

Newsy Notes on B.C.'s Agricultural Doings

By Farm and Dairy's Own Correspondent

IN these columns some months ago was chronicled the formation and ambitious start of the Fraser Valley Cooperative Milk Company, which as a consequence of rupture between shippers and dealers, planned to market direct to the consumer most of the dairy output of the lower mainland. Organizing under the Agricultural Associations Act, the promoters of the company expected to secure without difficulty Government assistance to the extent of 80 per cent of capitalization, once 30 per cent was subscribed by the farmers.

The farmers did their part, readily taking the required amount of stock, but a hitch then occurred in the programme. The Government announced that because of depressed financial conditions, it was unable to advance 80 per cent of the capitalization.

Two weeks hence the provisional directors of the cooperative company will meet in New Westminster to decide what course to follow in view of the developments. The situation at present is anything but desirable, inasmuch as the milk dealers are making terms with individual farmers instead of with the milk and cream shippers' association, as in the past. Up to last spring relations were entirely amicable. Regularly each season the two associations conferred and agreed upon a price. The milk and cream shippers' associations severed relations last spring when the dealers repudiated a price agreement made in March.

Increase in Farm Production

Premier Richard McBride made an encouraging New Year's announcement relative to agricultural production in the province. The total production during 1914, according to carefully compiled and detailed records, was \$37,300,000, being an increase of \$3,350,000 over the previous year. There has been a considerable increase in the area under cultivation. The Premier mentioned the increase in orchard area from 8,100 acres in 1900 to 38,900 acres at the present time.

"The most remarkable expansion in the way of production," he said, "has been in agriculture and horticulture. Fruit and vegetable production increased in value over last year by \$400,000. The small fruit industry shows very substantial increase and has now reached such a proportion as to permit of straight carloads being shipped to outside markets. The output of jam and canning factories shows an increase of 200 per cent, over last year. The apple and other tree fruits are estimated at 1,225 carloads, exclusive of cherries. Pears, however, were lower than last year, but even at that the value of these fruits marketed was about \$683,000. Grain showed a decrease in yield from 1913, but with better prices gave a value on product of \$8,471,000. In live stock, the advance all along the line has been most marked, and the values produced during the year amount to about \$7,300,000. I am advised, and I have great pleasure in calling attention to it, that in the Peace River district about 12,000 acres of land are cleared ready for crops, and 3,000 acres of oats and barley were harvested, yields being enormous. Horses are being bred extensively."

It is worth mentioning in connection with the Premier's announcement that there is real life in the land movement in British Columbia now. Speculation has no place in it. Sellers mean business. The number of Government holdings taken up this past year was well over 4,000, a tremendous

increase over the number occupied in 1913. Farm land prices in such well-developed districts as the Okanagan, the Fraser Valley, and Vancouver Island are descending to reasonable levels. Cooperative associations are springing up, and public markets now help the farmer at many different points. Altogether the outlook is brighter than it has been for a long time.

Whatever else may be said in extenuation of the real estate boom in British Columbia, it cannot be argued that it helped agriculture in any way.

It is only with the bursting of the bubble that farming is attaining a solid, stable basis.

Farm Notes

The Provincial Government announces there will be no convention of the Central Farmers' Institute this year.

One dairyman at Revelstoke, who keeps pedigreed Ayreshires, is getting 12½ cents a quart this winter. He retails milk in the city. He has to buy all the feed for most of his hay, which cuts down his profits.

Many settlers in the British Columbia interior are selling off their pigs and buying chickens. They calculate there is more money in poultry than hogs, with the low pork prices prevailing at present.

Celery growers of this province got lower prices than usual this season. They kept the price well up by holding back supplies until November. Then they had to ship, and with a slow demand prices tumbled. Swedish settlers at Malakwa shipped a straight carload through to Minneapolis.

Waterglass eggs are a regular feature of the public market at Duncan, Vancouver Island.

The Gookhobors at Brilliant are building a jam factory which, when completed, will be the largest in Canada.

British Columbia Farmers' Institutes contributed over \$3,000 to the Patriotic Fund.

Turkeys this Christmas retailed for 25 cents a pound at Kamloops. During the Christmas season of 1913 they brought 35 and 38 cents a pound.

No Dearth of Labor

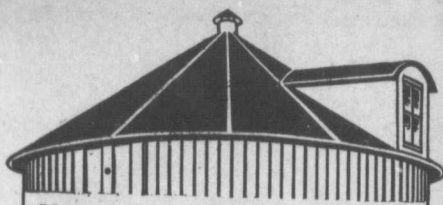
There was a time, not so very long since, when getting competent farm help was a real problem in this province. It is not this winter. Farm wages have experienced a tremendous slump. Numerous men are working on farms for their board.

When times brighten, farm wages will doubtless rise somewhat, but it goes without saying that they will not again reach the high-water mark of 1910, 1911 and 1912.

Buttermilk Paint

To make buttermilk paint, use three pounds of Portland cement for each gallon of buttermilk, and add enough coloring matter to give the desired shade. The paint must be stirred frequently while it is being used to keep the cement from settling to the bottom of the vessel. Apply it soon after it is made. It will dry in about six hours, and will shed water nicely. Venetian red or almost any coloring may be used. Buttermilk paint is adapted to outside work where a glossy surface is unimportant. It is also good for covering injuries on fruit trees after pruning. For this use make the paint thicker with cement.

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