

Seed Fairs

Proposed list of Dates for the Alberta Seed Fairs.

Irvine	January	14th
Taber	"	15th
Lethbridge	"	16th
Raymond	"	18th
Magrath	"	19th
Cardston	"	21st
Macleod	"	23rd
Nanton	"	25th
Gleichen	"	26th
Didsbury	"	27th

Increase in Acreage

The outlook for a big increase in crop acreage in Western Canada is very cheering. The area prepared in Manitoba alone in the fall of 1907 for the past crop season was 1,843,016 acres. The area prepared this fall for next year is 2,273,808. This is a big increase for this province, especially when it is considered that Alberta and Saskatchewan are being cultivated now at a fast proportionate pace than Manitoba. With an increase of 829,786 acres in Manitoba fall ploughing, it is safe to say that the crop of 1909 will cover about 1,500,000 acres more than in 1908. The fall was very favorable for breaking land, and the farmers took advantage of it. When most of the ploughing is done in the fall, seeding can begin earlier in the spring if weather is suitable.

Business Is Improving

The financial returns from the United States show a constantly improving condition of trade, but indicate that the results of the

recent depression have not yet fully passed. During the month of November there were 1,120 commercial failures in the United States as against 1,180 the corresponding month of 1907. But it is gratifying to notice that the liabilities involved were only \$12,000,000 as against nearly \$18,000,000 in the previous year. A better indication still is given by the bank failures of which there have only been 10 so far this year, involving \$869,000 against 80 last year, involving over \$9,000,000. The same relative condition of things runs through all branches of commercial business, and even the most conservative financier is not now afraid to give expression to the opinion that good times are actually close ahead.

The most hopeful sign is the rapidity with which idle machinery is being put into action, and the reports from all over the continent of the thousands of wage earners returning to work in factories and mills that had been partially or wholly closed for more than a year. The recent depression as it has not been without its benefits, for evidences show that in all branches of industry and commerce the liabilities have been greatly reduced, and men are able to resume active operations with their balance sheets very much cleaned up. It is too much to expect that this state of things will be permanently maintained, but with normal caution it should last a considerable time, and should insure an era of sound and prosperity.

To Canada the state of financial barometer depends chiefly on the banks. It was the banks as much as it was any one other single influence that brought on the recent crisis. They over-lent just as readily as their customers over-borrowed, and when the resultant trouble came they looked wise and preached us sermons on moderation and economy. Now that the effects of their own indiscretion are being overcome, it is the duty of the banks to see that they do not permit another of illegitimate speculation.

Keep a Diary

A diary need not be a dreary chronicle of one daily movements, it should aim at giving a prominent account of some particular event or episode, a walk, a book read, a conversation. It is a practice that brings its own reward in many ways. It is delightful to look over old diaries to see how one was occupied, say, ten years ago, what one was reading, the people one was meeting, ones earlier point of view. And then it develops style, the subjects are ready at hand, and one may learn by diarying, the art of simple, sincere and frank expression.

The Canadian Route Wins

Canadian Courier: Canadians will rejoice that the Canadian Pacific railway has won its second trade race from Yokohama to Liverpool. There are two ways by which goods may pass between these two ports. In the one case, goods may be sent by Japanese steamships and the United States railway; in the other case, the goods may be sent by Canadian Pacific steamships and the Canadian Pacific railway. A few days ago a valuable consignment of silk was sent from Yokohama to New York by the Japanese steamers and two days later an equally valuable cargo of silk was shipped on one of the Canadian Pacific Railway empresses, also looked for New York. Although two days later in starting, the consignment sent by the Canadian Pacific reached New York twelve hours ahead of the other.

Poultry Meetings

The following is a partial list of the poultry meetings which will be held in the Province of Alberta during the winter months of 1909, in accordance with the educational program mapped out by the Department of Agriculture. As in the case of the dairy meetings, there will be two delegations touring the province, and the speakers are the best experts on the poultry business than can be secured.

The schedule of dates is as follows: Speakers—T. O. Lachance and E. J. Cook, of Lethbridge.

January 11, Irvine; 12, Medicine Hat; 13, Burdette; 14, Taber; 15, Lethbridge; 16, Stirling.

January 18, Warner; 19, Raymond; 20, Magrath; 21, Cardston; 22, Mountain View; 23, Caldwell.

January 25, Kimball; 26, Macleod; 27, Granum; 28, Claresholm; 29, Stavely; 30, Nanton.

February 1, Cayley; 2, High River; 3, Okotoks; 4, Calgary; 5, Cochrane; 6, Langdon.

February 8, Strathmore; 9, Gleichen.

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SYNOPSIS OF Coal Mining Regulations

Coal mining rights of the Dominion, in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Yukon Territory, the North-West Territory and British Columbia, may be leased for a term of twenty-one years at an annual rental of \$1 an acre, not more than 2,560 acres will be leased to one applicant.

Application for a lease must be made to the Agent or Sub-Agent of the district in which the rights applied for are situated.

In surveyed territory the land must be described by sections, or legal sub-divisions of sections, and in unsurveyed territory the tract applied for shall be staked out.

Each application must be accompanied by a fee of \$5, which will be refunded if the rights applied for are not available but not otherwise. A royalty shall be paid on the merchantable output of the mine at the rate of five cents per ton.

Every lessee of coal mining rights which are not being operated shall furnish the district agent of Dominion Lands with a sworn statement to that effect at least once in each year.

The lease will include the coal mining rights only, but the lessee may be permitted to purchase whatever available surface rights may be considered necessary for the working of the mine at the rate of \$10 an acre.

For full information application should be made to the Secretary of the Department of Interior, Ottawa, or to any Agent or Sub-Agent of Dominion Lands.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.

Municipal Directory, '09

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Council—H. Stappone, W. A. Burton, J. C. Cahoon, M. A. Coombs, Thos. Duce, J. Hunt,
Secretary-Treasurer—Martin Woolf St.
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