

Correspondence

December 10, 1909.

The Alberta Star,
Cardston, Alta.

Mr. Editor:—

If you will kindly grant me a little space in your valuable paper I should like to present the view of a non-resident regarding a resolution passed by the Alberta Local Improvement District Association, recently in session at Strathcona, viz:

"Resolved that this convention of Local Improvement Districts recommend that arrangements be made whereby a surtax of not less than two cents per acre can be charged on all lands held by non-residents or speculators, such surtax to be used for road improvements."

I hold that such a tax in addition to the present high tax on unimproved land in Alberta is unjust and confiscatory and will work a detriment to Alberta instead of a benefit. I am a non-resident and own 1600 acres in Townships 43-19 and 43-20 and pay from 13 to 15 cents per acre taxes, and since the C. N. R. have assured us of a line through here I have started to break some of my land this year and will continue to improve the balance as fast as money and men can do it, and as a non-resident I will probably spend more money and develop it faster than would many local residents who might succeed in becoming owners of my land through a forced sale because of a confiscatory tax law.

Every improved acre is of equal value to Alberta whether improved by a local resident or a non-resident, and every resident farmer in Alberta is more or less of a speculator as much as non-resident by owning and holding acreage not actually under cultivation.

Every non-resident owning land in Alberta is worth more to your country than he is ever given credit for, because he is an everlasting "booster" for Alberta and thereby assists materially in getting actual settlers for your country, which you need.

Under the present system of taxing land in Alberta the non-resident already pays much more taxes per valuation of property than the local farmer by the latter being exempt on all stock and buildings. If a surtax is levied on land owned by non-residents it should at least be limited to only those non-residents and speculators who do not improve their holdings, and the minimum improvements required should be to cultivate not less than one-tenth or one-eighth of their holdings, although I am firmly of the opinion that such a tax requirement which will force away from you outsiders who are interested in your country will work a much greater harm to you than the tax can benefit you.

Thanking you I remain,
Yours truly,
Dr. F. N. Oium,
192 Main Street,
Oshkosh,
Wisconsin.

Interesting Number

Among the many interesting features of the January number of the Western Home Monthly, Winnipeg, is a two column New Years' Greeting to the Canadian West from Lord Strathcona. The message, which takes a most optimistic view of the future, contains much sound advice and encouragement. His Lordship's long experience and great interest in all matters affecting the Dominion make him the pre-eminent authority on the Canada of to-day and its possibilities for the future. His recent visit to the West afforded him the delight of seeing many of his former hopes and ambitions crystallized, and following closely upon this visit, the article is of intense interest throughout.

Our Export Market In Barley

The attention of the progressive farmer today is not centered entirely on the producing end of his business; the marketing of the produce is also being studied. He is on the look-out for new markets and is alive to the advantage of studying them and finding out their wants. The development of our export market in barley has however been overlooked. As yet we have not familiarized ourselves with it and learned just what it wants. We knew we had a very small foreign trade in barley, but we have never stopped to figure out why. The reason is not far to seek. We grow six-rowed type of barley, the only foreign demand for which is for feeding purposes—hence our small export business and generally low prices. The British malster will not use a six-rowed barley for malting, but is willing and anxious to take all the good sound two-rowed barley we can grow at prices which put Red Fife in the shade as a money maker. It must however, be right as to color and quality, both of which are not hard to get in Western Canada, with her almost virgin soil and favorable climate. Barley of this sort will bring on the British market from 75 cents \$1.00 a bushel while the freight in carload and cargo lots from Winnipeg to Liverpool varies from 7 cents to 20 cents, but generally averages about 14 cents per bushel. From these figures it will be seen that there is a splendid market awaiting us.

