

Should the Farmer Hold His Wheat Or Should He Sell?

To the farmer who produced wheat last year and who is still holding it for a better price, this question is a vital one. He paid \$2.63 per bushel for seed; \$75 to \$80 a month and occasionally more, plus board, for labor; \$250 for a drill; \$295 for a binder; 20c to 50c per bushel for threshing; and a freight rate of from 14c to 25c, depending upon his location.

He has seen the price of his dearly grown product swing from \$2.85 1/2 to \$1.78 1/2, and back to \$2.04 1/2 on January 10th, since which time the price has dropped to the low point of \$1.71 1/2 (February 1st), and on February 19th was back to \$1.91. If he is still holding, he is beginning to wonder whether or not it would be wise to let go.

It is stated on good authority that Great Britain, who is usually our best customer for wheat, was out of the market from July to November, and it is a natural conclusion that this lack of buying was the chief cause of the slump in prices. Through large purchases made in North America last summer, and through further buying from the Argentine and China, the British Wheat Commission was able to lay up a surplus sufficient to last several months. Until recently, therefore, the United Kingdom has almost completely ignored our 1920 wheat crop.

In a recent issue of a leading financial publication, a Winnipeg banker points out that up to the end of last September commercial loans (which include loans to farmers) in Canada had increased three hundred and fifty-nine millions, as against an increase in total deposits of seventy-nine millions. Irrespective of call loans, commercial loans had in one year increased four and a half times as fast as deposits of all classes. The inevitable result of this would be that money, or credit, would become scarce, as the banks could not lend what they did not have. In the United States, in spite of the large holdings of gold in that country, the stringency is still worse. During recent months fifteen banks across the line have closed their doors.

In Kansas the grain growers are reported to have gone on what is called a "strike" inappropriately—a "strike for \$3 wheat," and many producers in Western Canada are holding their grain for better prices. We do not question the propriety of this. We believe the farmers have a right to take any lawful measures which in their judgment, seem best to protect their legitimate profits, but those who have entered into this holding movement should be quite clear in their own minds as to just what they are doing. The farmer who chooses to

hold wheat in anticipation of a rise in price is simply speculating on the long side of the market. If he owns the wheat and has incurred no pressing debts in the growing of it, the speculation may be quite proper, but there is no assurance that it will bring the desired results.

It is estimated by Broomhall, the British authority, that for the crop year ending next June, Europe will import five hundred and twenty million bushels of wheat, and other countries forty millions, a total of five hundred and sixty millions. Bradstreet estimates that the United States can spare two hundred and fifty million bushels. The Canadian surplus is placed at all the way from one hundred and sixty to two hundred millions. It was estimated that Australia will have one hundred and ten million bushels for export, and the Argentine one hundred and twenty millions. If these estimates prove correct, there will be six hundred and forty million bushels available to supply a demand of five hundred and sixty millions. If Canadian and American farmers hold their wheat off the market for any length of time, such a policy will have a tendency to attract Argentine and Australian wheat to European markets. So that our farmers may find that they are holding up the price, whilst their southern competitors are unloading, and in the end our farmers may be compelled to sell at a figure substantially under what they would have obtained had they sold in the ordinary course.

If we may borrow a simile recently used by Mr. E. G. Nourse, of the Iowa State College, this holding movement is very much like that other difficult operation of "having the bull by the tail." Holding on may be quite safe, but the really dangerous part of the operation is in letting go.

It is not easy to predict future prices, and while wheat may go higher, there is the possible depressing factor that we have just mentioned—a good crop in the Argentine and Australia.

Some farmers who could have taken \$2.85 for their wheat at the beginning of the season, but who decided to wait for \$3.00, have found that it does not pay to hold too long.

It would, therefore, seem to be the part of wisdom for Canadian farmers to follow a gradual policy of marketing, to sell as far as possible on the occasions when the market shows strength, and not to hold out for the last nickel. Such a policy will help to relieve the strain on credit, and will assist in bringing prices for all commodities back to a normal level. F. W. West.

