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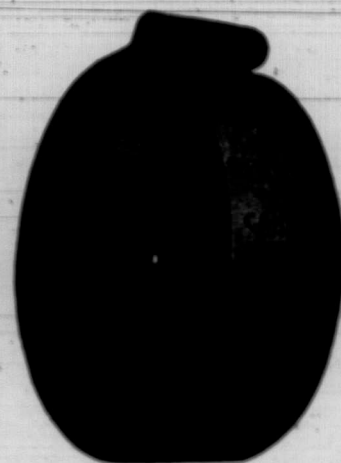
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### THE SASKATCHEWAN CENSUS

A preliminary statement of the statistics of population and agriculture for the province of Saskatchewan, collected on June 1, 1916, shows a population of 647,835. Of this number 363,787 were males and 284,048 females. Compared with the population of 492,432 in 1911, this represents an increase of 155,403 or 31.55 per cent. in five years. There were in the province 128 males to every 100 females as compared with a ratio of 145.3 in 1911 and 145.5 in 1906.

The falling off in the number of immigrants consequent upon the outbreak of war is largely responsible for the smaller deficiency shown in the ratio of males and females in Saskatchewan in the last census as compared with previous ones.

### Village Population Doubled

In the five years, 1911-1916, the city population of the province increased by 11,450, or 16.7 per cent., as compared with a gain of 47,000 persons in the previous five years. The village population of Saskatchewan has about doubled in the last five years. The revised figures of the population of Saskatchewan cities on June 1, 1916, are as follows: Moose Jaw, 16,934; North Battleford, 3,145; Prince Albert, 6,436; Regina, 26,137; Saskatoon, 21,348; Swift Current, 3,181; Weyburn, 3,050.

The preliminary statement of the statistics of agriculture for Saskatchewan collected at the 1916 census shows that from 1911 to 1916 farm holdings increased from 96,372, with an acreage of 28,643, 985 to 104,006 holdings, with an acreage of 36,800,000.

### Total Land

The total land of the province is placed at 153,745,000 acres. Of this amount 38,800,936 acres, or 25.63 per cent. was occupied as farm land out of a total of 94,944,064 acres estimated as being available for crop production. During the five year period the number of farms increased by 7.8 per cent. and the land occupied as farms by 28.05 per cent. The average size of

farms in 1916 was 353 acres, as against 392 acres in 1911. The area of improved land per farm increased from 123 acres to 188 acres during the same period. According to the bulletin only 50,935 acres, or less than two-fifths of one per cent. of the acreage planted in 1915 did not yield a return. In 1910, of 6,871,858 acres planted, 159,456 acres or 2.32 per cent. failed to produce a harvest.

Livestock statistics collected show an increase of 333,439 or 65.7 per cent. in horses and mules, as compared with 1911, when the number of cattle increased by 59.6 per cent., bringing the number of cattle in the province well over the million mark. Milch cows show an increase of 77.8 per cent. and swine of 85.3 per cent.

Sheep show a five year increase of a little more than 10,000 animals. The Maple Creek district possessed in 1916 more than one-third of all the sheep for the province. The production of poultry increased 1911 to 1916 by 3,225,622, a five year gain of 36 per cent. The value of hogs on farms increased from \$2,512,540 to \$5,137,474, representing an increased revenue to the farmers of more than 104 per cent.

### OCCASIONAL RUST ATTACKS

Red rust and black rust are merely stages of the same destructive disease. The disease is caused by minute parasitic plants which live upon the grain plant and draw food manufactured by this plant for its own sustenance. Black rust is responsible for nearly all the rust losses of grain in Western Canada. It is found on wheat, oats, barley, rye and a large number of wild and cultivated grasses. The rust plant has a very intricate and involved life history, which is of particular interest only to those who make a special study of the subject. After the plant is finally developed it gives off millions of spores. Most of these dry up and die, but some of them, under favorable conditions, find a congenial lodging place on the surface of the grain plant and so develop. Moisture is indispensable for their germination, though it may be only what we term humidity of the

atmosphere. It is for this reason that the rust is usually more prevalent in a summer characterized by hot, damp, muggy weather and frequent showers. During dry, windy weather rust does not develop, though only a few still, humid days are necessary to spread the disease.

The development of the disease is greatly aided by a weakened condition of the plant, for a plant, like a human being that is not in the pink of condition, is usually susceptible to the attacks of disease. If then rust develops in certain places, as has been the case in some places this year—and the season has not been one where rust has been very bad—the cause is probably due to the fact that the seed was weak or that the conditions of growth were not favorable to producing a strong, vigorous, healthy crop.

No remedy is known that will control grain rust. All that can be done is to use good seed and cultural methods so as to produce a strong crop that will itself resist the attacks of the rust. Early sowing and the use of early maturing varieties is one of the precautions advised. Avoid the use of wet land unless such is carefully and correctly drained. Wet land usually forms a cold bottom for wheat and in many cases cannot be worked very well. This delays sowing and germination of the seed. Wet soils are generally lacking in air. Aeration of the soil is a great aid to the development of a strong, vigorous plant. Prepare the seed bed so that the seed and young plant will have every encouragement from aeration, warmth and moisture. A rotation of crops by which a growth of weeds is held in check is an important factor. Grain suffers from the crowding of the weeds and is therefore more subject to the attack of rust. It is important that only the heaviest, plump kernels obtainable be planted for seed in years following severe rust epidemics, or where the grain was much injured by frost. It is necessary to exercise particular precautions to remove all shrivelled and light seeds. Old seed grain of low germination is objectionable for the

same reason. It should always be submitted to a germination test before being used for seeding. As early maturity tends to have the crop from rust attacks, early sowing, the use of early varieties and any cultural operations calculated to hasten maturity are strongly recommended.

### OUR COVER CUT

The cover cut of this week's issue of The Guide gives a good idea of the splendid display made by Manitoba at the 12th International Soil Products Congress at Peoria, Ill., and at which the province made such splendid winnings.

The upper picture shows the display made by the department of agriculture for the province. In the centre is a model of a Manitoba farm around which were grouped displays of all kinds of staple cereals, feeders and grasses of Manitoba as well as poultry, dairy and fruit products.

The bottom part of the illustration shows the exhibit of Samuel Larcombe together with a display of premium products of Manitoba in the foreground. At the sides large cards informing visitors that this year Manitoba was awarded sweepstakes, first, second and third prizes for wheat; sweepstakes and first for oats; sweepstakes, first and second for rye; and first and second for flax. It is also pointed out these premium products were grown on land selling at an average of from \$25 to \$35 an acre, an argument which doubtless had much to do in deciding many Americans to settle in the West. In the foreground of the lower picture are also three cups. The centre one was won by Samuel Larcombe for the world's best wheat, that on the left by M. P. Mountain for the world's best oats, and that on the right by John Strathern for the world's best rye. The quality of the exhibits and the artistic manner in which they were arranged were a credit to the province. It was conceded to be one of the most attractive displays at any exhibition of this kind ever held. Immigration results are already being felt in Manitoba.

Military medals have been awarded to 90 men from Western Canada who have distinguished themselves in the recent fighting around Lens.