That two-rowed malting barley can be grown successfully here when suitable varieties are used, is proved conclusively by the results obtained during the past season. R. H. Carter of Fort. Qu'Appelle had a yield of 72 bushels per acre from the new variety, The Brewer, while with the same barley John Howden of Qu'Appelle had 65 measured bushels per acre weighing 57 pounds per measured bushel bringing his yield to over 77 bushels by standard weight per acre. N. Garden, of Wolsely had a yield of over 50, as also had A. E. Wilson, Indian Head, while Jas. Arnot, Bradwardine, Man. had 92. As far as can be learned in no case has The Brewer given less than 50 this season, and unlike many of the ordinary barley the straw of this variety is exceptionally strong, long, and easy to harvest while in the point of maturity it compares very favorably with the six-rowed types.

The climate and soil of Western Canada is admirably suited to the production of large yields of bright barley and should the color in certain cases not be right, there is always a market for it as feed for which The Brewer, on account of its remarkably thin hull is well adapted. The development of our export market hinges much in the way of higher prices and should be looked into. Our business is not only to produce a certain crop, but to find a market for it and to dispose of it at a profit. We can and do grow some splendid barley but we have only half done business, we have not yet found a profitable market for it.

It was in Texas that a customer of a large mail order house in Chicago went against a banking regulation that jolted him considerably. He went to the bank to cash a check for nine cents the "left-over" on a purchase. That bank had an ironclad, steel riveted rule to exact ten cents exchange on all checks on banks outside of the State. The cashier scanned the check, caught, glanced fiercely at the customer, and remarked:

"One cent, please!"
"What?" ejaculated the victim.
"You owe us a cent. Dig up?"
The customer produced the coin and placed one foot on the other impatiently.

"What are you waiting for?" inquired the cashier.
"My money on that check," said the victim.

With a weary smile the cashier explained the situation and the customer departed with a very poor opinion of mail order houses.

Canada's Share of The World's Trade

Canada is rapidly assuming an important role in the conduct of the world's commerce. It has the distinction of being one of the younger countries which invariably recover their strenuous commercial stride after a period of trade depression. The immense acreage of virgin soil and the extent of its natural resources result in a better return to capital and labor. The recovery from economic disturbances is therefore rapid and trade is consequently and pleasingly effected.

These points are cited by the Monetary Times which paper proceeds to illustrate them by statistics of the total foreign trade of various nations during 1909. For the five months ended August last Canada's foreign trade increased by \$86,000,000, or 15.59 per cent. In the six months ended June last Argentina increased 10.82 per cent; Australia 1.60 per cent; Germany 2.96 per cent; Belgium in the eight months ended with August increased 6.81 per cent; and France by 6.56 per cent. The United Kingdom for the nine months ended September showed an increase of 0.75 per cent; and the United States in the like period 9.86 per cent.

Thus in five months last year Canada had a greater increase in foreign trade than any of the other countries named. The Dominion's percentage of increase is larger than that of Argentina, Australia, and the United States whose figures are for a six months' period in the first two cases and nine months' in the last.

An Unjust Sneer

In railway construction Canada has beaten the world. In canal construction she is second to none comparatively. The incalculable promise of her agriculture is due in part to nature but due in part also to the Canadian brains by which the natural possibilities have been handled and promoted. Canada has "made good" in every big aspect of her efforts so far. Why are we going to fall down in the next one? What perplexing and uncanny mystery can there be in naval effort that it must make fools of people who have hitherto been strikingly the other way? Why is any Canadian voice whether man or newspaper, justified in using as a factor in this discussion the sneer that all that Canada can do in the way of naval construction and development is to do something silly, although Canada has never been silly in anything else? —Ottawa Journal.



Tenders For Indian Supplies

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tenders for Indian Supplies," will be received at this Department up to noon on Friday, 14th January, 1910, for the delivery of Indian supplies during the fiscal year ending the 31st March, 1911, duty paid, at various points in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Forms of tender containing full particulars may be had by applying to the undersigned. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

J. D. McLEAN,
Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

W. S. Johnston

Barrister, Solicitor, Notary
Card Block, Cardston
Agent and Solicitor for The Canadian Birkbeck Investment and Savings Co.

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Tickets on sale December 16,
17, 18, 1909; January 21, 22, 23
and 24; February the 15, 16, 17
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months

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