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EDITORIAL.

The Western Outlook.

West of Lake Superior, Canada's prospects are bright for the greatest industrial and commercial year in her history. Like all other parts of the continent, spring weather was late in appearing, but when it did come it came in earnest, and the heavy snowbanks that were piled up in March caused many rivers and streams to reach the high-water mark, and low-lying lands were flooded. Seeding operations began quickly, however, as they always do on Canada's prairies, and little time elapsed until reports were coming from various districts that the seed was in the ground under very favorable conditions. Quickly as did spring weather arrive, the growth of plants even appeared to come quicker, until to-day everyone in Manitoba and Assiniboia is agreed that crops are farther advanced than at the same date one year ago. In Alberta, particularly its southern part, the prospects in this respect appear even more bright. With a late fall and a very mild winter came an early spring in the land over which the "Chinook" blows, and as early as March considerable seed found a resting place in the soil. In the same country, too, and further north, where fall wheat is grown, the reports of its having wintered well are most encouraging, and lend the assurance that this crop is to be a mainstay of the farmer in the immediate future.

All that will be required, therefore, for the production of another "bumper" crop is a reasonable amount of rainfall during the next five weeks, but the soil at present contains much more moisture than in an average season at this date.

The acreage of wheat and other cereals sown this year, as might be expected in a country so rapidly becoming populated, is a considerable increase over 1903. In Alberta, Assiniboia and Northern Manitoba the increase is quite noticeable, owing to the vast stretches of virgin prairie which were broken one year ago.

IMMIGRATION.

Train-load after train-load of immigrants continue to arrive almost daily, and the casual observer who visits the depots at Winnipeg, or perchance sees the travellers from the south by the "Soo line" at Moose Jaw, might conclude that soon the vacant lands would all be taken, but not so. The West is vast in its expanse of territory, as well as rich in its productiveness of soil.

Generally speaking, the class of new settlers who are arriving shows a high degree of intelligence. The American invasion continues, and from Old England the increase is very considerable. Scotland, too, sends her brawny boys, but the sons of Erin's Isle are sadly in the minority. From the continent of Europe large numbers continue to arrive, particularly from Galicia, Austria and Germany.

RAILWAY BUILDING.

In railway construction and improvement the year 1904 will be the greatest in the history of the West. The C. P. R. are extending the Kirkella branch into Last Mountain Valley, constructing a branch eastward from Wetaskiwin, Alta., and making very extensive improvements in their main line. The C. N. R. will make a great effort to reach Edmonton, via Prince Albert, to which town they are now nearing, before next winter, but it is doubtful if they will be able to accomplish it. One contractor has the grading, leveling and ironing of five hundred miles. In addition to this line, the C. N. R. will finish or con-

struct several shorter branches throughout Manitoba and extending into the Territories.

WINNIPEG'S DOMINION FAIR.

Any reference to the progress of events in the West would be incomplete at the present time without mention of the preparation which is being made for the Dominion of Canada Exhibition, which will be held in Winnipeg, July 25th to August 6th. The changes which have been already made in the buildings in Exhibition Park are such that those who have visited it in the past would fail to recognize it as the old show ground. Neither energy nor money is being spared in an effort to make the exhibition a gigantic success. The grounds have been enlarged, the old buildings moved or torn down and reconstructed, and many new structures are rising to accommodate the long list of exhibitors who have signified their intention of being present.

Seed-grain Growing.

