Pushing the Wheat Area Westward to Base of the Rockies

Under the heading "Alberta Leads," the Edmonton Bulletin says editorially that the record of the province at the Chicago winter fair places the foothill province definitely on the map as a wheat producing country. Hitherto Alberta's reputation as a ranching country has tended against the general acceptance of her wheat growing capabilities. When settlement first broke into the prairie west the Red River valley was thought to be the only wheat growing area. Then the remainder of the province of Manitoba was included and Manitoba No. 1 hard became a standard of highest quality on the world's markets. Then came Saskatchewan, which now stands at two neighboring provinces as volumes of wheat production. Even Alberta folk took for granted that for some unexplained reason Alberta conditions were less favorable to the production of high class wheat than those prevailing in either Saskatchewan or Manitoba. The results at the Chicago fair are a revelation, the importance of which is not easy to realize. The wheat area is pushed westward to the base of the Rocky Mountains. And not only the area of wheat production, the best wheat is produced in that area which lies furthest west. Of twenty-five prizes given for hard wheat, twenty-three came to Canada, and seven of these to Alberta. Against all the other provinces of Canada and all the States of the Union, Alberta took nearly one-third of all the wheat prizes offered. That settles, quite conclusively, the question of the production of high class wheat in Alberta.

It was not remarkable that there should be question as to the growth of high quality wheat in the province. Backed by the Rockies, Alberta is naturally a country of a considerably higher average altitude than Saskatchewan or Manitoba. Altitude is, in fact, a factor which in such a northern latitude wheat could scarcely be expected to be produced in highest perfection, if at all. Cayley, where one of the prize winning samples was grown, is 3,400 feet above the sea, and Calgary, which produced another winning sample, is [illegible] elevation. Calgary is in latitude 51 north.

Fifty years ago the Genesee valley in New York State set the standard of wheat production for the continent. After many years the wheat fields of Southern Minnesota became famous. The 49th parallel was considered by many eminent scientists to be the northern limit of wheat, with the possible exception of that part of the Red River valley north of the international boundary. The results of the Chicago fair prove that Canada's wheat fields extend from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains, eight hundred miles in direct distance, and that in that area the highest quality of wheat is produced. The demand of the Minneapolis mills for Canadian wheat and the protest of Kansas farmers against its admission to the United States confirm the judges' decisions at the Chicago fair, and prove that as a wheat producer the Canadian west has arrived; with Alberta in the lead.

If Alberta did well in wheat she did better in oats. The championship, with a sample weighing two pounds to the bushel more than any other sample in the show, and eight out of fifteen prizes for the region which included the remainder of the Canadian prairie west and the States of Montana, Dakota, Washington and Oregon, is doing well enough. While there never was any doubt of the ability of Alberta to grow first class oats, her outstanding superiority had never been so fully demonstrated. The standard weight of oats in the United States is thirty-two pounds to the bushel, in Canada thirty-four pounds. But the Alberta champion sample weighed [illegible] pounds to the bushel, nearly fifty per cent. over the standard weight of the United States. The importance of establishing the superiority of Alberta oats lies in the fact that oats, with barley, constitute our feed crop, as corn does in the United States. Oats are more cheaply, easily and surely raised here than corn is there; and gives as large a tonnage of feed per acre. With a proportion of barley the fattening qualities compare favorably with corn. If oats in Alberta only produced in quantity and quality as they do in Iowa, the Alberta stock raiser would be at a serious disadvantage as compared with his competitor in Iowa who feeds corn. But with heavier yields of oats per acre and a better quality of grain, the advantages of corn in Iowa are equalled by those of oats and barley in Alberta.

Alberta took only two prizes in barley in competition with all the states and all the provinces, but a good showing. But it falls down badly when compared with Alberta's own showing in oats and wheat. However, there is not now and never was any question of the production of barley in Alberta, either as to quality or quantity. The case in regard to barley is not as important as that in regard to wheat. But some of the Scotch judges of livestock, on inspecting the Alberta provincial exhibit of barley (shown for exhibition purposes only) declared that they would not have believed such barley was grown in any country.

