

Live Stock and Crop Prospects in the West

Seeding Operations—Outlook Most Promising— Items of Interest

(By our Western correspondent)

It is undeniable that the present month and the month of April have been ideal weather for seeding operations and that an increased crop area has been sown with less labor and in less time than any preceding season within our recollection. Since the closing days of March, when seeding operations commenced, there has been only one day when it was impossible to do field work, and in some portions of the province even that interruption was not experienced. This favorable weather, combined with the large amount of new land broken, and the further large area of summer fallowing and fall plowing of last year, is certain to result in a considerably increased area in crop this year. Just how much this increase will amount to it is at present impossible to say. Various estimates have been offered of from ten to thirty per cent., and either figure may be correct. Wheat seeding has been completed for a week past and the greater portion of the oats and barley are now sown. Another week will see the ordinary seeding operations at an end. The increase referred to will mostly occur in the eastern and northwestern portions of the province. The southern and southwestern districts are now so well settled that it is not likely that any notable increase in area will take place there.

As to the Territories, it can only be said that the advancement of the present year is bound to be phenomenal. Seeding operations there are not so far advanced as in Manitoba, but are well under way and will probably be completed by the 25th of this month.

The increasing warmth has started a healthy growth of the newly-sown grains, and the prairie grasses are also in good condition. We are now looking for rain, although there will be no unfortunate effects experienced should no rain come for two or three weeks yet. The latter part of May and the month of June is the most critical season of the year with Manitoba farmers; it is then that he expects the bulk of the season's rainfall. Should this expectation be realized this year, the rosy accounts and soul-stirring prophecies of the newspaper scribe will probably be realized.

STOCKERS FOR THE RANCHES

It is not only in grain growing that the prospects for the coming season are excellent. Dairying and cattle raising are equally promising to those engaged in these occupations. Reports from the Territories indicate that a very large number of stockers are being placed

on the ranches at the present time. Manitoba stockers are scarce and high priced, but large quantities are being imported from Ontario, the United States, and even from as far south as Mexico. Messrs. Gordon & Ironside are reported to have a shipment of 10,000 head on the way from Mexico at the present time, of which they will place 4,000 on their own ranches, offering the balance for sale. There is no export trade at present as the British markets are too low to suit our dealers, who are holding for an improvement. The local cattle trade is in good condition; prices are fair as will be seen from this week's market report, and the supply is steady, showing that farmers find present prices remunerative.

In dairying it might be remarked that while growth is steady, there is not likely to be any noticeable increase while the prospects for grain growing are so brilliant. Nothing has given dairying so great an impetus in this province as the partial failure of the crop of 1900. This season has been favorable. Pasture although not abundant, is of good quality, and roads being in good condition, the factories and creameries are opening early. Another influence that is bound to give a tendency toward dairying is the steady increase in the value of farm property. Wheat will pay only when land values are not above a certain figure,—the higher the price of land, the less profit in exclusive grain farming. From now on we shall feel this influence in dairying in many parts of Manitoba where land is scarce.

WHERE LAST YEAR'S WHEAT WENT

Here are some very interesting figures showing the disposal of last year's wheat crop.

The estimated crop of Manitoba and the Territories for 1902 was	64,283,434
The amount of wheat now in store at country points estimated to be	10,644,590
Amount required for seed estimated to be	6,000,000
For feed until next crop	1,000,000
Held by country mills for flouring purposes	7,000,000
Amount still in farmers' hands about	4,089,168
Amount still to be taken out by railways about	14,733,758
Amount shipped or in terminal elevators	35,549,676

LIKE ONTARIO

A recent occurrence recalls stories of pioneer life in Eastern Canada. The little town of Edmans is situated on a new line of railway

running northwesterly from MacGregor. Though only of two years' growth it is a flourishing little village with considerable local trade and doing a large business in cordwood, which is shipped from that point in immense quantities. It is surrounded on all sides by partly cleared woods. A farmer burning brushwood in his clearing permitted the fire to get beyond control and the high wind soon spread the conflagration. It was only a few hours until the little town was almost encircled by flames, and for a day and a night the community fought for the safety of their homes, and almost for their lives. They were successful at last in saving the town, though several houses were destroyed, and in the immediate neighborhood more than one farmer lost buildings, machinery and stock, and worse than all, the cordwood which represented the results of his winter's work. It is stated that over 20,000 cords of wood were burned.

LIVE STOCK WORK

The Manitoba Live Stock Associations have begun an active campaign for the purpose of booming business. A list of stock for sale has been issued, giving prices and descriptions of the animals offered by members of the Association. The Association has the co-operation of the Territorial Government in shipping purebred stock from Manitoba to the Territories. A flat rate of \$5.00 per head on bulls and \$7.50 per head on females will be charged to purchasers by the Government. The Association is also wrestling with the Winter Fair problem, and the secretary hopes to have a definite proposition to place before the members at an early date.

WINNIPEG INDUSTRIAL

Since the last financial report of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition there has been a very general feeling among parties interested that the affairs of that institution are not managed on the strictest business principles. This has culminated in the appointment of an auditor by the City Council, whose report on the books of the Association is just recently published. The report contains some very severe criticisms, not only of book-keeping, but of the officials' methods of doing business. While no grave irregularities are charged, the fact is made clear that certain reforms are necessary. As the city is in future likely to guarantee the financial liabilities of the Association it seems not at all unlikely that the recommendations will be acted upon.

Prof. Dean will address the annual meeting of the American Holstein-Friesian Association at Syracuse, N.Y., on June 3rd. Mr. Geo. Rice, Currier, Ont., will ask for the reduction of registration fees on bulls.