand between you and the best you can get. But don't imagine, because you are asked a higher price from one breeder than another, that the higher-priced eggs are necessarily the best. You don't need exhibition stock, all you want is good vigorous birds of a breed that suits your taste. Perhaps no fowl is better suited to general farm conditions than those of the type of the Plymouth Rocks.

It is not in this article going into the manner of feeding and raising the chicks, all I am going to say is, don't rush off and buy a lot of expensive machines for hatching and brooding. Take your time, the old fiddles will do very well for a start, then after a year or two, when you have got thoroughly established, if you decide you need the assistance of artificial methods, you can try them. Later, I will try to tell you how I successfully raise my chicks in a manner that I think should appeal to farmers, as it is very simple and requires very little time.

Blizzard in Manitoba.

Winnipeg, April 15.—Manitoba has been all day in the grip of a snow and sleet storm. In addition to delaying trains, has upset the street car service of the western metropolis and paralyzed the wires of the Great Northwestern Telegraph and Western Union Telegraph Companies, the C. P. R. telegraphs being, however, but very little interfered with. The storm does not extend far into Saskatchewan. The wires are down to the south and none too good east. The glaze of ice covering everything completely stopped all vehicular traffic, while so strong was the wind that pedestrians navigated the streets under difficulty.

As far as known Africa has one inhabitant to each eleven square miles.

REPORTS ON THE CROPS

Official Crop Reports Will Stop Gambling—This Method The Work of a Sick Man—Crop Reports Will Fix Price.

At a cost of \$15,000 a year the United States Congress can put on a firm footing an enterprise that is designed to stop gambling in agricultural products. The money is asked to help pay the expenses of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, whose work is likely to be sadly deranged when David Lubin relinquishes his connection with it. Standing before the Agricultural Committee the other day, Mr. Lubin quietly informed the members that he had not more than a year to live. His doctor had pronounced his doom, and now he wished to make arrangements for the future welfare of the institute which will be his monument. He explained that as long as he lived there was no necessity to call upon Congress, for he is a wealthy man, and has given his work for nothing. The time has come, however, when skilled and necessarily highly-paid services are required if the International Institute is to continue the important work it has begun.

The purpose of the institute is to stop gambling on agricultural products by spreading broadcast the information that has hitherto been made use of by the speculator, who secures it at a fabulous price. The demand for agricultural products can be pretty well determined by past statistical data. There is not much chance of gambling here; the quantity is too certain. What is matter for speculation is the supply, which is determined by taking account of the supply on hand and the condition of the growing crop. A study of the known demand and the probable supply fixes the price. The work of the International Institute is to gather from all over the world the earliest official information about the condition of the growing crop. This information, spread broadcast, should make gambling on crop reports out of the question.

Nearly fifty years ago the United States Government perceived the danger of permitting information concerning its agricultural products to remain a private monopoly. Thereupon it established its crop reporting bureau, in the face of strenuous opposition. But the price of agricultural products is a world price. No one country can set it. The most accurate crop information from any particular nation is not itself sufficient data upon which to calculate price. This is where the international bureau comes in. Its aim is to induce all governments to collect crop information, which will be forwarded to Rome, there to be re-issued by telegraphic bulletins to all parts of the world. The bureau will be, in effect, an editorial office. It will interpret the independent reports; the factors will be wired to it from Chicago and Winnipeg and Irkutsk and Singapore. It will telegraph the product to the ends of the earth.

At the present time the world's summary of supply is produced by the private interests which blend the official and the unofficial crop reports, giving the world the characteristics of conflicting reports which go to make the unnecessary fluctuations and thus disturb the capital and labor of the land of the factory the world over. These unofficial reports disturb the relation of the reports of the world, and in addition to that, a frosted crop has a certain value, whereas if there is a clean sweep by hail there is no crop whatever. The advantages to be derived from the system; it would be an equitable tax on all the farmers of the Province. Each would pay according to the amount of land held by him; it would compel the speculators with their thousands of acres of arable land to contribute their fees for the farmers' protection, because it is the farmer who puts the value on his land; it would give to the Province a credit undreamed of; it would be purely cooperative system; it would eliminate the private hail insurance companies with their exorbitant rates; it would save the farmers thousands and thousands of dollars annually which now goes to the private companies.

We will take it from the view point of the large farmer who cultivates a section of land with his four hundred acres in crop and he wishes to insure his crop with the system now in operation and he takes a third class risk, which costs him \$7.05 per one hundred for insurance, and he takes a four thousand dollar risk on his four hundred acres. This will cost him \$282. Whereas under the compulsory

return. A successful, energetic business man for a generation, he found it impossible, with increasing health, to remain inactive. So he began to set some foundations under his castle in the air about an international crop reporting agency. He interested President Roosevelt, and was given some official status, and gradually he spread his propaganda among other nations, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Austria and Belgium have fallen in line, and will organize government crop reporting bureaus. The necessary international treaty establishing the institute has been ratified by 49 different governments. A grant of \$15,000 a year from the United States government would, according to Mr. Lubin, guarantee the permanency of the work.

THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Secretary Green Asks the Grain Growers' Association to Prepare for Commission—A Number of Questions to Decide.

The following circular letter has been issued by F. W. Green, secretary of the Grain Growers' Association, to the local association. It gives a general plan of the work that will be undertaken by the Commission:

Dear Sir,—The Elevator Commission is likely to hold sittings at several country points for the purpose of receiving the views of the Grain Growers and others in reference to the proposed elevator system, and although the itinerary is not permanent, yet settled, it seems to me that our local association should have no time in appointing a committee to lay the views of their association before the commission.

I am informed that the commission wishes to give every man who wishes to make a statement, offer evidence or present ideas, an opportunity of doing so, bearing upon the questions as to whether you should advise a government monopoly of all the elevator systems, or a line of elevators, one at each shipping point; or would you suggest a line of elevators at only such points as the people shall especially petition for; or would you suggest a system of elevators, each controlled by a local board and amalgamated under one central management; or would you favor a complete system with all the necessary equipment to handle our grain from the initial shipping point, to the ultimate market, able to hold its own in open competition with any other trust or combination whatsoever.

Re Management.—Do you desire the central management to be a commission of three with equal authority? How would you appoint them? Would you desire a Board of Directors with one business manager as head, or would you desire a board of trustees, one of which should retire every two or three years, or would you prefer the whole system to be under the direct control of the minister of agriculture, or a board consisting of the minister of agriculture and two nominees of the Grain Growers' Association, one of the latter to seek appointment every third or fourth year; or have you any other ideas or suggestions to present that would aid the commission in the selection of the most suitable solution.

If you do not appoint some one to do this work your ideas might be sent direct to this office.

An early reply as to your instructions will oblige.

Yours truly,
F. W. GREEN,
Secretary.

The Biggest Farm in the World.

The announcement that the Republic of Mexico is to make some effort to curb the princely aspirations of Don Luis Terrazas, of the State of Chihuahua, promises to bring into the public eye one of the most remarkable and at the same time one of the least known of the world's unusual men. Four years ago a German prince travelled 5,000 miles to visit a "farmer," and this farmer was Don Luis, whose "farm," Mexicans are now beginning to believe is getting too large for the public health.

In short, it is the biggest farm in the world. In area it ranks with the largest of European kingdoms. It measures 150 miles from north to south and 200 miles from east to west, or eight million acres in all. It embraces whole ranges of mountains, entire water systems, volcanoes, mineral lands and thousands of lakes. Over it roam 1,000,000 head of cattle, 700,000 sheep and 300,000 horses. The "farm house" is the most magnificent in the world—a palace costing \$1,600,000 in gold, superbly finished, with rooms to accommodate 500 guests.

A Philadelphian has invented a universal clock. Across the top of a map of the world, marked in meridians, there passes a hand marked in three-hourly hours, showing the time at every city at once.

COMPULSORY INSURANCE

Advocates a System of Compulsory Hail Insurance—Comparison of Cost Between Government and Private Insurance.

The following paper, by Mr. Angus Grant, was read at a meeting of the Laramie Grain Growers' Association on Saturday, February 15th:

As the Province of Saskatchewan is almost exclusively a grain growing province it therefore naturally follows that the question of hail insurance is one of the most important for the farmers' consideration, as no doubt every year the grain growers of this Province suffer heavy losses from destruction by hail. During the last few years there have been in operation an optional insurance system at a premium rate of 11, 15 and 19 cents per acre, with an indemnity loss of \$3, \$4 and \$5 an acre respectively, resulting every year in large deficits and heavy drains on the funds of the Province, and causing endless anxiety and unrest among the farmers. The subject, therefore, that this Association has kindly requested me to present a paper upon is one on universal hail insurance, and no doubt you are all aware we have in Saskatchewan a very large area of arable land, something like 50 million acres, comprised within the Local Improvement Districts and Rural Municipalities throughout the Province. We find we have still 35 or 40 million acres of arable land outside those districts, leaving an area of something like 30 million acres of rough or pasture land that, have not considered to raise any revenue from. It is, therefore, quite apparent from those figures that a large amount of revenue could be collected from these fifty million acres; but to be nearer the point, we will allow for ten million acres of rough or pasture land in those districts that would not be taxed, leaving forty million acres that would be revenue producing. We find that by levying a rate of one cent an acre on these forty million acres referred to a revenue of \$400,000 would be raised annually, which, I claim, would be ample to meet the requirements of the Province for a number of years, with a provision in the system that a half or quarter cent could be added if in time it was shown that the one cent did not cover all losses. Deducting from this the sum of twenty-five or thirty thousand dollars for administration we would still have the sum of \$375,000 annually for a hail fund, which would be collected through the Department of Agriculture, Regina, and payable before the first day of July in each year, all claims to be settled by the following November.

