

Saskatoon as a Farm Centre

H. Wisely Bragg

In the development of Saskatoon one looks to the railways to play their part in the building-up of the City. But they have gone further. The Canadian Pacific is following its old policy of building in advance of its needs, having sufficient confidence in the future to secure its returns. At the present time the great Company is erecting one of the finest buildings in Saskatoon, situated on the main street, where it had to pay what was then the record price for land in the city. The work here is not devoted entirely to railway work, but includes to a very large degree colonization work and the tireless task of developing the land as much for the benefit of settler as well as themselves.



WALTER GEROW

Canadian Pacific Land Agent, Saskatoon

Mr. Walter Gerow is the Agent for the Province of Saskatchewan, with headquarters at Saskatoon, and it is due to his persistent follow-up policy that the country particularly in the vicinity is seeking something besides the mere raising of wheat, a mis-nomer for farming. It is as a result of the very rapid settling of this district that the work of looking after the many branches of the Resources Department increased so greatly that the Company decided to erect the handsome building which will shortly be completed. It will also be the general railway offices of the Company, including Express, Telegraph, etc.

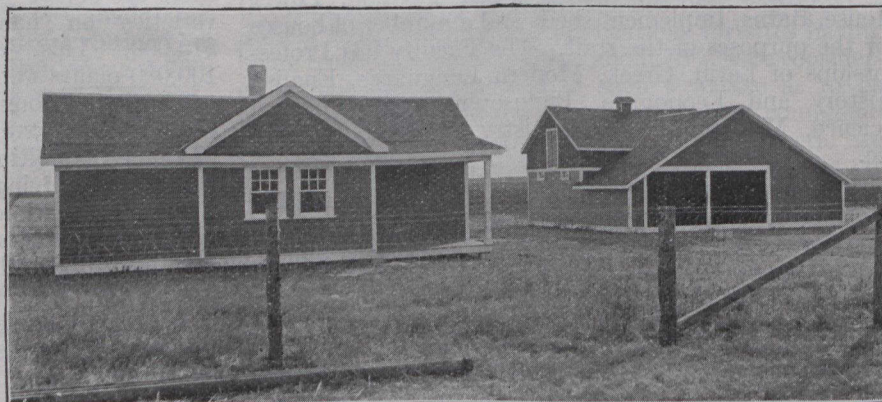
The work of the Resources Department includes many minor departments of development work, such as the Tie and Timber, Mines Departments, etc., but the greatest work is the settling or colonizing of the lands owned by the Company. Farms are sold "Ready Made" for ranching or mixed farming, where a settler may secure land to the extent of half a section, 320 acres, on the easiest possible terms, one twentieth cash and the balance in nineteen annual instalments with interest at 6%. The agreement which has been made much easier this year is based on what is acknowledged to pro-

duce the best for the country, insisting on a stipulated number of cows and horses, and also that a certain number of acres must be broken and seeded each year. The Resources Department of the Canadian Pacific together with the Universities in the Prairie Provinces are doing a great work in fostering mixed farming, in order that the greatest returns may come to the country, not for a few years, but for all time. Prominent men of experience like Mr. Adams of the Cockshutt Plow Company who tersely stated "That the Company should be commended for their policy" and also Mr. Frank Cahill, President of the Industrial League, and who is also a farm owner stated "That they were doing a great work."

It will be seen at once the effect the policy of the Company will have on the Prairie Provinces, when one realizes that at the present time they have 7,000,000 million acres suitable farm lands. Western Canada is at the present time largely dependent upon New Zealand for butter and dairy produce and Australia for meat which command very high prices. We have the lands and it is to the Resources Department of the Canadian Pacific and the Provincial Universities that our farmers are looking for information which will show them how to secure profits in these lines in addition to the more or less uncertain profit to be made in wheat raising. The farmer is at last appreciating the fact that he is paying exorbitant prices for his necessities, and in a very short time he will realize that with little more work he may have a mixed farm and keep enough stock to give him all the fresh milk and dairy produce he needs. The present situation is far from healthy, but the amount of publicity given out on mixed farming, and the numerous failures in wheat raising, and the low market price of the grain are doing much to develop economically managed farms, that will produce the greatest return to the owner.

The most extensively cultivated area in the Province of Saskatchewan owned by the Company is known as the Wolf Colony, where considerable progress is being accomplished in "Ready Made" and mixed farming. This territory is under the direction of Mr. Gerow, who frequently drives many miles superintending the work of cultivation on the lines laid down by the Company. At this point an experimental farm has been established by the Company, with the object of acquainting farmers on many important questions and furnishing a superior breed of stock, as well as trees and shrubs at a minimum cost. It is of interest here to remark that the Company grows made of these young trees along-side of the railway, furnishing three uses, their future value, a present wind break for snow storms, and a beauty spot.

(Continued on page 268.)



View of a C. P. R. "Ready Made Farm"