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## A Better Farming Proposition

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be taught by installing a demonstration farm in every township, simply because the man by doing the work himself, thru studying his own work, will naturally derive greater benefit from this work than he would derive if the work were undertaken by somebody else and he be merely a spectator. It is a comparatively simple matter to carry out special investigations and special demonstrations on the co-operative plan along lines of soil study, moisture conservation, stock improvement, etc. The agricultural secretary will do these things and thereby raise the standard of efficiency, not so much because of his own fund of information, but because of his influence in getting men to mix brains with their work. The amount of hard work on the farm is in proportion to the amount of thinking done, and, after all, scientific information is of little benefit to any man until he himself undertakes to study its application to his work. It is the personal work of the agricultural secretary that counts: a little personal advice, personal influence and sympathetic interest is the only medium thru which educational matter can be distributed to advantage. Education will help to solve our question, but it will not cure.

We need The Weed Act enforced—we need agricultural education, but we need also agricultural organization. The salary per family is too small, largely thru a poor economic system, our rural social life is practically nil, simply because we have not yet learned to work together. We seem powerless to remedy this condition, because the margin of profit is too narrow to permit of a sufficient number of men giving of their time free to carry into effect the organizations required for the proper handling of rural problems. Putting into the field a salaried man will make possible the organizations necessary for rural welfare. We need rural mail, telephone, buying and selling associations, literary and social societies, travelling libraries, reading circles, etc., each and every one has not only a social and moral value, but also an actual cash value. An agricultural secretary can bring these things to pass, being a municipal officer he can undertake work and carry it thru to completion, because that is his business. He will be able to command assistance that is beyond the reach of the volunteer worker. This is what is happening today, and this is what is being done in municipalities employing an agricultural secretary.

There is another phase of the subject not yet before the attention of our people, in as far as our wheat trade was unsatisfactory until grades and regulations were introduced, so, also, will be the market for our live stock products. It is admitted that no good can be accomplished by the grading system until the supply equals the demand, but at the present rate of increase, Saskatchewan will soon be in a position to command part of the export trade in live stock products. The agricultural secretary will be a valuable factor in standardizing these products. The agricultural secretary will be a busy man, but that is what he draws his salary for.

### Secretary as Advisor

Aside from this work, there are certain lines of outside assistance from the Department of Agriculture and the college that they will be able to avail themselves of, but which are not now available to the municipality, because there is no revenue thru which the institutions may work. We referred above to the fact that there is at present little demand for detailed scientific information, but whatever is required can be furnished thru the agricultural secretary. If he has a dozen or fifteen men who require special information on pork production, it is a comparatively simple matter for him to secure a specialist on this kind of work and take him personally to the men who require this information. In this new country we have, and they will become more serious as the country develops, outbreaks of hog cholera, black leg, glanders, etc.; these will be more easily controlled in a municipality employing an

agricultural secretary, simply because the department will have an agent thru which to work, making it possible for the department to work with four or five hundred farmers as a municipal unit rather than with miscellaneous individuals as at present. More literature from institutes, more money for competitions, more attention to agricultural work can be given by the department and the college to the farmers in a municipality employing an agricultural secretary, because in such a municipality there will be no waste effort, no literature wasted, no institute meetings where speakers talk to empty benches, no competitions without entries.

The subject is too wide and deep for full discussion. We have pointed out that the situation in Saskatchewan today is a better farming proposition, and that we will not find a solution by riding to death one or two pet hobbies, that the question must be treated from a viewpoint as wide and comprehensive as the question itself. Further, we believe that the appointment of an agricultural secretary is a solution to the weed question, because thereby The Weed Act will be enforced, educational work attended to, the people organized, outside assistance taken advantage of and the standard of efficiency raised by giving us as a province a domain of happy farm homes and a self-sufficient rural life.

### GRAIN FOR BELGIANS

The West Eagle Hills G.G.A. at their last regular meeting decided to support the Grain Growers' Guide fund for the relief of the Belgians. Committees were appointed to canvass every farmer in the district and solicit from each one sack of wheat. The district to be canvassed will comprise the area south of the Battle River included in the Pronqua, Battle River and Cleveland school districts and areas adjacent thereto. This grain will be collected by the committees and sold at the local elevator, the proceeds to be forwarded to The Guide, which in turn will forward to the Belgian relief authorities in Great Britain. It is confidently expected that every farmer in this locality will contribute in the manner named to the relief of the terrible distress prevailing in plucky, war-wrecked little Belgium. If the farmers prove as enthusiastic in this noble work as we believe they will, a considerable amount of money will be raised for the above lofty purpose.

This effort on the part of the West Eagle Hills Grain Growers is indicative of the value of a farmers' organization in times of emergency, if at no other, and we hope to learn of the other neighboring organizations following the lead given in the above respect.—The Battleford Press.

### EDISON PLANT DESTROYED

The manufacturing plant of the Edison Company at West Orange, New Jersey, was partially destroyed by fire on the night of December 9, the damage being estimated at \$7,000,000. The insurance was only \$2,000,000. Eleven buildings in the main plant were totally destroyed, but the laboratory building where the inventor, Thomas A. Edison, carries on his experiments, and the storage battery plant were saved. Seven thousand persons were employed in the works, but all got out safely thru fire drill. The debris is already being cleared away in preparation for reconstruction. Meanwhile, however, nearly half the employees are thrown out of work and many of the machines manufactured by the company will not be obtainable for a considerable time after present stocks are exhausted.

### MORMON LEADER DEAD

Joseph Smith, President of the reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, died at his home at Independence, Mo., on December 10, at the age of 82 years.

Eight years ago the president announced a revelation designating his eldest son, Frederick M. Smith, as his successor. The new president is 37 years old. His designation to succeed his father was ratified by the general conference shortly after the father announced that he had received the revelation.

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