Agricultural Instruction

Aiding and Advancing the Farming Industry of Canada.

An insight into the progress that is being made in agricultural instruction, both for adults and juniors, is to be gathered from the report on the Agricultural Instruction Act for 1919-20, recently submitted to the Dominion Parliament. Under this act \$1,000,000 is now divided annually between the nine provinces of Canada with a view, as the report says, of aiding and advancing the farming industry of Canada. That the objects sought are being attained is shown by the review of the situation regarding agricultural instruction as it now exists in this country.

Schools have been established, colleges extended and brought nearer to the farmer, research has been greatly encouraged, the agricultural representative system has been aided and fostered, home life improved, school fairs have been brought into being, and knowledge in every branch of agriculture and domestic science has been made more readily available. How the funds forthcoming under the act are applied is illustrated by the fact that of an allotment of 356,413, was devoted in 1919-20 to the agricultural representative system, and \$644,070 to instruction and demonstration. Boys' and girls' clubs were extensively aided, and women's institutes, homemakers' clubs and similar organizations, had their funds augmented in such a manner as led remarkably to their growth and increased spread of their usefulness. How important a figure in the direct advancement of agricultural instruction the act is, will perhaps be best appreciated by the fact that in the six years of its existence \$1,890,143 has been allocated to colleges and schools of agriculture, exclusive of veterinary colleges, to which a special grant of \$20,000 is made annually. The problem facing those responsible for educational policy, says the report, is to provide adequate educational opportunities for those destined for country life, and that in large measure is the purpose for which the funds granted by the act are being used.

As They Do It Now In England

New Style of Announcing Through the Press the Birth of a Child.

Most parents, in announcing through the press the birth of a child, generally adhere to the usual stereotyped way of doing so, and state, "to Mr. and Mrs. —" or "the wife of —," a son or daughter. Occasionally one comes across the phrase, "the gift of a son or daughter," as the case may be. A few parents, however, are now adopting a style which is very unusual in this country, and that is of the new arrival himself or herself apparently announcing his or her advent. In the case of a daughter the announcement is in the following terms: "Miss So-and-So, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. —, begs to announce her arrival at — (address of her parents), on the — inst., and is doing well."—London Morning Post.

Most Perfect Vacuum

Salt Lake City Scientist Claims To Have Made Discovery.

Fresno Orrin Tuggman, of the physics department of the University of Utah, announced recently that he had obtained the closest approach to a perfect vacuum that had been recorded. This vacuum, he said, is too thin for even the passage of electricity. The American Association for the Advancement of Science furnished the funds for the experiment.

A Woolworth Building for the West.

The Woolworth Company will build a store in Winnipeg, Manitoba, similar to the one in New York this summer. R. C. Connable, Toronto, chief executive of the company in Canada has announced. It will beat anything the Woolworth's have in Canada, Mr. Connable says. Work will start about May 1st.

Waste Material Becomes Clothes.

Great progress has been made in Petrograd in the manufacture of clothing from rags and old pieces of cloth, to which is added a small amount of new material, according to advices from Moscow. There are 44 concerns in Petrograd working up various waste material.

And She Forgave Him.

Wife.—But, dear, you've forgotten again that today is my birthday. Husband.—Er—listen, love, I know I forgot it, but there isn't a thing about you to remind me that you are a day older than you were a year ago.—London Opinion.

No New Railway Projects



D. C. Coleman, Vice-President of the C.P.R., Winnipeg, who states that his company will postpone further western extension until conditions are more settled.

Sowing Good Clean Seed Pays in Results

Net Profits From Same Area Increase by Planting Only Best Seed.

Increasing the acreage of crops grown on the farm does not always mean greater net profits. The latter, per acre, are very frequently quite small. If the yield, per acre, can be increased without raising the cost of production the increase in yield will all go towards increasing the net profits. Let us assume, that a farmer's wheat crop yields 24 bushels per acre, and that it takes 20 of the 24 bushels per acre to pay rent or interest on capital invested, and the cost of preparing the land, seed, harvesting, threshing, etc. This would leave 4 bushels from each acre as the net profit.

