March 6, 1912

# Continual Progress

1911 was the best year The Great-West Life has known.

The New Year commenced similarly. January was the best January; February the best month yet; March promises to do better still.

This success has but one explanation-the VALUE of the Great-West Policies.

Ask for confirmatory printed matter.

### The Great-West Life Assurance Company HEAD OFFICE : WINNIPEG



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THE GUIDE "SEED GRAIN FOR SALE AND WANTED" columns furnish prompt and economical means by which the farmer who has seed to sell can get in touch with the man who needs it, and vice versa.

#### THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

#### ARGENTINE CROP

ARGENTINE CROP A cablegram from the International Institute of Agriculture gives the official preliminary estimate of the Argentine wheat crop as 170,565,000 bushels com-pared with 136,000,000 last year; New Zealand 6,487,000 against 7,000,000 last year. The total estimated production of wheat in the Southern Zone is 900,987,000 compared with \$75,\$17,000 last year

last year The estimated production of oats in Argentine is 60,833,500 bushels against 38,256,000 last year; in New Zealand 18,697,000 against 14,682,000.

#### THE POULTRY SCRATCHING SHED

The adoption of the open shed by some poultrymen was the first effort in poultry house construction to permit fowls to enjoy fresh air conditions the year around. It was a radical change from the double-boarded, double-papered and double-glazed so-called "tight warm" house, but in reality a close, damp house and fre-quently a cold one. At first the scratch-ing-shed had the front entirely open.

**Muslin Front** 

Later the entire front was covered with muslin; later still, this was reduced in size, musin; later still, this was reduced in size, the opening being wide horizontally and narrow vertically to prevent the wind and sleet from blowing directly upon the fowls during the day. The house having the cloth-covered front or cloth-covered window has the disadvantage of requiring more personal attention in opening and closing windows to meet changes in the weather than does the house opening and closing windows to meet changes in the weather than does the house with separate scratching-shed. If the windows are stationary it is not possible quickly to take care of wide extremes in temperature.

#### **Modi** Cations

The large, open scratching-shed is as much too cold and exposed as the old type house was too tight and close. Gradually the open front is undergoing modifications, until it now occupies, in many instances, less than one-quarter the front. With this restricted opening has come a tendency to leave out the partition be-tween the scratching shed and the roost-

tween the scratching-shed and the roost-ing-room, thus leaving the entire area a scratching-pen. The modern open-front scratching-pen has some advantages which for many purposes appear to outweigh those of the closed pen and scratching-shed. The open scratching-pen is cheaper in first cost of construction because one partition is saved in each pen; and less labor is required to care for the fowls because of less doors to open and close.

#### Advantages

The fact that fowls can go in and out freely from house to shed seems to be a deceptive form of liberty which they crave and which is a factor not provided in a single, close compartment house. It provides the fowls an opportunity to escape from one room to another when frightened. Anything that causes un-certainty or suggests danger retards eggfrightened. Anything that causes un-certainty or suggests danger retards egg-production. Therefore such a retreat is desirable. This is accomplished by placing the opening through which the fowls pass to and from the shed and the house at the back instead of the front of the partition. It should be raised eight inches above the floor to prevent the litter from being scratched out. When anyone approaches the shed the fowls retreat without alarm to the house, or to the shed if the alarm comes from the other direction. Placing the opening at the back also Placing the opening at the back also prevents the wind from blowing into the house.

the house. Exercise is necessary to ensure health; scratching-pens provide for this. Fowls do not like confinement. Being in the cooler air during the daytime seems to make them less affected by the cold at night. In practice, fowls are generally found to be more healthy and to lay more even in a year, when permitted to live eggs in a year, when permitted to live in fresh air, either in open-front pens or pens with scratching-sheds, as com-pared with close-pen houses.

#### Size of Shed

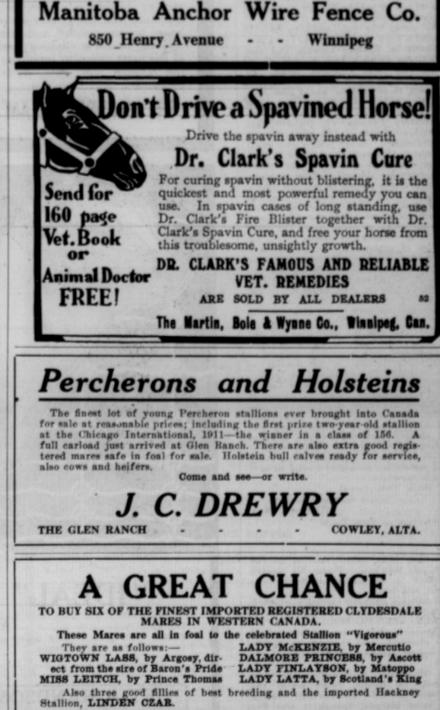
The relative size of the shed and the closed compartment will depend upon the location. The farther north one goes, the location. The farther north one goes, the smaller should be the scratching-shed and the larger the closed compartment, until in very cold sections the open sheds might be undesirable. In the south the entire front might be open. Ordinarily the pen and shed should be about equally divided in size, if they are to be separated.



"HE weakest part of a woven wire fence used to be the lock, as many an old-timer found out to his sorrow. But times have changed, as have the manufacture of woven wire fences. Today, you can buy the Leader Fence, with a lock which is the strongest part of the fence. This lock in the Leader Fence not only grips the lateral wire to stay, but the ends are curved in such a manner that the lock interlocks itself, giving a double grip and as solid as a rock.

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In addition to the above there are shorthorn cattle, pigs, chickens, a complete line of farm implements and machinery and household furniture.

These will all be sold by Auction on Friday, March 15, 1912, at my farm, four miles southwest of Carman, Man., at 1 o'clock sharp. These Clydesdales will be on view prior to day of sale at Carman. W. H. ELFORD, Carman, Man.

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