But I hear someone say it is unfair to me. I have never been haled out. I am a mixed farmer and why should I pay for the exclusive grain grower. If I want to insure my crop I can do so with the private companies. Yes, certainly you can; but what do you pay for your protection, at the same time quite forgetting the object of our existence as an association in trying to eliminate the private gain in the disposal of our produce. Why not apply the same principle to hail insurance and eliminate the private companies' monopoly and why should I pay for the exclusive grain grower's toll, and whose sole object is in making money out of the producers of Saskatchewan, and which I will prove to you?

Another objection to the compulsory system of hail insurance that we sometimes hear is why not insure against frost. I claim that is no argument at all. By our mode of cultivation we can to a very great degree eliminate the frost scare in this connection, and in addition to that, a frosted crop has a certain value, whereas if there is a clean sweep by hail there is no crop whatever. The advantages to be derived from the system; it would be an equitable tax on all the farmers of the Province. Each would pay according to the amount of land held by him; it would compel the speculators with their thousands of acres of arable land to contribute their fees for the farmers' protection, because it is the farmer who puts the value on his land; it would give to the Province a credit undreamed of; it would be purely cooperative system; it would eliminate the private hail insurance companies with their exorbitant rates; it would save the farmers thousands and thousands of dollars annually which now goes to the private companies.

We will take it from the view point of the large farmer who cultivates a section of land with his four hundred acres in crop and he wishes to insure his crop with the system now in operation and he takes a third class risk, which costs him \$7.05 per one hundred for insurance, and he takes a four thousand dollar risk on his four hundred acres. This will cost him \$282. Whereas under the compulsory

system it would only cost him the small sum of \$4.00, or on his section of land \$6.40. Now we find that it would take 44 years at 6.40 to make up the amount of one risk of 400 acres, and would not be fortunate indeed if he only was haled out on only one occasion in that time. Let us look at the homesteader who is starting and who finds himself short of funds. Would it not be much easier on him to pay \$1.60 on his one hundred acres of crop than to pay the sum of \$58 on a second class risk of \$1,000 insurance. What I want to point out is this, that with the increased cost of farm labor, the high price of horses, the farmers of Saskatchewan cannot afford to insure their crops at these high rates, for it has been proven beyond the shadow of a doubt, both in Saskatchewan and Alberta, that the higher the premium the larger the deficit. The total premium received by the four companies doing business in the province for 1909 was \$213,703.10, and their total payments for losses amounted to \$154,388.36, leaving them a balance of \$59,314.74.

I will now make a comparison, as there are a few among us who very much doubt the one cent covering all the losses. The total premium would be \$375,000, exclusive of administration, allowing \$200,000 for losses. Providing we had it in operation this year and you must remember that this amount is fifty thousand dollars in excess of what the private companies' losses were, we would still have a surplus of \$175,000. I have observed that the private companies have completely evaded the fifth class risk, and here again I repeat what I mentioned previously, that their object was to make money out of the producers. What an injustice to the farmers who are situated in districts which have been haled out three times in ten years, that these companies would not take their applications. Is this the way to build up progressive agricultural communities? I believe there are scores of districts throughout the province where hail has fallen three times in ten years.

Under the system here outlined this difficulty could be got over and all would be on an equal footing and as banded together for their common interests. But some one asks how are you going to get the system into operation, the Government is not in sympathy with the movement. By a united and popular demand from the farmers of the Province the Government will certainly accede to their request, as there will be no constitutional difficulty to be overcome.

In conclusion I have endeavored to give a brief summary of a system which I honestly believe if put into operation will result in unbounded confidence, greater prosperity and general contentment among all classes of our population, and in conjunction with Government ownership of elevators it will make the Province of Saskatchewan the brightest diadem in the Great Galaxy of Confederation.

Predicts Meat Famine.

Fred Blake, Sr., one of Nebraska's substantial stock farmers, looks at the pork and beef situation as a serious matter as regards future supplies and after a half-century's experience as an old butcher, makes the prediction that hogs will go to 15 cents before the next crop of pigs is ready for market.