On a large proportion of Canadian farms uncleaned or improperly cleaned seed is sown. There is no excuse for sowing so much dirty and poorly graded seed. The fanning and grading can be done in the slack time and well ahead of the busy spring seeding. This grading would not add to the cost of production of the crop and the larger yield secured would substantially increase or, in many instances, double the net profit. Experiments conducted with oats at Guelph over a period of seven years showed the following results: Large seed, 62 bushels per acre; medium seed, 54 bushels per acre; small seed, 47 bushels per acre.

Similar experiments with wheat, barley, rye and peas gave much the same results in each case. The small, shrunk and split kernels are much more valuable for feed than for seed. Another great advantage obtained by fanning and grading the grain for seed is that weed seeds are cleaned out. One way to prevent having weeds in the crop is to sow seed grain free from weed seeds. One weed seed sown may mean thousands of weed seeds produced in the next crop. Many of our worst weeds produce thousands of seeds per plant.—F. C. Nupnick.

Measuring a Million

Requisite Quantity of Seed Sago Fills Quart Glass.

Pew of us grasp the full meaning of the word "million." A lecturer succeeded in doing so some years ago. His first experiment was with the spots on paper, which he found to be both cumbersome and inconvenient. Nor was the more fortunate in telling his audience that there were about three and a half million letters in the Bible. At last he got the idea of using grains small enough to go into a jar which could be conveniently handled by the audience. Experimenting first with tiny seed, rice grains, sago and similar small particles, he finally decided upon "seed sago." After sifting this, he counted out a few thousand grains, carefully weighed them in delicate scales, and then calculated what was required to get approximately a million grains. He found the requisite quantity to be 2lb. 2oz. which comfortably filled a quart glass.

B.C. Tobacco Crop.

The British Columbia tobacco crop of 1920, grown on eighty-one acres, totalled 60,000 pounds. Most of the tobacco is still in the growers' hands. In 1919 the total crop of 93,000 pounds was sold to a Quebec manufacturer at 23c per pound.

Wife.—"When I die you'll never find another woman like me." Hubby.—"What makes you think I should try to find another woman like you?"

Old Fort Ellis and Sioux Indians

Crossing the Plains to Fort Carlton

Summer 1875.

By O-GE-MAS-ES (Little Clerk).

(Copyrighted)

I had wintered at Fairfort on the north end of Lake Manitoba and had just closed up the business in the spring, when I received orders to report at Manitoba House and superintend a small sugar making plant which the Hudson's Bay Company had undertaken on an island in the lake just out from the post where there were several thousand ash-maple trees. Our methods were very primitive. An old pony and stone-boat with a barrel to gather the sap, birch bark rogans and wood troughs for containers, and a string of large-sized open copper kettles for boiling the sap. An old and wrinkled Indian woman attended to the boiling and sugar making, and when the season ended we had several thousand pounds of sugar, sugar-pitch and syrup. After keeping enough of this for home use, the orders were to send the balance up to Fort Qu'Appelle, and there it would be traded to the Plain Indians who were excessively fond of it, and the price to them was, I think, a skin a pound.

The officer in charge of Manitoba House at that time was the late Isaac Cowie, and he fitted out five Red River carts with ponies, detailed a half-breed named Charlie Anderson (generally known as Charlie-Man) for guide, had the carts loaded up with sugar and syrup, and issued us rations for the trip. Unfortunately a gun was not included in the equipment and at that time I did not own one. He then gave orders for us to proceed direct to Fort Ellis. It was a wilderness we had to traverse, and in fact on the whole trip we never saw or tracked a human being. The ponies we were using had wintered out and as the green grass was only just coming in they were in poor shape for a long trip. Our progress was very slow, not more than eighteen to twenty miles a day, and at first we had to make a number of detours to avoid bush and brush, but gradually as we got further away from the lake, the country became more open. We had no tent, but just a covering to sleep under. One night we had camped rather late on a dry looking knoll, and after supper soon went to bed, as we made a point of starting early, spelling our poor ponies twice in the day to give them the best show possible.

