

CAMPBELL'S SOIL CULTURE PRIMER

The Conservation of Moisture

This book is a plain and practical discussion of the relations of plants to the soil and the principles of growth, the laws governing the movement of water in the soil and its evaporation from the surface, and the principles of the conservation of soil moisture by cultivation, together with a full description of the practice of scientific soil culture known as "Campbell's system" for the use of students and practical farmers everywhere, but especially in the semi-arid regions of the world. In order to farm in the western prairie provinces intelligently, it is necessary for farmers to understand the underlying physical principles which govern the movement of the soil moisture. No system of cultivation can increase the amount of moisture which the soil contains, but, by understanding the laws governing the movement of water thru the soil, methods of soil tillage can be followed which will reduce the amount of moisture lost to a minimum, thus practically ensuring a good crop each year. This book is written by Hardy W. Campbell, himself a practical farmer, and contains facts which every farmer in Western Canada can use to advantage in increasing his crop yields. It deals with plants and their structure, soil moisture, objects of cultivation, packing and packers, cultivation, the soil mulch, storage and conservation of moisture, physical condition of the soil, the disc harrow, saving water by cultivation, corn, wheat, irrigation, crop rotation, and necessary farm tools. This is a book which no up-to-date farmer can afford to be without. Sent postpaid to any address in Canada. Price **50c**

Book Dept., Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

Our Ottawa Letter

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of the minister of finance in September last of increasing the note circulation of the Dominion in order to advance \$10,000,000 to the C.N.R. and \$16,000,000 to the G.T.P. Mr. White said that the government had been compelled to do this because the banks absolutely declined to advance money to the railways on the security of their bonds. He claimed that if the money had not been supplied railway construction would have ceased and 12,000 men would have been thrown out of work. The only objection taken on the part of the opposition came from Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who said that the minister should have asked for authority to do this at the special session in August. Mr. White assured the House that there would be no further over-issues of Dominion notes.

Seed Grain and Relief

The sitting of the House on Tuesday was largely taken up with the consideration of two bills of particular interest to the farmers of the West. The first was the bill authorizing the government to purchase on behalf of the farmers seed grain, fodder and other goods, the same to be supplied by way of relief. Under this act it is expected that approximately \$10,000,000 will be spent. The second measure was one giving the banks of the Dominion the power to lend money to farmers for the purchase of seed grain on the security of the crops. This act is designed to aid farmers who will not receive aid under the first named measure and who can offer satisfactory security to the banks for money borrowed.

There was considerable criticism, more particularly on the part of the Eastern members, of the provision in the relief measure that liens to be taken against the land for the advance by the government of seed grain shall be given priority over existing liens, the provincial government to introduce legislation to that effect.

Hon. William Pugsley thought that this was unnecessary. He believed it would place the holders of mortgages in an unsatisfactory position. He said that the government could take as a security for seed grain a bond, with one or two sureties satisfactory to them. Mr. Pugsley declared that the government, like Shylock, was demanding its full pound of flesh.

Hon. W. T. White and Hon. Arthur Meighen said that the provision was

necessary. Mr. Meighen said it would be impossible for any member to pretend that in asking the government to take less security he represents in any way the desire or interest of the farming community. The farmers of the West would be no better off if they gave a second, third or fourth mortgage on their land instead of a first. To them it makes no difference whatever. Their interest is to get the seed grain and to protect themselves and their creditors. It was also pointed out on behalf of the government that benefit rather than harm was being done to the mortgagees because the securing of seed grain by farmers meant that they would be able to improve the value of their land.

W. A. Buchanan, of Medicine Hat, while strongly approving of the action of the government, said that if the full allowance of feed should be made for livestock on the farms, otherwise it would be impossible for the farmers to do their full share of work, more particularly the summer fallowing which is so essential in Southern Alberta. He found in the regulations regarding feed for stock a limitation which is going to interfere with the development of the mixed farming idea.

