

Western Farm Returns in 1913

The Manitoba Free Press, in its issue of January 10, gives a detailed statement, with comparisons with former years, of the returns during 1913 from agriculture in all its branches, viz: grain, roots, live stock, and dairying, the total value of same amounting to the splendid sum of \$167,875,653, showing an increase for the year of over \$40,000,000.

The increase over last year is especially noticeable in the last four months of 1913, when the splendid harvesting and threshing weather of the fall, together with the good yield and high grade of the grain, combined with the lower United States tariff on coarse grains, and the open market for live stock, contributed largely to the aforementioned increase.

Wheat

The following table shows the total amount of wheat accounted for up to Dec. 31:

	Bushels
Inspected, passed Winnipeg.	115,749,800
Required for interior mills and seed	30,000,000
In interior elevators on Dec. 31 and in transit	23,000,000
Total	168,749,800

The Free Press estimate of last year's crop was placed at 188,878,319 bushels, and, assuming this to be practically correct, from the above figures it will be seen that at the end of the year there was less than 25,000,000 bushels still in the farmers' hands to be marketed, compared with 60,000,000 at the end of 1912.

The grain inspection department of Canada inspected 180,623,850 bushels, or 56,244,725 bushels more than any previous four months in the history of the department. They were helped, no doubt, in this by the high quality of the crop, of which fully 90 per cent. was of "contract" grades. One of the interesting features of the inspection has been the very heavy increase in oats. In 1910,

the inspections for four months were just under 10,000,000 bushels, for 1913 they were 43,490,850. The increase in the inspections of barley was even more phenomenal. In 1910, the inspections of barley were only 1,321,200 bushels. In 1913, 11,788,200.

The heavy movement of these two grains at so early a period is due almost entirely to the lowering of the American tariff, which has permitted of heavy shipments to the South. Over 23,000,000 bushels of Western Canada oats have already reached American ports, and between 2,500,000 and 3,000,000 additional will be delivered to Chicago, Minneapolis and Toledo during the months of January and February.

The increase in the movement of flax over 1912 has been comparatively small.

The Value of the Crop

It is only possible to give the actual value of the crop inspected, but a very careful statement has been prepared of the value of the crop which has passed inspection.

Wheat bought at Fort	
William	\$94,368,416.18
Oats	14,502,213.93
Barley	5,825,938.69
Flax	10,945,702.62
Total	\$125,642,271.42

The wheat crop of 1913 was practically a No. 1 Northern crop and the average price of that grade for the four months of the crop year now completed was four cents less than for the same period of 1912.

Owing to the enormous bulk of grain that was rushed on the market and the persistent booming of the crop, which had preceded the threshing season, the markets were greatly depressed and in spite of the high quality of the grain, the relative return to the farmers has

been smaller than it would have been had the grain been marketed more slowly. The readiness with which the grain was absorbed on reaching tidewater showed that had it been fed out more slowly and less said about any enormous yield, prices would inevitably have been higher.

Railway Record

Already much has been said about the magnificent work done by the railroads in moving the crop. The Canadian Pacific railway broke all records in moving 112,000,000 bushels in 110 days.

Lake Shippers and Terminal Elevators

The Lake Shippers and the Terminal Elevators also broke all records in the handling of last year's crop, and as an instance of the rapidity with which the grain was moved, the last ten days of open water witnessed the phenomenal loading of over 25,000,000 bushels, while the twenty-two large elevators have a total capacity of 40,630,000 bushels.

Live Stock

The opening of the market to the South lent special interest to the live stock industry last year, and shipments from Eastern Canada have been very large, while the West also made a good record, especially in stockers and feeders. Over 12,000 feeders have been sold at the Union stockyards at St. Paul alone, and 5,314 head of Alberta cattle reached Chicago. The value of the shipments of cattle through the Winnipeg yards, for the year 1913, amounted to \$6,863,346, and while there was a moderate local consumption, it is noted that there were no shipments made to the old country in 1913.

The average price of butcher cattle in Winnipeg was the highest for the past six years, while the 5,314 head of Alberta cattle averaged each over 1,300 lbs., and \$7.50 per hundred, making a

grand total of \$518,115 for this shipment alone.

Hogs

There was a very material increase in the shipment of hogs to the Winnipeg market, but the average of price fell slightly below that of 1912. It was, however, a good price throughout the year.

The highest average price for any one month was \$9.02 per cwt., in August, and the lowest \$7.45 per cwt. in December; but even at this price hogs are a paying proposition. The average weight of hogs for the year was about the same as usual, 200 lbs., but the average dressing out weight showed a slight improvement, being 78 as against 76½ for 1912.

Sheep

Sheep receipts, in spite of the increased number of flocks, showed a very distinct falling off, and by far the largest proportion of receipts came from the American side. The average price for the year was \$6.41¼ per cwt., as against \$5.40 for 1912. There was an improvement of 3.5-8 lbs. in the dressing out weight. The best shipments, from the standpoint of dressing out, were received from Manitoba and were principally grade yearlings sold directly off the stubble. The men who handled these sheep made so handsome a profit that it ought to be the best possible argument to induce others to go into the business of sheep raising.