Says Mr. Blake: "Here it is only the end of March and the country away short of hogs—millions short—and no relief in sight until the next crop comes on, and these pigs not born yet. The farmers have been, and are now tempted by the high prices to sell both corn and hogs. I live in the corn, hog and alfalfa belt of Nebraska and a few years ago a man could get in his buggy and in an hour could buy a carload of prime fat hogs within a radius of two miles from the city limits. Today many of those farmers have not one hog on their farms. The farmers are well along in years and have a big balance at their banks. Algernon and Percival have left the farm and are now chauffeurs. They part their hair in the middle, wear bangs on their foreheads and an important look. There is no one at home to look after the old sow. M yams and Flossie used to help the old folks when they were younger, but now they have to attend the Conservatory of Music and the Kensingtons' reception, etc.

"I am not a pessimist, but I will say with Lincoln 'I view with alarm the pace we are going. Here we are with consumption having overtaken production, but we do not seem to care about a little thing like this just so we can get automobiles and put on fool style. There will surely come a day of reckoning before the masses are ready. Suppose when Mr. Roosevelt returns he should make some more that would offend Mr. Morgan. Would it be much trouble for him to precipitate another panic? I think not. The man who owns a snug little farm, is out of debt and has a few good cows around, under a good cover in bad weather, is the only person who need not dread a panic."

THE ALFALFA COMPETITION

Generous Prizes Offered For Great Alfalfa Contest—Competition Committee, Their Plans, the Rules of Contest and Prizes.

Saskatchewan is clearing the floor for a great contest. The event will not be spectacular, but its effect will be greater than that of any previous movement that has taken place in the agricultural development of the West. It is not less than a provincial competition in the growing of alfalfa, a leguminous crop which will both enrich the soil in nitrogen and humus and furnish a highly nitrogenous food for all classes of live stock. This movement was inaugurated at the Agricultural Societies' Convention held at Regina in January last, when it was decided that a prize of \$1,000 would be awarded for the best ten-acre field of alfalfa in Saskatchewan in 1914. The editor of Bulman's Magazine at that time offered a cash prize of \$250, and others also volunteered assistance. More recently, William McKenzie, president of the Canadian Northern Railway, offered to provide the required \$1,000, and needless to say his offer was accepted immediately. But the competition has outgrown the first plan; ten times \$1,000 would not be more than sufficient to finance the competition as it is now planned to conduct it.

The Agricultural Societies' Convention favored the plan of having the competition conducted by a committee appointed by the Minister of Agriculture. The committee named by the Minister consists of the Dean of the College of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, the Superintendent of the Experimental Farm, Indian Head, and the President of the Grenfell Agricultural Society, with the Director of Extension Work in the College of Agriculture as secretary. The convention of the committee, Dean Rutherford, asked for a meeting of the committee to prepare plans to govern the contest, and this was held at Indian Head on April 14th.

The approved plan provides for a division of the province into four parts.

Prizes will be offered for the six best fields of alfalfa in each of the districts. The prizes will be as follows: First, \$500; second, \$400; third, \$300; fourth, \$200; fifth, \$100; sixth, \$75. The first prize field in each of the four districts will be scored for its championship, which will consist of a magnificent silver trophy.

All contestants must be paid up members of the nearest agricultural society. Entry must be made before August 1, 1913, and the crop must have been sown not later than the season of 1913. The entry fee has been fixed at the nominal sum of \$5.00, and must accompany the entry which is to be sent to the Director of Extension Work previous to the date specified. The field of alfalfa must consist of not less than ten acres, but if the size of the plot exceeds the minimum the whole field will be scored. No artificially irrigated crop will be eligible for entry in the competition.

A full list of the rules governing the competition are being published for the guidance of interested persons, and will be supplied free on application to the secretary of the committee, F. Hedley Auld, Regina. There has already been shown a marked desire on the part of the agricultural papers and others interested in agricultural development to assist in financing this great competition. The committee decided, however, that while it would gladly accept cash contributions and give due credit for such donations, it could not accept special prizes of any kind to be given for a specified purpose, as the changing of conditions would still further complicate the judging, which is not an easy matter in a contest so large as this will be.

Treachorous Japs

Ithaca, N.Y., April 11.—The Japanese are treacherous; they covet the Philippines and were it not for the fact that they are bankrupt now, they would fight for them," said Rev. Jos. W. Hendrick, of Ovid, one of the best known priests in the Rochester diocese of the Catholic church, yesterday in commenting upon his impression of Japan and the Philippines, on his return from an around-the-world trip. Mr. Hendrick is a brother of Thos. Hendrick, bishop of Cebu, P. I., who died a few months ago.

"Buddhism is a fake in Japan," he said. "The only religion they have over there is war, and it is spelled with a capital 'W.' They are treacherous with us, just as they were with China and Russia.