Pure seed grain, free from weed seeds, and of highly-developed quality, is one of the needs of Canadian agriculture at the present time. A lamentable indifference still exists in many quarters on the subject. Many farmers who realize the need and the great advantage of using pure-bred live stock are very slow to be seized of the reality of the improvement that would result from the use of better seed grain properly produced under good cultivation. The grain plots of the Experimental Farms and the annual distribution of seed packages have been an object lesson and a stimulus in good grain-growing, especially along the line of improved varieties. Another move in that direction was instituted by the Agricultural Commissioner, Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, in the distribution of prizes for the growing of grain from specially selected seed. From this was evolved the idea of a Canadian Seed-growers' Association, and the growing of what might be styled pedigree seed. A "Seed Division" was also inaugurated in connection with the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, presided over by a practical enthusiast on that subject, Mr. G. H. Clark, whose work at the seed fairs, and in the clover and grass seed investigations, has been most commendable. Hon. Mr. Fisher, the Minister of Agriculture, has reintroduced his bill governing the sale of seeds, at the present session of the Canadian Parliament. As a still further step in extending the work of seed-growing, Dr. Robertson has now decided to call a meeting of a number of leaders in agriculture from different parts of the Dominion at Ottawa, to consider the constitution for a Seed-growers' Association, and perfect plans for carrying on its work in such a way as to be productive of the most practical and immediate good to the cause of Canadian farming. From its initial issue, some forty years ago, the "Farmer's Advocate" has steadily practiced the gospel of good cultivation, constant fertilizing, and the use of new and improved varieties of grain, not a few of which it was, in days gone by, the means of introducing, and it therefore cordially commends the objects of the gathering, which is to be held in the Imperial Building, Queen Street, Ottawa, on June 15th and 16th. In addition to the subjects above outlined, the meeting would do well to give some attention to checking the endless advent of alleged new varieties of plants of various kinds, for which fabulous claims are made by those who are exploiting them at fancy prices, but the growing of which, in nine times out of ten, results in disappointment and waste of money.

Sugar Consumed in Canada.

In your last issue I briefly discussed the comparative merits of cane sugar and beet sugar. In this article I wish to present a few facts concerning the amounts of these two sugars consumed in Canada.

In reply to a letter addressed to the Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa, asking for information regarding the quantity and value of sugar imported into Canada, the following statement was received: The quantity and value of sugar imported for consumption into Canada during the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1903, was as follows:

Article.	Country.	Lbs.	Value.
SUGAR, above No. 16 D. S. in color, and all refined sugars of whatever kinds, grades or standards.	G. Britain	4,097,077	\$ 75,659
	B. Guiana	100,487	1,856
	B. W. Indies	99,285	1,900
	Hong Kong	725,766	17,825
	Austria-Hungary	2,051,757	44,220
	Belgium	280,290	6,842
	China	11,798	266
	Germany	13,286,874	456,528
	Holland	1,740,362	36,046
	Japan	213	4
	Norway & S.	290	8
	Porto Rico	1,173	29
	United States	4,277,215	128,299
Total		26,672,038	\$768,912

Article.	Country.	Lbs.	Value.
SUGAR, N. E. S., not above No. 16 D. S. in color, sugar drain- ings, or pump- ings drained in transit, melado or concentrated melado, tank bottoms and sugar concrete.	B. E. Indies	2,797,200	\$ 59,740
	B. Guiana	28,981,753	588,809
	B. W. Indies	69,661,881	1,092,716
	Fiji Islands	2,097,900	45,718
	Hong Kong	11,292	201
	Belgium	38,868,725	592,908
	China	8,776	81
	Danish W. Indies	600	12
	Dutch E. Indies	25,718,375	493,425
	France	19,418,319	305,689
	Germany	173,946,097	2,985,716
	Peru	4,684,671	80,808
	Porto Rico	1,945	56
	United States	508,265	11,597
Total		361,698,799	\$6,150,926

If we add to these totals the fifteen million pounds of home-manufactured sugar on which the Ontario Government paid bounty, we have a total of 403,370,832 pounds of sugar imported and manufactured from June, 1902, to June, 1903, or a little over 70 pounds for every man, woman and child in Canada.

Of the total amount of sugar imported that year, only 26,672,038 was refined. Assuming that all the refined sugar brought from European countries was made from beets, only 20 per cent. of this total was cane sugar. If we include that received from the United States as beet sugar, less than five per cent. was cane sugar.

In the case of the unrefined sugars, a little over 62 per cent. was imported from the beet-sugar producing countries of Belgium, France, and Germany. A comparatively small amount was got from the United States, and that would undoubtedly be cane sugar. Germany alone supplies us with just about one-half of our refined and unrefined sugar.

From these figures it is evident that NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE SUGAR USED IN CANADA IS MADE FROM BEETS. As the sugar from beets and cane are chemically the same, and, when properly refined, hardly distinguishable, even by experts, it must follow that the ordinary person does not know the source of the sugar being used, and that any prejudice there may exist against beet sugar is not warranted.

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