Wheat, oats and barley are the backbone of farming in the prairie west. It is gratifying to know that when put up against the competition of the continent in these particulars, Alberta more than held her own.

The League Lives

Closed Its Sessions With Forty-Seven Nations Now Adhering To It.

For the League to have lived through the hostile criticism and cynical prophecies that greeted it at Geneva, as well as the inherent difficulties of its work, is in itself a triumph. Its break-up was confidently predicted. When hoity-toity Argentina withdrew there was a chorus of cries that this meant the beginning of the end. Twenty-one nations were left to fly apart like so many mutually repellant atoms. But that flurry quickly passed; new member States were admitted, so that the League closed its sessions, having weathered all storms, with forty-seven nations now adhering to it. Not even in the irreconcilable camp at Washington has anybody longer the hardihood to speak contemptuously of the League as "dead."—From the New York Times.

Faint Heart.

Doris.—I though you were going to kiss me when you puckered up your lips just now.

Jock.—No—er—it was only a piece of grit in my mouth.

Doris.—Then, for goodness sake, swallow it—you need some!—Edinburgh Scotsman.

Bones Of Immense Elk Uncovered.

Antlers measuring eight feet from tip to tip and huge bones believed to be those of an immense elk have been unearthed on the shore of Pracs Lake, Leelanau county, Michigan, by a trapper. Excavation is being continued. Pioneers cannot recall ever seeing an elk in that region.

New Zealand's Way

Some Heavy Fines Are Inflicted For Profiteering In Tweeds.

A magistrate in Wellington has fined a firm of merchants £3,000 and an individual merchant £400 for profiteering on New Zealand tweeds. Great interest has been aroused, as these cases are the first big charges brought under the 1919 law. The firm's profits average 100 per cent. over manufacturers' costs and freight. The magistrate characterized the profits as outrageous, and said he would have ordered imprisonment for the individual merchant had this been possible under the law. The penalty is in each case the maximum.—Wellington, N.Z., Despatch to London Times.

Coming Back Strong.

Wife.—"But, my dear, you've forgotten again that today is my birthday."

Husband.—"Er—listen, love, I know I forgot—but there isn't anything about you to remind me that you are a day older than you were a year ago."—London Opinion.

A French banknote of small denomination, after being in circulation for some months, was recently examined by French scientists, who discovered 80,000,000 bacilli thriving on it.

The present heir to the British throne is the 19th holder of the title of Prince of Wales since its creation in 1301.

The sparrow can fly for short distances at the rate of about 80 miles an

Leader of Progressive Party

HON. T. A. CRERAR.

Dominion Leader of the National Progressive Party, whose first declaration of policy was given at a meeting in Winnipeg, December 16th, which was also addressed by Premier Drury of Ontario, both speakers being enthusiastically received.

Not Getting Excited

Useless For Britain to Engage in a Spectacular Naval Programme.

Great Britain does not mean to be stampeded into a new naval policy because the United States and Japan propose to add a number of capital ships to their respective navies. Nor need there be any cause for alarm. Apart from the possibility of a general understanding between the great nations which may result in a substantial curtailment of naval and military armament, it would be useless for Britain to increase her gigantic financial burden by indulging in a spectacular building programme before her naval architects have completely absorbed the lessons of the war. Should it develop that the Motherland will need a larger fleet than ever, she will build it in the light of the most modern experience. And if she does find it necessary to construct her craft on the famous "two keels to one" policy, nowhere in the world could it be required under those special circumstances except in Great Britain.—Victoria Times.

The [illegible] found in Iceland, Lapland and Northern Russia. It produces [illegible] trumpeting through its [illegible] windpipe.

United States And Japan

Trying to Stir Up Trouble Founded On Mere Suspicions.

