

Farming in Northern Alberta Under this title the Winnipeg Commercial published in its last issue the second of a series of articles dealing with agricultural questions in Northern Alberta. The article is reproduced below:

"In a recent article we showed the danger that faces the farmers of Northern Alberta, if they continue to depend mainly on oats. Oats cannot be shipped eastward from Alberta points at a profit, on the basis of average prices. The rapid settlement of the territory during the past year or two has led to a large increase in production, which now exceeds the requirements of the local and British Columbia markets. It is therefore absolutely necessary that the farmers of Northern Alberta should turn to other sources of revenue, instead of depending so largely upon oats. It is quite probable that oats will sink back to their normal value by the time another crop is ready for market. In fact, the high price of oats during the past year is likely to stimulate production of this cereal during the present year, in which case it is quite possible that oats may rule at prices below the average next fall. With prices ruling at or below average values, oats will not stand the long rail haul from Alberta for export.

"Taking into consideration the geographical position of the territory and the necessarily high cost of freights, the study of the residents should be to concentrate their products. Oats and barley, grown extensively for feeding at home, could no doubt be made profitable crops, while at the same time it might be altogether unprofitable to export the raw grain. The plan, therefore, would be to convert these coarse grains into beef, pork, mutton, poultry, butter, eggs, etc. Thus concentrated, the grains could be profitably grown and exported. Fortunately a good start has already been made in the manufacture of butter in the districts referred to, and this can no doubt be profitably enlarged upon. A grain called speltz, lately introduced into Manitoba, has proved very successful as a feed grain, and this could be added to the list of coarse grains for home feeding no doubt with satisfactory results in Alberta also. But to depend largely upon crops of any coarse grain for export will certainly bring disaster. These grains cannot be grown in Alberta profitably for export, on the basis of average prices in past years, no matter how large the yield proves to be.

While concentration of products should be carefully studied and followed, it is also possible to increase the number of crops grown. In this connection we would refer particularly to flax. Undoubtedly flax would prove as safe a crop as oats in Northern Alberta, so far as soil and climatic conditions are concerned, and it would also be a safer crop to grow for export. The growing of flax would also add variety, and would be one more egg in the market basket of the farmer. In case of the failure of one crop, or prevalence of very low prices for one class of grain, it is well to have something else to depend upon. The following shows the range of prices for cash flax seed at Chicago for the month of December, for a series of years, per bushel:

Table with 2 columns: Year and Price per bushel. Data: 1901, \$1.38 to \$1.61; 1900, \$1.53 to \$1.71; 1899, \$1.39 to \$1.51; 1898, \$0.99 to \$1.19; 1897, \$1.04 to \$1.22; 1896, 71 1/2c to 79 1/2c.

"The prices in 1896 were the lowest quoted in twenty years. In fact the Chicago market has seldom gone below \$1 per bushel.

Flax is generally considered as a good crop to grow on new breaking, and this is an important feature in a district where so much new land is being put under cultivation each year. At the last annual meeting of the Winnipeg grain exchange, retiring president, Wm. Martin, spoke as follows about flax:

"Another crop that is beginning to command attention is flax. This is a crop that is deserving of more attention than it has received in the past. It is a crop that is considered the money-making crop in North Dakota and Minnesota. Hitherto it has been grown chiefly in the Mennonite settlements of Manitoba, but during the past year it has been introduced into other districts by our friends who have come from the United States to settle here. Flax is the only crop that can be grown successfully on new breaking and on that it often gives results equal to the best crop from older cultivated land. It is one of the staple crops in all climates, doing equally as well in India and Argentina as in America. It commands a price almost double the price of wheat, and is likely to continue for some time to hold its value.

"While wheat has not taken an important position in northern Alberta as a cereal crop, compared with the eastern portions of our great prairie region, we believe that as the land is brought under more careful cultivation, this grain will be found to do as well in Alberta as in Manitoba. Wheat is, of course, a much more profitable crop to grow for export than any of the coarse grains. On account of the wonderfully successful oat crops secured in the past, wheat has been increased to such an extent that exportation is necessary. When should be given a more important position

as to area than it has attained in recent years. "Along these lines we think lies the hope for the success of northern Alberta. Concentration of production by growing coarse grains for conversion into beef, pork, etc., at home, and more diversity in the cereal and other crops produced.