Paid Too Much

W. Martin, of Regina, made the complaint that at the price of \$1.50 per bushel, which the government is now charging for seed, the government is making a profit on the sale of grain. He asserted that in the first place too much had been paid for the wheat. Speaking more particularly of purchases made in the month of January he said: "The average price paid by the department for seed wheat was \$1.49. Add to that 11 cents freight to make the comparison with the Fort William price and you find that the government purchasing price was \$1.60. The average price at Fort William for No. 1 Northern was \$1.34 so that there is a difference of 26 cents which was paid on each bushel in excess of the Fort William average price." Mr. Martin said that while farmers are being asked to pay \$1.50 a bushel for their seed wheat, all of the seed should have been bought at a less price and the farmers should have been getting their seed grain for less money than they are being required to pay. In conclusion, Mr. Martin urged upon the minister the desirability of giving seed to the many applicants who have put in requests for it since the dates fixed on which applications must be put in.

Farmers Under Arrest

Hon. W. J. Roche thought that the member for Regina was trying to make political capital out of the matter. He said that the government had a most difficult situation to grapple with. The government had not anticipated that the demand for seed grain would be so large. The Saskatchewan government estimated that it would take for relief within one drough stricken area half a million dollars, but in a short time they spent \$1,200,000. Many applications he said had not been legitimate. It had come to his attention that some farmers have been getting seed grain and selling it to the elevators. Some of them are under arrest at the present time. In closing he said: "If we have on hand any grain after all the just demands that reach us within the time limit have been satisfied, we shall then consider those applications which reach us after the time limit, and shall supply

the deserving cases so far as possible. Further than that I cannot go, and further than that it would not be reasonable to expect me to go."

In connection with the amendment to the bank act a discussion arose as to the desirability of having the liens taken by the banks registered. In regard to this there was a wide difference of opinion, but the minister of finance explained that in order to have this done it would be necessary to establish considerable machinery. As the measure was only a temporary one this was not desirable. Several members, including G. E. McCraney and Levi Thompson, thought that the legislation should be made permanent.

Maclean and the Banks

W. F. Maclean reiterated the view often expressed by him in the House that the time was at hand when there must be a radical revision of the banking laws of the Dominion. Having the farmer always in view he said we shall have to have a banking system based on a national currency and a great national bank, the Bank of Canada, made up of all the banks of the country, in the same way as the National Reserve banks of the United States have been created. Such a bank he said would be a bank of rediscount. The country was in need of that relief. Much relief would be afforded the farmer and the merchant as well as to the ordinary individual were such a bank established. His advice to the minister of finance was that he should begin to plan the widest kind of reform in the banking situation of this country, so as to accommodate the farmer as well as all other classes, and to base it as the United States have based their reform, on a national currency, and a national bank at the head of all the banking of the country which will be a bank of rediscount for farmers' notes and all other kind of notes.

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD FOR ALBERTA

Edmonton, Alta., March 22.—The establishment of a board of public utility commissioners, for the purpose not only of exercising jurisdiction over the public utilities of the province, but also of regulating the borrowing powers of urban and rural municipalities within the province, has been decided on by the provincial government and a bill to that effect, to be called the Public Utilities Act was introduced in the legislature this afternoon by Premier Sifton.

The act is the most far-reaching and the most important that has been under the consideration of the government for some time. The need of such an act, particularly with regard to the regulation of borrowing powers, has been acutely felt for some time, but it was not until the Hon. Wilfrid Gariepy, minister of municipal affairs, in his annual report foreshadowed the appointment of a local government board or similar body, that an inkling was obtained of the intentions of the government.

Three Commissioners

It is proposed to appoint three commissioners, who will be appointed by the lieutenant-governor in council, but removable only by the legislature, thus taking the matter altogether out of the political realm.

The bill combines the powers and duties of the Manitoba public utilities commission with those of the local government board of Saskatchewan. According to present intentions, the act will apply to all public utilities, now or hereinafter owned or operated by or under the control of the government, which would bring the provincial telephone system and railways having provincial charters under its auspices; and to all public utilities that shall be owned or operated by or under the control of any company or incorporation created at or after the present session of the legislature; but does not apply to public utilities within or owned by any municipality, unless such municipality passes a by-law requesting that such public utilities be made subject to the act.

Wide Powers

The powers of the board will be wide. It will have a general supervision over all public utilities, and may make such orders regarding equipment appliances, rates and tolls, extensions of works or systems, and other matters as are necessary for the safety or convenience of the public, or for the proper carrying out of any contract, charter or franchise involving the use of public property or rights.