Owing to the jingo element in both countries, the feelings between Americans and Japanese are not as cordial as lovers of peace could desire. On this account more than usual significance attaches to the remark at Geneva of Viscount Ishii that Japan must increase her armaments because the United States is doing so. If the United States were a member of the League of Nations, there would be no need for a strong policy of naval development, and all Uncle Sam's neighbors could lessen their expenditure accordingly. But so long as this powerful nation not only remains outside the League, but continues to spend increasing sums on naval and military account, other powers do not dare take steps in the direction of disarmament. Representative Kahn of California, one of the most influential members of Congress, is now urging universal military training for the United States. Japan looks askance at this because of the sentiment on the Pacific coast against her nationals. She believes that both naval and military expenditures in the United States are aimed directly at her. The American people, on the other hand, are suspicious that Japan has designs on the Phillippines. The Hearst papers have been suggesting for years that Great Britain is egging Japan on in an aggressive attitude toward the United States and would approve of her little brown partner seizing these islands.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

An Undesirable Post.

Premier Rhallis, of Greece, has decided to keep the office, not so much because he wants it as because nobody else wants it who would carry on. Constantine is personally popular with the Greeks, but his foreign policy spells the collapse of the prospect of a Greek Empire. Rhallis would probably rather not be among those who can be blamed when the crash comes.—Edmonton Bulletin.

The strength of growing plants and trees is enormous. A small grass plant will split a rock, and young oak roots have lifted a block of granite [illegible]

Training will do much for a man, but it will not teach him to look for the tower before filling his eyes with soap.

"Indian Spiritualism"

"NO GREATER FAITH"

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

(Copyrighted)

Indians are varied in character much like white men, but I have known intimately a number of the older men who were spiritually minded though Pagan in religion. One instance comes back to me while writing. Essa-wa-puni-o, an elderly Saulteaux, was my steady friend for many years and it was a real grief to hear of his death in the spring of 1919. A fine hunter, his specialty was bears, especially finding their dens in winter. He did not disclose his methods, but I always insisted that he smelt them out, much to the old man's amusement.

On one occasion in March of a long steady winter, word came in that they were very short of food at his camp some thirty miles to the southeast. Loading a dog-sled with some provisions and trading supplies, I started early next morning for Mik-e-su Pe-mat-to-ga-win (lake where the eagle swims) where he was camped, and reached there in good time. Three teepees were standing in a well sheltered spot, but no one was in sight. I noted three freshly killed bear skins on stretchers, one large and two small, and was pleased to think the hunter's skill had again saved the little band from hunger. Approaching the centre tent, home of Essa-wa-puni-o, I could hear him praying to the Great Spirit, giving thanks for being guided to the winter den of the bears; taking no credit for his own skill, but giving "Kitche Manitou" all the praise. I peeped in the teepees and lots of bear meat were cooking over the small fire in the centre, and all the little band were devoutly listening to the old man's prayer and grace, though some of the younger ones were casting hungry glances at the food, which evidently they had not yet tasted. Finally grace was over and I called "How" from the entrance to the teepee. They came out like a swarm of bees delighted to see the trader with his load of good things to eat.

Camping in the old man's tent as usual, and after a famous supper in which tender young bear meat figured on the menu, I had him describe the finding of the bears, which he did most graphically, and further said that when starting out early that morning he prayed long and earnestly to Manitou for guidance and success in his hunt, and you can see for yourself the reply: Bear meat in plenty and furs to purchase the flour, tea, bacon and sugar our good trader has brought us.

"What condition were these bears in?" I asked. "Very fat," was his reply. "A she bear and two large cubs, the latter suckling their mother."

"As they had been in the den since late October or early November, where on earth did the old she bear get milk for her cubs, as they store up no food in their winter quarters?"

"Why," was Essa-wa-puni-o's reply, "you know all about that."

"How is that?"

"Why, your Big Book tells you."

"What book?"

"Oh, you are stupid. Why, Kitche Missi-na-e-gun of course" (meaning Bible).

"But what does the Bible say about it?"

"Why, God gives her the milk!"

And verily the old pagan Indian's reply made me speechless, for I could think of no other solution.

Huge Sum to Run New York City.

It will take just $345,571,300.77 to run the city of Greater New York during the coming fiscal year. This amount, exceeding two-thirds of the total appropriated by Congress to carry on the affairs of the United States in 1916, was set out by the board of estimate and apportionment in advance preparing the 1921 budget.

A woman may love flattery and yet despise an awkward flatterer.