A PIONEER GONE. Sturgeon River Correspondence: Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock all that was mortal of Mrs. Isabella Allean Carson, widow of the late Oliver Carson, was laid away at the Namoo cemetery. Mrs. Carson had been an invalid for a number of years and her death, though expected, came as a great shock to the settlement. She was one of the pioneers of the Sturgeon districts, born in Ireland 77 years ago at Fintona. Her father moved to Canada when she was a girl, and was one of the early settlers in the Ottawa district, in the days when the now proud capital of the Dominion, passed under the common name of Byetown. In 1843 she married Oliver Carson and as a result of that union eight children mourn her departure. W. J. Carson, inspector of public schools, London, Ont., Chas. Josiah A., Rev. T. C. Mrs. S. Bailey, Mrs. Isaac Hunter, Arthur and S. Carson. All were present at the funeral except W. J. Carson, London, Ont. About 20 years ago Mr. and Mrs. Carson and family moved westward, driving overland from the western terminus of the C. P. R. and located on the Sturgeon. Here amidst difficulties incident to pioneer work, they carved out a home for themselves and children, who to-day are highly respected citizens of this district. The funeral took place from the residence of her daughter, Mrs. S. Bailey, Rev. Mr. Thacker conducted the funeral services, preaching from the text "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, they do rest from their labors and their works do follow them." Then borne by six sturdy pioneers and followed by a very large gathering of neighbors and friends she was laid away to await the resurrection day.

THE ROAD PROBLEM. Pagan, Alta., 5th March, Editor Bulletin.

As we are again approaching the season in which the condition of our roads is the subject of paramount importance, the following, from the "Reviews of Reviews," may be of interest to all who are obliged to travel by vehicle and of especial value to overseers of local improvement districts wherein are encountered those gumbo roads which are truly described as "the despair of roadmakers":

"In many states in the west they have no stones of any kind available for road-making, but in almost all those states there is an inexhaustible quantity of a slimy, tenacious clay which is called gumbo. Out of this gumbo, which has been hitherto the despair of the road-maker, now the best road material is being manufactured by the simple process of the application of fire;

"The burnt gumbo, ready for use, can be delivered on board the cars at a cost of 25 to 35 cents a cubic yard. When burned by hand, as would usually have to be done in highway improvement, the cost would be, perhaps, 10 to 15 cents more. The railroad gumbo pits are often a mile or two long and hundreds of feet wide. In the case of the highways, the mud would merely have to be shovelled out of the roadway, burned and shovelled back.

"A burnt gumbo road is never muddy, for that property is lost in the burning. The surface of the road is hard and smooth. As a speedway for bicycles and automobiles it is ideal. For carriage and heavy wagons it has no superior. No vegetation can grow on it. It is practically free from dust, after the highway system has been well developed, so that mud is not brought in from the tributary roads. Moreover, the warm red highways contrast pleasingly against the green landscape at those seasons of the year when country drives are most enjoyable.

"The process of burning clay is quite simple. Along the roadside cordwood is piled to form a low pyramid or ridge eight to ten feet wide. On this is thrown three to four inches of coal slack, and twelve to twenty inches of gumbo mud, which is cut from the roadway, or a pit, as the case may be. On firing the wood, enough air enters the pile to enable slow combustion to be carried on without the generation of too much heat, which would vitify the clay.

The cost of preparing the clay on the spot should, where fuel is so easily obtained, be considerably less than as stated.

Yours truly, J. A. MITCHELL.

Want Canadian Teachers The secretary of state has received an application from Elna Joseph Chamberlain, asking the services of forty Canadian lady teachers to proceed to South Africa to look after the Boer children in the concentration camps. The engagement is for one year. The salary will be \$100, with rations and house or tent accommodations. Passage will be paid both ways. Twenty will be secured in Ontario and twenty in the other provinces. A normal school certificate is the standard of qualification.

An outbreak of cholera is reported from Canton, China.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE MEETINGS. A series of Agricultural Institute meetings was arranged some time since by the Department of Agriculture, Regina, to be held throughout Alberta. The series was to open at Didsbury on Wednesday, the second meeting being held at Olds yesterday and the third at Innisfail to-day. The meetings for the remainder of the series will be held at the following places on the dates named:

- Red Deer, Saturday, March 15th at 2 p. m.
Clover Bar school house Monday, March 17th, at 8 p. m.
Agricultural school house, Tuesday, 18th at 2 p. m.
Fort Saskatchewan, Masonic Hall, Tuesday, 18th, at 8 p. m.
Rabbit Hills, school house, Wednesday, 19th, at 2 p. m.
Lacombe, Thursday, March 20th, at 2 p. m.
Wetaskiwin, Friday, 21st, at 2 p. m.
Ponoka, Saturday, 22nd, at 2 p. m.
Lacombe, Puffer's Hall, Monday, 24th, at 2 p. m.

