can be easily designated in any account. An accurate survey should be made of each field at some slack time and the length, width and area of each should be plainly marked on the map. Seeder measurements and other rough calculations may result in a very wrong conclusion. All things considered January 1 or February 1 is the best date to open accounts and commence the business year on a Western Canadian farm. In the system outlined only three records are necessary: 1—An inventory of all assets and liabilities at the beginning and the end of each business year. 2—a financial record. This is a record of all money paid out and of all money received, showing the department of the farm affected. 3—The work record. This contains a record of all the time, men, horses and equipment work on each branch or department of the farm.

The inventory is simply a detailed list showing the value of all the land, buildings, machinery and equipment, horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, feed, seed grain or other produce, standing crops, summer-fallow, fall cultivation, payments made in advance, bills and accounts receivable, cash in the bank and on hand and, in some cases, house furnishings. From the total value of these is subtracted the value of all mortgages, bills and accounts which the farmer owes, the difference representing the net worth of the business at the beginning of the year.

The financial record should show all the money expended on and all the money received from each department of the farm, thus an account will be opened on a separate page of the record book for each of the following: Land, buildings, equipment, tractor, horses, each class of other livestock, feed and seed, each crop grown, summer fallow, fall cultivation for next spring's crop, labor, interest, bills and accounts payable, bills and accounts receivable, persons with whom you are running large credit accounts and personal.

The work record is a book that should be ruled to provide for the name, particulars of work, the hours worked by men, the hours worked by horse, and in addition, if a tractor is used, the hours used by tractor. The work record does not show any money values. All entries are recorded in terms of time (hours and minutes) not in terms of money. An important point made by the bulletin in regard to the work record is that labor is one of the largest factors in the cost of production on Western farms, and is the last factor the value of which we can afford to assume. Therefore, any system of farm cost accounting which advises an arbitrary valuation for labor of men or horses is inaccurate and not worth the time required to keep it. A great deal of detailed information is contained in the bulletin covering every possible phase of farm bookkeeping.

The appendix contains o complete copy of a sample financial record, tables for calculating the quantities of feed and seed in the stack and bin, and efficiency factors calculated from the complete accounts. This bulletin is a valuable addition to the literature available on this important phase of the farmers' business. Every farmer should obtain a copy and, after studying it carefully, should put some at least of the principles outlined into practice on his own farm. Copies can be obtained from Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

DIVIDENDS EARNED TWICE

The Lake of the Woods Milling Company, submitted a very satisfactory statement at the shareholders' annual meeting held in Montreal on October 4. Profits for the year ended August 31, amounted to $525,141, the best showing made by the company since 1913. After allowing for the usual $99,000 bond interest, the company in the past year had a net balance of $426,141 available for dividends. This represented earnings at the rate of 28.4 per cent. on its preferred shares, and subsequent balance $321,141 represented 15.3 per cent. on common shares. Eight per cent. dividend was, therefore, within little of being earned twice over.

From remaining surplus the company followed its procedure of recent years in writing off $50,000 from plant and $50,000 from goodwill account. The net surplus for the year remaining was $53,141, bringing the total surplus to $969,135. Against that surplus the company charged up $100,000 as provision for two years' war tax to Aug. 31, 1916.