A PARADISE FOR SKI-MEN

(1) Where falls are good fun. (2) Ski-ing in the Canadian Rockies.

Preparations are already being made for the annual carnival to be held at Banff amidst the glories of the Canadian Pacific Rockies. Banff is ideally situated for winter sports and this season the dates have been fixed from January 29th to February 5th inclusive. The Secretary writes that the programme is to be considerably extended. He says:

"Our Ski Hill has now been completed in accordance with the suggestions made by the world's champion, Anders Haugen, of Brooklyn, Minn., and we are confident that a new world's record will be established on our Hill this Carnival. We have decided to offer a substantial cash prize to the man who can beat the present world's record and to supplement this cash prize with a further prize of $10.00 for every foot or portion of a foot by which the record is broken on our hill. We will also follow the same principle in connection with the amateur championship, only in that case the inducement or reward will be in the shape of an especially attractive prize. We have at the present time four different jumps so that we will be in a position to stage competitions in all classes of this very spectacular and hair-raising sport.

"We expect that ladies hockey will be a very important factor in our sports this season. We have already been advised that the ladies of Vancouver under the leadership of Mr. Frank Patrick, of professional hockey fame, expect to compete. The Regents, the champions of Western Canada of Calgary, the Patricias also of Calgary, a team from Edmonton, a team from Vulcan, Alberta, and perhaps teams from Winnipeg and Ottawa, are all expected to be on hand and compete with Vancouver and Ottawa for the championship of Canada. A very elaborate trophy together with ten very attractive and costly prizes will in all probability be announced a little later in connection with this event.

"An ice palace will be constructed on a basis far more extensive than anything heretofore attempted and the resident engineer of the Dominion Government is now at work preparing the plans for same. We expect this palace, when illuminated, will be a view that will long live in the memories of those who will be fortunate enough to visit us and see it. The palace will be stormed at different times during the carnival by representatives of all the different sports indulged in, and it is expected that the fireworks display on these occasions will be most interesting.

"Special attention will again be given to art and fancy skating and competition in these items on our programme promise to be very interesting. The Connaught Skating Club of Vancouver, with a membership of almost three hundred, has written saying that the club will be well represented and if we could be assured of some entries from Eastern Canada and the States together with the assured entries we will have from Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Saskatoon this feature of our programme would be one of the biggest events ever attempted in Canada. Application will be made to the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada to have all these contests representative of the Canadian Championships."

Tributes to The Unknown Warrior

One Mother Brought War Medals Belonging to Son Reported Missing.

Scores of touching instances have been witnessed at the tomb of [illegible] Warrior in Westminster Abbey, as long lines of men, women and children have passed the black marble slab covering the grave since the burial there of the unidentified soldier.

The fact that no one knows the name of the man who lies beneath the slab leads many to offer tributes in the hope perhaps that the body is that of a missing son. The mother of one of the thousands of unknown warriors, any one of whom might be reposing in Westminster Abbey, laid three war medals, the Mons Star, the Victory medal and the British War medal on the grave as she passed in the line. They had been awarded to her only son, who was wounded three times and afterwards reported missing.

A soldier's modest offering of flowers bore the inscription: "In loving memory of my two pals and all the other pals."

The [illegible] placed on the slab reads: "For King and Country. Greater Love Hath No Man Than This."

The Value of Politeness

It Is Impossible to Have Friends and Not Be Friendly.

Men in business many years ago learned the value of politeness. Business depends in such large measure upon satisfied customers that those who were building up a trade felt the necessity for going out of their way in a small or great way many times in order to produce the proper relationship between the store and its patrons. And while in public life the need for politeness is essential, private life is by no means relieved of this responsibility. The manner and bearing of a man in large measure lends to the ease of treating folks in a friendly manner. It is impossible to have friends and not be friendly. Politeness is friendliness exemplified in a definite, personal manner. Without this element life doesn't hold so many desirable things. With this element life is sweeter both for the man or woman and for those who come within their circle of acquaintances. Politeness pays in many ways not always in financial considerations, but in the more ennobling things which go to make up a successful human enterprise.—Springfield Republican.