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A PRAIRIE WIFE

In the Canadian Collier's of a recent date was a description of a prairie wife, showing the conditions under which she lived and worked, and pleading for a recognition of Canada's debt to her in the development of the country. The fact that it has been widely reprinted in the Canadian press, reveals the consciousness of that debt, and the appreciation of her share in nation-building. It is hardly possible to exaggerate the limitations and difficulties of her life. Going from the East, where social privileges are many, and taking up her task amid the solitude of the prairies, she faces a life that no one can understand who has not experienced it. Prairie homes have seldom the advantages of the East, and they are frequently situated where no sight of life can be had from any side. And here the woman works and waits through the interminable hour of national development.

A man who was in Edmonton twice this summer states that upon both occasions he saw insane women being put on the train for the East. The prairie isolation had been too much, and at last, too late, they were being taken back to older Canada. In Calgary is a man who has had experience on this line. A few years ago he took up a quarter section, and lived on it. He was miles away from any other human being, and such was the sense of isolation that when within six weeks of the time when the homestead would be his by virtue of occupation, he fled the spot, fearing that he might secure the property at the cost of his intellect.

Fair warning should be given to the women of the East, whose conception of the West ends form in a golden picture of waving grain, framed in blue sky and varnished by sunshine. There are days when the picture holds true. There are wondrous and peculiar charms of the prairie. But there are features which ought to be known. There are days of loneliness and heart-break that can hardly be atoned for by any profit. Let all honor be given to the women who have gone and paid the price, but let those who are facing a decision be fairly warned of the other side of prairie life.—Ottawa Citizen.

U.S. PRICES NOW AND IN 1896

Comparative values of some of the principal farm crops, December, 1896, and December, 1911, are shown in the following tabulated statement:—

Articles.	1911.	1896.
Corn, bushel	\$0.69	\$0.23
Wheat, bushel	*1.00	*.60
Cotton, pound .....	.0936	.0730
Oats, bushel .....	.46½	.17½
Rye, bushel .....	.92½	.39
Barley, bushel	1.22½	.30
Hay, timothy, ton....	20.56	8.65
Hops, pound .....	.56	.14½
Potatoes, bushel ....	.84	.22
Flaxseed, bushel	1.94	.78
Extra steers	8.26	5.10
Hogs, heavy	6.31	3.22
Butter, dairy .....	.34½	.18½
Eggs, fresh .....	.47	.24¾

*September.

	Per Cent.
Corn advanced	200
Wheat advanced	67
Cotton advanced	28
Oats advanced	166
Rye advanced	137
Barley advanced	308
Hay advanced	138
Hops advanced	286
Potatoes advanced	282
Flaxseed advanced	149
Fat cattle advanced	62
Fat hogs advanced	96
Butter advanced	86
Eggs advanced	90

—Minneapolis Market Record.

REASON ENOUGH

A negro near Xenia, Ohio, had been arrested for chicken stealing. He had stolen so many that his crime had become grand larceny.

He was tried, convicted and brought in for sentence.

"Have you any reason to offer why the judgement of the court should not be passed upon you?" he was asked.

"Well judge," he replied, "I can't go to jail now, nohow, I'm buildin' a shack out yonder an' I jest can't go till I git it done. You-all kin sholy see dat."

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The coat has a sheepskin fly front, fastened with overshoe fasteners, and three leather-bound pockets with flaps. The collar is 7 inches high, and is made from beaverette sheepskin cut in the shawl style, which buttons well over the face.

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