In addition to the above powers, the board will have power to inquire into the merits of any application of a local authority for permission to raise money by way of debenture, and to grant or refuse such permission, to manage sinking funds, supervise the expenditure of monies borrowed under the act, and to obtain from any local authority at any time a statement in detail of its assets and liabilities.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS' ANNUAL

The Alberta Schools of Agriculture, which have just completed their second year of operation with 285 students in attendance, have issued their "Annual," comprising 152 pages. The publication is a unique achievement on the way of school annuals, as it is the joint effort of the three schools situated at Claresholm, Olds and Vermilion, in the south, centre and north of the province respectively. A high standard is set by the book, which would be a credit to much older and larger educational institutions.

The frontispiece is a memorial portrait of the late J. C. Drewery, of Cowley, Alta., a member of the Board of Agricultural Education directing these schools and the president of the Canadian Percheron Horse Breeders' Association at the time of his death. Articles have been written for the Annual by Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture, who talks directly to the students; by Judge Jackson, of Lethbridge, who writes interestingly on "The Law and the Farmer;" by Geo. Harcourt, B.S.A., Deputy Minister of Agriculture, who discusses "Alberta's Place in Canadian Agriculture;" E. A. Howes, B. S. A., of Vermilion, who describes Alberta's System of Agricultural Education; W. J. Stephen, B. S. A., of Claresholm, who gives an up-to-date view of "The Farming Profession," and by W. J. Elliott, B. S. A., of Olds, who writes topically on the problem of whether it is profitable for the farmer to feed hogs with oats selling at 60 cents per bushel.

The Annual contains pictures of the first graduating class from these schools, numbering some 97 students. A large number of illustrations showing the students at work and play make the book an attractive volume.

C.N.R. WANTS AID

The interesting fact that the Canadian Northern Railway Co. has requested the Manitoba government to increase the bond guarantee on its lines in the province to \$16,000 per mile was announced in the Manitoba legislature by Premier Roblin on Wednesday last. This statement was made in reply to a question by one of the opposition members. Sir Rodmond said the government had the request under consideration.

The lines on which the additional guarantee is requested have been in operation for some years and were built with the aid of cash subsidies and bond guarantees of \$10,000 and \$13,000 a mile. The additional guarantees are not needed, therefore, to raise money for construction. It is understood that Sir William Mackenzie on the occasion of his recent visit to Winnipeg notified Sir Rodmond Roblin that unless the guarantees were increased the C.N.R. would default on its interest in 1915 and the burden would fall directly on the province.

PREMIER BORDEN'S MOTHER DEAD

Halifax, N.S., March 29.—Mrs. Borden, mother of Sir Robert Borden, died at ten minutes past three this morning at her home at Grand Pre.

FOR THE BELGIANS

Editor, Guide:—I have received from Miss Olivia De Vos, of Radville, Sask., the sum of \$78.30, being the proceeds of a social and collections for the benefit of the Belgian Relief Fund.

At her request will you please publish same in your paper, as she wants the people around Radville to know that she has remitted the said amount to me. Yours very truly,

A. J. H. DURUC,
Belgian Consul.

Winnipeg, March 24.

Gift of Flour

Editor, Guide:—You will greatly oblige me by mentioning in the next issue of your paper that the citizens of Wadena, Sask., under the auspices of the members of the Wadena K.P. Lodge No. 31, have contributed to the Belgian Relief Fund 600 sacks of flour, 49 lbs. each, and that the shipment has been received by the Belgian Consul at Winnipeg.

Yours very truly,
A. J. H. DURUC,
Belgian Consul.

Winnipeg, March 25.

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$5,739.44
"A Sympathizer," Cut Knife Sask.	10.00
Martin Seassu, Sycamore, Alta.	1.00
Huntley Sunday School, Belmont	14.00
Oscar Hedlin, Renown, Sask.	2.00
West Eagle Hills Local	26.78
Jas. Wilson, Beaverdale, Sask.	5.00
F. W. McGillivray, Gray, Sask.	10.00

Total \$5,808.22
*This makes a total of \$113.83 sent in by this Local.

An error occurred in acknowledging contributions to the Belgian Relief Fund in the last issue of The Guide. Below are the correct amounts received:

Grain Grower, Clanwilliam	11.80
Deerpole G.G.A., Deepdale, Man.	14.00