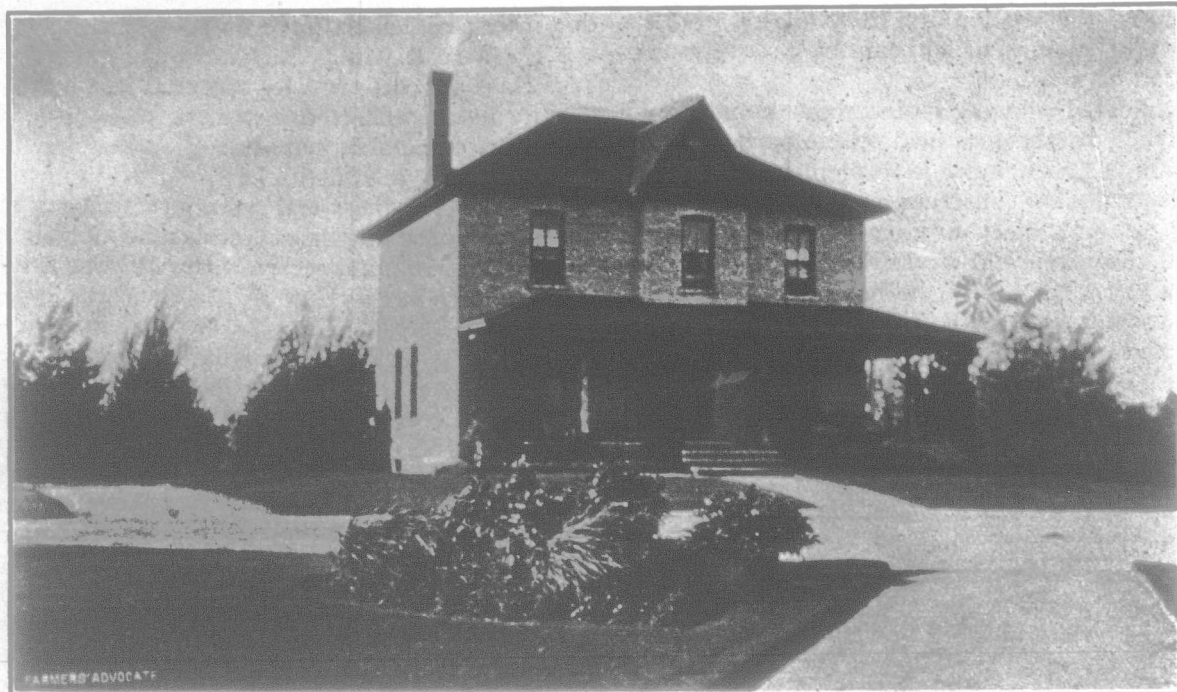




HANDSOME RESIDENCE OF SUPERINTENDENT ROSS OF THE FORESTRY FARM, INDIAN HEAD
Four years ago this site was bald prairie. Now the place is attractive with trees, shrubs, flowers, lawns and well kept walks.

FIELD NOTES

Good Farms at St. Pierre

Awards were made last week in the good farming competition held under the auspices of Carillon Agricultural Society by J. J. Ring, S. R. Henderson and J. C. Cooper. The winners with scores out of a possible 1,000 were: Albert Prefontaine, M. L. A., 758; E. H. Cooke, 746; Chas. Dandenault, 730; Felix Pélouquin, 716; Chas. Desjardines, 706; Rennie Gosselin, 670.

Geo. H. Clark in the West

The chief of the Dominion Seed Branch, Geo. H. Clark, B.S.A., is in the West investigating the seed trade and ascertaining what changes are advisable in connection with the work of his department. He is consulting the representatives in the prairie provinces and getting more closely acquainted with seed conditions in general. He expresses thorough satisfaction with conditions now prevailing, but always is willing to adopt changes that promise improvement.

Inspecting Grain Fields

On Friday last twenty-one inspectors met at Indian Head, where they were drilled in preparation for their work as judges in the fields of standing grain competition in Saskatchewan. The judges scored several fields of crop on the experimental farm and a fair degree of uniformity was reached. F. H. Reed, representative of the Dominion Seed Branch, was in charge.