Charlie-Man will now tell the story: "We had put up the usual willow frame and over this drew our covering and went to sleep, when in the night I was awakened by Ogemases grabbing me fiercely, moaning and shaking his head from side to side. Though I was considered a strong man it took me all my time to hold my own with the little clerk, and I thought he must have gone suddenly mad. In our struggles we smashed our rude camp to pieces, rolled some distance down the knoll, and at last I managed to hold him down firmly with my knee on his chest and asked what was the matter. He was not conscious of my voice, but still kept throwing his head from side to side and moaning. It struck me at last there was something in his ear, and dragging him slowly back to the camp, I found our dunnage sack, took out a bottle of Painkiller, pulled the cork with my teeth, turned him on his side, and poured the pure stuff into his ear. He collapsed as if you had hit him with a club, and finally I noticed a small red ant float out with the Painkiller. He remained uncon-

scious until morning when he woke up all right, though for several days he was quite deaf on that side.

So much for Charlie-Man's yarn. And now I take up my narrative again. I was suddenly awakened that night by what I thought was a tremendous blow inside my head, followed by another, and another until I lost consciousness, and then you have heard Charlie-Man's story as to what happened. Talk about grizzly bears or timber wolves, a little tiny red ant is much more to be dreaded when in your ear, and for years afterwards when sleeping out on the prairie I stopped my ears with cotton wool.

Our rations consisted of Pilot bread biscuits, large and very hard, with a small amount of buffalo pemican. Unfortunately, owing to the weakness of our ponies, the trip was taking us much longer than Mr. Cowie allowed for, so we had to limit our fare. Of course, there was plenty of maple sugar and syrup and we rather unwisely ate too much of this which caused dysentery. Finally, by Charlie's rough count, we should be within some thirty miles of Fort Ellis. But, alas, our ponies had played out entirely. Charlie was very much weaker than myself owing to the effects of too much sugar, and we held a council over night as to the best procedure. The question arose, should we kill one of the ponies, and after some discussion we decided against this, they of course being company's property. There were only two large biscuits left, no pemican, and then the sugar, which by this time we were afraid to touch. It was finally decided that I was to start out early next morning taking an easterly course, marking my trail constantly (so that Charlie could be easily found), and three or four hours should bring me to the main cart trail from Ft. Garry to Ft. Ellis.

I was pleased with the prospect and taking half a biscuit for my breakfast away I went, warning Charlie to eat no more sugar, and assuring him I would have assistance back as early as possible. After some three hours steady walking I struck the main trail close to Bird Tail Creek. I was by this time hungry as a bear, and here on the light soil banks of the creek were hundreds of prairie gophers, fat and saucy, the first we had seen. They looked good to eat and after vainly peeling them with stones an idea struck me. Sitting down I took off my moccasins pulled out the long deer skin thongs and made a snare, and in a few minutes I had a couple of fine big gophers. Making a fire I skinned and cleaned my game, fixed up what Indians call a Ponast, viz: The game is stretched on a stick with skewers across. I roasted before an open fire. I quickly polished one off. Very good and sweet it was, and was just started on the other one when I heard a rig coming from the east, and who should it be but Molyneux St. John and his wife en route to Ft. Ellis on Indian Department business. Nothing would do but my having a good dinner on the spot and then a comfortable drive to The Fort, where I at once reported conditions and saw a relief party with provisions sent back to poor Charlie-Man, who arrived that night, after a day or two's rest was all right again. The ponies were left to do their own recuperating and would be brought into the horse guard later.

(To be continued)

Motor Boats for Northern Alberta

New Style to be Used for Freight and Passenger Service.