Horses

The receipts of horses have fallen amazingly, during the past year, the record of horses at the Winnipeg yards being only 4,932 head, as against 27,362 in 1912.

Dairy Products

The returns from dairy products are most gratifying, in fact, one of the best things in the work of the farmers for the year. Manitoba shows a slight

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Edmonton Endorses Democracy

The Story of the Fight for Commission Government and Direct Legislation in the Alberta Capital



W. J. McNAMARA

Edmonton, the Alberta capital, witnessed last month the most remarkable municipal election in its history. A victory for Direct Legislation and city government by Elective Commission was won against odds. On December 8, Edmonton elected as the 1914 mayor William J. McNamara, whose chief

platform plank was government by Elective Commission, embodying the Initiative, the Referendum and the Recall. Mayor Wm. Short, K.C., seeking re-election, advocated a continuation of Edmonton's present form of government, which is aldermanic with commission board appointed by city council.

Without daily newspaper support, aid from corporate interests, political affiliations, previous public service; assaulted by the daily press, fought by a coterie of capitalists seeking a public utility franchise, and opposed by a portion of the "best business interests," as that section of society which lives by mercantile pursuits is wont to be called, Mr. McNamara battled single-handed and won the day.

Will Go Right To Work

The election of Mr. McNamara as chief executive of Edmonton may be interpreted

"Whenever a city administration refuses to recognize any general demand of the public, it is time to change administrations."—William James McNamara, Mayor of the City of Edmonton for 1914.

to mean that Edmonton will go under Elective Commission Government during this year. Upon taking office the new mayor will take steps to have prepared the most modern and best Elective Commission Government charter that can be written. This will be submitted to the people for endorsement during the year, and it will be presented to the legislature for enactment. The next municipal election in Edmonton promises to be the selecting of five or seven commissioners by means of the preferential ballot.

While designating William J. McNamara for mayor, Edmonton selected for the aldermanic board men whose convictions are in tune with the progressiveness of the new chief executive. The Trades and Labor Council nominated and elected a member to the board of aldermen.

The New Mayor

Edmonton's new mayor is a wealthy young man of thirty-four. He is a civic student, devoted to literature, travel, hunting, fishing and outdoor sports. He owns and operates a big farm near Wetaskiwin. He made his money by buying realty at the right time and in the right place and selling at the right time. For some time past he has not been engaged in active business. Political ambitions did not prompt him to enter the mayoralty race, for he has no such ambitions. When he has accomplished his purpose he expects to retire quietly and resume his private pursuits. His desire is to give Edmonton an Elective Commission Government charter—the

very best business system of municipal management that can be provided. He hopes to accomplish that during this year. That he became a candidate for mayor was through force of circumstance. That he was elected is due to his platform, his sincerity in that platform, and the phenomenal campaign he waged against odds.

Misrepresentative Government

The overthrow of the present regime may be attributed, also, to the administration's utter disregard for the public will. By persisting in the inauguration of a street numbering scheme objectionable to a considerable portion of the public, and by refusing the demand for a plebiscite on the system, Mayor Wm. Short alienated many friends. By ignoring a widespread and representative demand for a plebiscite on the question of Elective Commission Government for Edmonton, the city administration precipitated great censure upon itself and prompted William J. McNamara to declare himself a candidate for mayor. Mr. McNamara left the city council chamber upon that particular evening declaring that when any city administration ignores the public will it ceases to be representative and it is time to change administrations. He announced his candidacy for mayor next day.

Progressives Fought to Win

The candidature gave little concern to the mayor and administration at the outset; but there gathered around Mr. McNamara a number of citizens who had been fighting for these same principles for some years in Edmonton, and this

private risen from the ranks began to gather support and strength in a way that demanded attention. When the McNamara campaign was well launched and aggressive attacks made upon the fundamental falsities of the present government system, the lamentable inefficiencies and the ludicrous inadequacies of the antiquated instrument called the Edmonton City charter—and espoused by Mayor Short—the mayor gathered together his cohorts, organized a strong campaign committee, and the battle was on in earnest.

The McNamara campaign was energetic. Denied newspaper support to the extent that some sections of the press refused eleventh hour advertising, it became necessary to use other methods in getting the real issues before the public. Mr. McNamara spoke from no less than half a hundred public platforms within three weeks; his committee prepared and issued nearly 100,000 dodgers, circular letters, literature, etc., dealing with the issues directly at stake. The public attended the meetings largely. The literature was widely read.

Good Work Rewarded

The pendulum began to swing to McNamara for mayor, and the McNamara organization, headed by the candidate himself, renewed and redoubled their energies. Men who had never before taken active interest in municipal politics took off their coats during the last week of the campaign and stayed in the fight until the polls closed at 7 o'clock on election day, December 8. Organized labor got out its vote and elected a member to the city council, as well as supporting Mr. McNamara. The retiring mayor lost the vote of the city employees, of which there are about one thousand. The Civic Government League, which has been advocating government by Elective Commission in a non-political way, gave

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