Addresses will be delivered at these meetings on subjects of interest to farmers by T. N. Willing, Territorial Chief Inspector of Noxious Weeds, D. Appleton, of Professor Robertson's staff; and M. Brennan, of Blackwood, Assa;

STURGEON. Ideal spring weather. Mrs. Harry Bell returned on Friday from a three months' visit to Ontario looking much better for the trip. Mrs. Smith, of Partridge Hills, is visiting her sister, Mrs. W. Maxfield. Rev. E. B. Glass, of Whitefish Lake, was renewing acquaintances in our vicinity last week. Will Carson has returned to Peace river.

We are pleased to learn that Mrs. Cobourva was brought from the public hospital a week ago and is doing as nicely as can be expected. There is some talk of the coal mine being closed down on Saturday. This is unfortunate as coal is almost a necessity to this community.

RED DEER. From the Echo. The C. P. R. have a large gang of men now at work on the railway bridge over the river. They are giving it a thorough going over.

A contingent from New Mexico arrived here last week, comprising two families and a young man by name of Perry Scott. The married men, Mr. J. W. Reeves and J. R. Lowery, intend locating at once.

A new post office is, we understand is to be erected at Mr. O'Connor's place section 32, township 37, range 25, west of the 4th meridian. The new office will be known as Hillside, and will be supplied from Red Deer.

D. W. Brown, a neighbor of J. S. Fitch's, on the Medicine, is acting in the capacity of delegate for a whole grain load of settlers to Red Deer from Nebraska in the spring.

HOTEL ARRIVALS. Monday. Queen's—H. McDermott, Mrs. A. Dewar, A. K. Dewar, C. F. Stewart, Fort Saskatchewan; J. Lamoureux, T. McPike, Lamoureux; J. Garneau, J. Lemarck, St. Albert; L. Gagnon, Athabasca Landing; L. McPhee, Winnipeg; Alberta—J. M. Swiggard, Slave Lake; J. P. Vance, Nelson, B.C.; J. Beveridge, Vancouver; W. Skyon, Toronto; A. Warwick, Miss J. Warwick, Calgary; E. D. H. Wilkins, Wetaskiwin; W. C. Nancarrow, Calgary.

Jasper—E. Lambert and son, Fort Saskatchewan; V. Eowen, Rabbit Hills; J. H. Tofield, Agriculture; J. McDonald, J. A. McDonald, Strathcona; F. M. Lee, Ponoka; K. Nelson, Bon Accord. Victoria—Rev. L. A. Ethier, Beaumont; Mrs. T. J. Carcadden, W. D. Carcadden, Fort Saskatchewan; D. Chivigny, J. P. Morkie, A. Hebert, E. Chevigny, M. Hittinger, N. Hittinger, St. Albert; E. Behais, E. Gauthier, Morinville.

Grandview—J. Tough, Long Lake; O. F. Tratt, Lamoureux; H. Schwager, Stony Plain; J. M. Elliott, Fort Saskatchewan; W. Fitzgerald, St. Albert.

Tuesday. Alberta—G. Mann, Misses Mann, Saddle Lake; O. O. Douglas, W. S. Rough, F. Endress, F. L. Kahn, Toronto; W. White, S. Ashfield, G. H. Stewart, W. J. White, Winnipeg; F. M. E. Cushing, Calgary; W. R. Roche, John; M. Smith, Vancouver; J. G. Harkness, Red Deer; M. B. Weeks, F. C. Fairchild, Brantford.

Jasper—H. Carey, Egg Lake; M. McGillivray, town.

Queen's—K. Martin, Leduc; G. Dose, Beaver Hills; L. O. Laoureux, P. Lamoureux, Lamoureux; J. A. Felt, A. Fugelberg, Minnesota; F. Grand, Pembina river; J. McDonald, J. A. McDonald, town.

Grandview—D. Desjarlais, Z. Ingram, Whitford; R. Galbraith, Albion, Neb.; W. Casette, J. J. Illerbrum, St. Albert.

Victoria—J. F. McRae, EBiviere Qui Barre; H. Hope, D. Morin, Morinville; M. Lagan and son, Egg Lake.

IT IS STRANGE THAT ANY RE-liable willing worker should remain idle when a communication to G. Marshall & Co., London, Ont., Tea Importers, will secure profitable employment, outfit furnished.

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FOR SALE.

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School Assessment Notices for Village Districts, Form G.
School Tax Notices for Rural Districts, Form D.
School Tax Notices for Village Districts, Form L.
Notice of Sitting of Court of Revision for Village Districts, Form F.
IN PADS OF FIFTY.
Treasurer's Receipt Forms, in books of 100.
Blank Receipt Forms, in books of 25.

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There is something about our goods which satisfies all classes of customers. Style pleases one, novelty another, and quality another.

OUR MEN'S FURNISHINGS

Combine all these good points.