The first of a series of large motor "tunnel" boats for the Hudson Bay Company's service almost altogether in Arctic lakes and rivers, has been launched in Vancouver, British Columbia. From there the vessel, and half a dozen exactly like her, will be loaded on two flat cars to be transported to Edmonton, thence to Peace River Crossing, where it will be again launched for freight and passenger service.

The word "tunnel" is applied to the boats because there is a fine barrel-shaped cavity in the hull extending from the stern amidships about twenty feet. By this means propeller and rudders are ingeniously protected, and there are no projections to interfere with the phenomenally light draught. When launched in Vancouver the vessel drew only nine inches and with a full load is expected to float over gravel bars that are submerged only twenty inches from the

water. When the propeller turns the water which is hurled astern with the force of an hydraulic ram, sixty feet over all, the boat will have a speed of sixteen to seventeen miles an hour. She will have two 80-h.p. motors.

Canada's Metal Production.

The total estimated value of the metal and mineral production of Canada in 1920 is \$217,775,080, which is greater than the total value reached during any preceding year. Compared with the production of 1919 valued at \$176,686,390, an increase of \$41,088,690 or 23.3 per cent is shown, whilst compared with 1918 the previous maximum year due to war inflation, the increase recorded is \$6,673,183, or 3 per cent.

London has a "Nose Club," the membership of which is determined by certain nasal measurements, and any applicant falling short of the required standard of size is rigidly excluded.

The manufacture of paper as a human activity ranks in age second only to the manufacture of textiles.

The Way of A Woman

The Trend of the Times and the New Order.

Says the Los Angeles Times: "A woman's place is, doubtless, in the home," but if she doesn't think so there isn't much use in arguing with her. The day when a skirt can be kept locked up in the home is past. If it is a sport skirt it will blow out of the window if necessary. If a woman isn't of the home-making and home-loving sort it is a hard job to work her over. It takes more than a marriage license to keep a woman in the environment of the home brew. When she has a passion for change and romance she will seek for them beyond the threshold of her home. A man may think he is boss in his own home, but he isn't—beyond a certain point."

The Automobile Industry

Statistics Show There Are 10 Companies Manufacturing Cars in Canada.

Statistics compiled on the automobile industry in Canada show that there are 10 companies manufacturing cars in Canada; 351,000 cars manufactured since 1916; annual necessary replacement 80,000; value of 1920 production of passenger cars, \$84,500,000; dealers in Canada, 1920, 5,500 persons employed in automobile and allied industries, 80,000; persons involved, including families of workmen, 400,000; capital invested in dealer's companies, \$43,000,000; capital investment in manufacturing companies, \$110,000,000.

A philosopher says that people might live forever if they would only quit worrying.

Web-Footed Race

Tribes in New Guinea Who Are at Home in the Water.

In New Guinea, we are informed, there is a tribe, called the Agaiambu, who have web-feet. They live in huts built on ten-foot poles in the midst of marsh, and are so much at home in the water that they seem "to stand upright in that element without any perceptible effort," says a correspondent. They never leave the morass, the skin of their feet, being so tender that they bleed freely when they try to walk on hard ground. They catch duck by diving under them and catching the birds' leg, while their diet consists chiefly of fish, water-fowl, sago and the roots of water-lilies. They keep pigs swung in cradles underneath their houses, lying on their bellies with their legs stuck through the bottom, and feed them upon fish and sago. The dead are "buried" by being tied to a stake, "the body secured well above floor level."

Entitled to Special Help.

There may be some reason in saying that a veteran who has full use of all his limbs and faculties, just as he had before he went overseas, should resume the status of an ordinary citizen, but armless or legless veterans, are permanently handicapped, their disability entitles them to special help.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

The bees of Brazil hang their honeycombs at the end of the slender twig, at the very summit of a tree, to be beyond the reach of the monkeys.

A ton of sandalwood yields an average of 100 pounds of oil.

Swapping horses is one kind of sock exchange.