This week the judges are busy making awards in the various districts in which this work is taken up. The entries are large and keen competition is assured.

Grain Growers' New Officers

Last week the executive of the Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba accepted the resignations of D. W. McCuaig, as president, and J. G. H. Malcolm, M. P. P., as director of that organization. Mr. McCuaig, who has been president for six years, was recently made chairman of the government elevator commission and finds that he has not time to spare for the duties of the other office. R. C. Henders, of Culross, who has been vice-president, is promoted to the presidency.

Mr. Malcolm's resignation is due to the fact that he considers a member of the legislature should not hold office on the association executive. R. Burdett, of Foxwarren, succeeds him as representative for that district.

Death of William Rennie

Canada lost one of her most progressive agriculturists last week in the death of Wm. Rennie. Mr. Rennie was born in Ontario in 1835, and until 1899 operated his farm in Scarboro township, York county, Ontario, which is known still as the gold medal farm of the province. He was best known to the farmers of Canada as the head of one of the leading seed farms of the Dominion, but his reputation as an agriculturist rests on what he did on his own farm and his success in the management of the Ontario Agricultural College Farm at

Guelph, of which he was superintendent for a number of years. Perhaps he will be best remembered by his practical book, entitled "Successful Farming," which is one of the standard works on agriculture in the Dominion.

Corner Stone Laid

On Friday of last week Sir Wilfrid Laurier officiated at the laying of the cornerstone of Saskatchewan's big university at Saskatoon. Premier Scott also gave a talk on the advantages of education and the opportunities that lay before those in charge of the new institution. A list of weeds and wild plants of the province, totalling over 150, was placed under the cornerstone.

Crop Prospects in Britain

(OUR ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE.)

While the crop prospects of all the spring wheat regions of the Northwest seem to be unusually poor this year, and torrential rains have done great damage in France and Germany, the British prospects are good on the whole. The London Times has always a reliable estimate, and its July report has just been issued. We have had a late spring with much cold weather, and there are some complaints of thinness and patchy spots in wheat. The wheat figures for this year compare favorably with those of the past decade. The condition of wheat on July 1st was 92.1, against 95.8 last year, and 87.9 two seasons ago. In Scotland the condition is 95.5. Last year barley was exceptionally promising at this time, but this year is fractionally better at 92.6. Oats were not looking well a year ago, now the figures are much higher at 90.8.

The prospects for roots of all kinds are good—though it is early yet for definite opinions. Potatoes seem excellent in all sections of the country, and stand at 95.0. Grass has grown with remarkable strength, and the hay crop is heavy—though much of it has been damaged by excessive rain since cutting.

The Board of Agriculture crop report is also exceptionally favorable, except for such fruits as apples, plums and pears. Orchards have suffered serious frost damage. The report takes 100 as indicating an average yield. The condition of wheat and barley are both given as 101, oats 100, potatoes 104, hay 106, and hops 107.

A Spanish investigator claims to have discovered a system by which the yield of wheat can be largely increased. He states that the present method of sowing broadcast and trusting to natural rain is wasteful. An estate near Seville was well plowed, treated with phosphates and alkalies, and then drilled with single picked grains two inches apart. When the wheat showed above ground it was sprayed daily with water, to which mineral salts had been added. The crop produced was about five times as much as the average crop produced in England, and nearly six times as much as the French crop. As the English wheat averages about thirty bushels to the acre this would mean about 150 bushels an acre. This is a large yield, but no figures are given as to the cost of production. In Spain, with low-priced labor, it might be done profitably. The writer remembers a grain watering outfit on a large scale in the West some years ago, under Sir John Lister Kay's scheme, but nothing permanent came of the experiment.

SUGAR HIGH IN PRICE.

