

fine up to \$5,000, or imprisonment for five years. All Canadian creditors must file their claims with the public custodian within six months of April 14th. Canadians who may have German claims against them must, if they admit the debt, pay the amount to the custodian within three months of the date of the Order-in-Council. If a Canadian debtor disputes a claim he must within a month of notification submit documentary evidence for disputing the claim.

Interest on debts is calculated at five per cent. dating from August 4th, 1914, till date of final payment.

By agreement with any of the allied or associated powers, the provisions of the order may be made applicable to debts owing to, or by their nationals resident in Canada.

By part two of the order the custodian shall take over all German assets in Canada, including all property, rights and interests belonging to enemies before January 10th last. Corporations must notify the custodian within three months of all shares, stocks, debentures, or other obligations held for or by enemies. All such assets will be credited to Germany through the clearing office.

### NORTHERN ALBERTA IS VERY BACKWARD

Sowing Commenced in Few Localities—Acreage Will Probably be Decreased—Business Not Affected Seriously—Boards of Trade to Meet in Calgary

(Special to *The Monetary Times*.)

Calgary, April 22nd, 1920.

SEEDING has started in Alberta in a few localities, but up to this date conditions are very backward, and seeding will be not at all general under the most favorable circumstances until May 1st and after. Northern Alberta is considerably more backward than the southern part of the province. There is ample moisture in the ground to insure the seed getting a good start when warm weather comes. The acreage will in all probability be considerably decreased.

No one is feeling at all pessimistic in Alberta. Business men in Calgary are well satisfied at the outlook. Business in retail and wholesale lines is better than in any past spring season. The manager of one large implement firm in Calgary told *The Monetary Times* that their sales this spring were considerably in advance of any past year, and that their cash receipts showed a marked increase.

The loss of live stock in Alberta has been a serious matter for many farmers on account of the greatly prolonged winter and heavy snow and the shortage of feed. However, the losses, when compared with the number of head of cattle in the province, is comparatively small. The census in December gives the number of head as 1,691,582. The government is doing all possible to provide relief.

#### Boards of Trade Conference

An important conference of western Boards of Trade is to be held in Calgary on May 18th, 19th and 20th, when many matters of importance will be discussed, among them the following: Policy of railway development in Western Canada; colonization; development of pulp industry; iron developments; the National Highway; development of inter-provincial trade; development of foreign trade, via Pacific routes; Canadian deep waterways.

Conditions in Medicine Hat were found in a healthy condition. All of the large plants there are working to full capacity.

The Alberta Foundry and Machine Co., Ltd., who, during the past several months, have been making extensive additions to their plant in the way of tools and equipment, and have undertaken the manufacture of the "Canadian tractor," recently delivered the first machine of this kind made in Western Canada. The demand for the tractor is already exceeding the supply. With the exception of mechanical oiler, magneto, carburetor and radiator, all of which are patented, the tractor is entirely manufactured here, which

marks a new epoch in the kerosene tractor industry, this being the only firm actually making the tractor west of the Great Lakes. They expect by the end of the year to be turning out ten tractors daily. The plant now represents an outlay of one quarter of a million dollars.

### SEEDING IN WEST WILL BEGIN WITH RUSH

Backward Spring Will Mean Quick Work for Farmers—Livestock Situation in West is Serious—Spring Outlook Favorable

Moose Jaw, April 17th, 1920.

THE backward spring season in western Canada is over at last, as the weather is bright and warm in this district at the time of writing. Seeding should be general by the end of April, and no apprehension need be felt as to getting the crop sown. There will, probably, be some decrease in acreage, but considering land that was blown out the previous year and was under summer fallow last year there may not be much difference.

A serious aspect of the situation is the large loss of livestock. A government representative buying hay informed *The Monetary Times* that a conservative estimate would place the loss at 100,000 head of cattle and horses lying dead in the fields in Alberta alone at the present time. Usually, he said, when the farmers turned their stock loose in the fall they would find them in the spring quite fat, but this winter being so long and severe has entailed great loss and hardship to the stock. The governments are doing everything possible to rush relief to the area without feed, but in many cases it is too late. This week hay was reported selling in Edmonton for \$70 a ton.

The spring outlook is now looked on as favorable, and old timers predict a good crop in western Canada. Business in Moose Jaw and district is good and there seems to be plenty of money in this important railway and distributing centre.

#### Losses Probably Exaggerated

The Calgary Board of Trade is more moderate in its estimate of the loss of livestock. In a statement just issued it points out that most reports about losses sustained or gains made in Alberta are exaggerated, or at any rate random estimates, and no doubt the statement about the number of cattle shot is no exception. It must be kept in mind that there has been quite a serious shortage of feed in the province this year, due not only to a backward growing season in 1919, but also to the prolonged snow season, which has exceeded anything experienced since settlement was developed here. Statement says:—

"The livestock situation of Alberta at the end of December last year gave the number of cattle in the province at that time as 1,691,582 head. The loss of 7,000 head, while serious for those actually sustaining the loss, is such a small percentage of the total holdings as to be scarcely worth notice. We would be inclined to place the percentage of loss on cattle in Alberta during this past season considerably higher, and would still feel that no serious concern need be felt for the future of the industry."

The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture issued its first report on 1920 crop conditions on April 19. Seeding operations, it says, will be considerably delayed owing to the late spring opening and general fall of snow experienced around the 15th instant. In many places, especially in the north, snow is still lying on the level to a considerable depth. With good weather from now on, seeding operations should be general in about ten to fifteen days. From the reports received there appears to be a sufficiency of seed grain throughout the province, but the feed question is causing some anxiety and will be a big factor in determining the prospective acreage. Estimates given on the acreage to be sown to wheat show that a decrease of from twenty to twenty-five per cent. is likely; weather conditions will, however, affect this to some extent.