Our stock of Clothing is very complete, and we invite your inspection of this line.

SPRING STOCK OF BOOTS AND SHOES

is now to hand, for both ladies and gentlemen, and we show very good values.

A. Cristall, Clothier and Gent's Furnisher.

BREAD, CAKES, PASTRY.

Wedding and Birthday Cakes A SPECIALTY.

Hallier & Aldridge, Bakers and Confectioners.

Horses For Sale.

I have built a corral one block north of Hudson's Bay Store and will always have a stock of horses on hand for sale.

JOHN OWENS.



A FINE ANIMAL. Can be picked up at a low price at our HORSE SALE. We offer stock suitable for road, draught, delivery and farm work. All are in excellent condition and fit for immediate use. LAROSE & STARRETT.

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Two hundred different styles to choose from.

It is to the buyer's advantage to buy the Rock Island Plow. Why? Because it is the Best, and Most Durable, and Easiest Running plow on the market. Satisfaction guaranteed or no sale.

We also handle the well known Noxon Hoosier Drill, which has been the leading drill of the East and why not here? Easiest draft; Handy to work; And also has the slip shoe, which can be easily kept in order.

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Warehouse on Queen street, open for inspection.

Watch our Advertisement Next Week.

Hay loaders and stackers also for sale.



UNRESERVED AUCTION SALE OF FARM STOCK AND IMPLEMENTS.

Having received instructions from David A. Lattimer, who has disposed of his farm, I will offer for sale at his place, N.E. quarter 14-5-24, Sunnyside School District, Sturgeon River, on

Tuesday, March 18th, at 10 a.m.,

The following stock and implements: 15 cows, with calf to pedigree bull; 3 new milk cows, calf at foot; 4 two-year-old heifers, with calf to pedigree bull; 3 three-year-old steers; 2 two-year-old steers; 6 yearling steers; 1 three-year-old pedigree Berkshire pig; 1 heavy draft mare; 1 lean matched gelding, weight about 2400lb.; 1 mare, eight years old, weight about 1100lb., with foal; 1 heavy general purpose mare, about 1200lb., three years old; 4 blood sows, with pig to Yorkshire boar; 1 set double harness; 2 farm wagons, nearly new; 1 three-section iron harrow; 1 fourteen-wheel disc harrow; 1 set bob sleigh; 1 stock saddle; 1 Frost & Wood binder, nearly new; 1 sixteen-inch sulky plow; 1 8-cylinder, high combined plow; 1 fourteen-inch brush plow; 1 Bradford mower and Tiger rake; 1 Alexandria Cream Separator.

Terms—20 and under, cash; over that amount, nine months' time by furnishing approved collateral notes, bearing eight per cent. interest. Five per cent. discount on all moneys amounts for cash. Free lunch at noon.

W. S. ROBERTSON, Auctioneer.

Atlantic Steamship Line

- Alban Line from St. John, March 22nd.
Parisian, March 29th.
Beaver Line from St. John, March 28th.
Lake Ontario, March 11th.
Lake Superior, April 11th.
Dominion Line from Portland, April 12th.
Dominion, April 26th.
Dominion Line from Boston, April 9th.
Cambroman, April 21st.
Allan State Line from New York, March 22nd.
Laurentian, March 22nd.
Mongolian, April 6th.
Onward Line from New York, March 22nd.
Campania, March 29th.
Onward Line from Boston, March 18th.
Turonia, April 1st.
White Star Line from New York, March 19th.
Germanic, March 19th.
Cymric, March 25th.
Anchor Line from New York, March 29th.
Furnessia, March 29th.
Astoria, April 12th.
Red Star Line from New York, March 19th.
Kensington, March 26th.
Zeeland, March 26th.
Red Star Line from Philadelphia, Pennland, March 27th.
American Line from Philadelphia, Washland, March 22nd.
Noordland, March 29th.
Hamburg-American Line, Auguste Victoria, April 10th.

Apply to the nearest steamship or railway ticket agent, or W. P. F. CUMMINGS, General Agent, Winnipeg.

PLANTS.

Having made arrangements with one of the leading Florists at the Coast we intend to ship in regularly a choice variety of Plants.

We have now in a stock of the following varieties:

- Begonias
Primalas
Hyacinths
Geraniums
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Etc. Etc.

ALSO Fresh Lettuce and Celery.

Hallier & Aldridge Fruiterers and Confectioners.

Live Well

By dining at the Criterion.

Our Bill of Fare

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DANIEL DESJARLAIS The oldest Retail General Merchant of WHITFORD. Has now opened out in a wholesale and jobbers' business. It will pay retailers, traders, freighters and the local public to call and get prices before buying elsewhere. 38-42