The continued high price of sugar is causing considerable interest to be taken in the possibility of beet growing in England. S. Stein, a German expert, now resident in England, strongly advocates the growing of sugar beets by English farmers. He

claims that large areas of land are suitable for its cultivation, and that beets will yield a profit of £6 per acre. There have been previous attempts to establish the beet sugar industry here, and these have failed, largely, it is said, through over-capitalization. Mr. Stein suggests a capital of £70,000 to deal with the supply of beets from 2,000 acres. This should be applied as follows: Site and building, £15,000; machinery and plant, £35,000; working capital £20,000. Such a factory should deal with 30,000 tons of beets in 100 days. The suggestion is made that during the balance of the year such a factory, if equipped with supplementary plant, could be utilized for jam boiling, or the making of cattle foods, or manures, and thus provide all the year round employment.

The German expert has apprehension about the industry in only one direction. He believes that the grant of a subsidy or the imposition of an import duty against foreign sugar would be fatal. In such an event he declares that continental countries would renounce the Brussels convention, and re-establish bounties, which would cripple and destroy the British industry. Mr. Stein evidently does not see eye-to-eye with our tariff reformers—his position is that of the present government.

The Chambers of Agriculture are also of the opinion that since the abolition of bounties by foreign nations that beet sugar can be profitably produced in England. Experiments have shown that we can produce sugar beets of higher quality than continental growers. In discussing the question it was agreed that it would be a mistake to ask the government for any tariff aid—such aid is not necessary. A central advisory committee has been formed.

PRICES OF COMMODITIES.

Though complaints are everywhere rife at the increase of late in the cost of living, the present prices of leading commodities indicate a pause in the upward movement, and even a decided lowering of prices in some cases. The much talked-of rise in prices of meat did not last long because retailers were too grasping, and put up prices unnecessarily high and checked demand. Still, fat cattle and sheep are bringing remunerative prices to farmers, and consumers are again paying reasonable amounts for meat.

Bread is much cheaper than a year ago, owing to wheat being but 29s. per quarter against 42s. last year. Barley is decidedly lower at 18s. 9d. against 21s. 6d., and oats show the same tendency, being 17s. 6d. against 21s. 6d. Hay at 70s. to 80s. per ton is dearer than last year, and amongst feeding stuffs Indian corn is slightly higher.

Sugar consumers have to pay much more—sugar is now 14s. 7d. per cwt. against 10s. 5d. a year ago. This price is largely responsible for the home-grown beet sugar agitation. Tea and coffee are at about the same figures as a year ago.

PAYING HER DEBTS.

According to the Chancellor of the Exchequer the "old country" is still the soundest of all investments, and of five great nations laboring in financial distress a year ago, Britain is the only one to emerge without a deficit. She is paying her debts out of current revenue.

The Chancellor believes that the outlook is distinctly brighter. The world's crop this year promises to be abundant.

There are to be no changes in national taxation of any description this year, and the budget has been called a "humdrum affair." All of last year's fiercely-fought taxes are accepted with little demur.

The income and wealth of this country are increasing at the rate of about 2 per cent. per annum. Next year the government proposes to introduce a scheme of insurance for workmen engaged in precarious employments on a contributory basis, with a liberal state subsidy. Unemployment and invalidity of workmen is also to be dealt with.

That Lloyd George's optimism is well founded is shown by the healthy condition of British trade for the first half of the year. The imports were of the value of £334,452,818 or £32,805,148 more than for the same period last year. Exports were £204,585,723, an increase of £27,651,373. The year 1907 holds the record for foreign trade, but the first half of the present year is well ahead of the same period during the phenomenal year.

BOOK ON RURAL LIFE.

Sir Horace Plunkett, one of our best authorities on agriculture, who was at the head of the Irish Agricultural Department for some years, has a new book on rural life problems in the United States, and some of his observations are of interest to Canadian farmers.

"The town population," he says, "is seriously outgrowing the rural population of America, for while the towns are growing hugely the country stands still." The town dominates the country largely owing to the organized force of the towns, and the unorganized indifference of the rural districts. Sir Horace claims that this is largely owing to the competitive system, and suggests that to make country life attractive co-operation must be substituted for competition. He also says that co-operation in Ireland has led to "better farming, better business and better living." America has been growing rich by living on her capital of coal and iron, and by draining the country of healthy immigrants. And may one add America has also been living in addition on her capital of fertility and her forest wealth, and Canada has also depleted some of her resources in a similar manner.

F. DEWHIRST.