

SASKATCHEWAN IS A PROVINCE OF RICH RESOURCES

Which Need Intelligent and Careful Development—
Protection is Increasing

Although there has been a pronounced check in all speculative business and in much municipal development work throughout the west, and while there are some unsatisfactory conditions, so far as this section of Saskatchewan is concerned, and, indeed, all of the province, we are but beginning on the right road to true prosperity, and though there seems to be some adjusting to do, no serious trouble is anticipated, writes a gentleman prominent in the financial world, from Regina, in reply to some queries of *The Monetary Times*. We went for quite a long time without reasoning, as capital was coming easily into the country, and the future was being speculated with. A certain amount of that capital went in ways that did not assist development, and perhaps wasteful habits were encouraged, but now everybody is thinking, and the result will be a more intelligent and careful development of resources that have not been touched, and others that have only been disturbed.

Those who worked six months, in wheat growing, (which in too many cases has not been profitable in the past two years, owing to the high cost of production as well as to the increasing cost of other requirements that were needlessly being imported) are looking for means of employment for twelve, and the proportion of those in towns who have been trading real estate is becoming less, as many of them are turning their attention to other things, appreciating what we shall have to depend upon when the flow of outside capital stops and railway development slows up.

Diversified Farming is a Need.

A man cannot buy a section or two of land and a traction engine and make money by raising grain alone, while buying gasoline or coal and neglecting all the other possibilities of his farm, but one can start with a quarter or a half section and enough money to buy the necessary implements and a yoke of oxen, or a team of horses, along with a cow and a few hogs, chickens, etc., and soon become independent, if he properly utilizes everything on the ground, and does not go unnecessarily into debt so as to become swamped with interest. I personally know many such men who began in this way from five to ten years ago, who to-day are comfortably off; worth between \$10,000 and \$20,000, with practically no liabilities. They are mostly from Manitoba or Eastern Canada. The attention of the country should be given, and is being given, to farming in every branch of the business, and to bringing down the cost of producing wheat, and more attention in towns should be given to starting small industries of various kinds.

Value of Products is Increasing.

Everywhere much discussion is heard of different large flotations "if only capital could be secured," but it might be better if more encouragement were given to the establishment of certain sorts of manufacturing that show prospects for development, and those to which the country is particularly adapted. Labor is gradually becoming more available all the time. Many farmers would go more extensively into sheep raising, but there is no market for wool. Conditions generally will be very different and more satisfactory before long.

We have imported beef, mutton, poultry, eggs, and the bulk of our garden stuff. These are now receiving much attention, as well as other products. I think there is no doubt that the value of products in Saskatchewan this year will be very much greater than it ever has been. Commercial collections have not been good, but those who gave credit somewhat lavishly have themselves to blame for this.

Everywhere during the last few years we have seen merchants, as well as farmers, start with insufficient capital, and often no experience; and in many cases where they had something to begin with they bought land that they did not need, or made unnecessary extensions, as it was easy to secure goods on time. Failures and losses are inevitable, but when capital and experience are again considered essentials, business will soon recover and develop on a sound basis.

Regina's Programme.

As regards conditions in Regina, comparatively little real estate is changing hands just now, although occasional sales of inside property are made from time to time. The city programme calls for expenditures totalling over three millions, and it is not thought that these operations will be interrupted. There is a good deal of building going on just now, chiefly under the control of firms or corporations who made their plans last year. This includes a ten-story business block for McCallum & Hill, and one of six stories for the Canada Life Assurance Company.

MANITOBA'S AGRICULTURE AND MINERALS

Seeding in the West—Committee on Mineral Resources
—Business Men's Trip

Monetary Times Office,
Winnipeg, April 15th.

Seeding will be general throughout Western Canada by the end of next week. Already in Medicine Hat and Lethbridge districts the farmers are busy with the spring sowing, while by mid-week the work will be general at Moose Jaw and Saskatoon and throughout Manitoba, and by the end of the week the country tributary to Regina, Edmonton, and Calgary will be under the discs and shoes of the seeder. At Prince Albert the spring has been somewhat tardy, but plowing and the preparation of the seedbeds are even now being taken up, and by next week seeding will be general.

Land and Fruits.

Canada's first land and apple show will be held at Winnipeg on October 10th to 18th of this year. This decision was reached at a meeting of the standing committee last week at which Mr. J. Bruce Walker, immigration commissioner presided. The list of awards authorized calls for an expenditure of over \$4,000, and includes cash prizes, diplomas and a year's free scholarship in each of Canada's provincial agricultural colleges. The prizes in gold include the following:—

Wheat—1st, \$250; 2nd, \$150; 3rd, \$100.
Barley—1st, \$100; 2nd, \$75; 3rd, \$50.
Oats—1st, \$100; 2nd, \$75; 3rd, \$50.
Apples—1st, \$200; 2nd, \$100; 3rd, \$50.
Pears—1st, \$100; 2nd, \$50; 3rd, \$25.

In addition to the cash prizes special diplomas will be awarded provincial governments, organized agricultural districts and fruit growing associations for the finest general display of grains, grasses, etc., and fruits. The show will be an all-Canadian one.

Manitoba's Mineral Wealth.

A special committee on mineral resources, which has been added to organizations of the industrial bureau, has now held their first meeting. Dr. R. C. Wallace, professor of geology and mineralogy of the University of Manitoba, has been appointed chairman, and the other members are Prof. A. W. Bedford, and Principal Hodgson, of the Provincial Agricultural College; Mr. Arthur J. Merrill, B.Sc., of Mackenzie and Merrill, consulting engineers; Professor A. M. Parker, of Manitoba University; Messrs. C. N. Bell and A. B. Mitchell. The committee will first concentrate their energies on the collection of economic minerals which will be exhibited in a booth in the exposition in natural and manufactured state. The personnel of the committee and the field open for investigation warrant the belief that the work of the committee will be of the greatest value in stimulating interest in the development of the mineral wealth of Manitoba. It is understood that when the provincial government take over the mineral resources of this province, and establish a mines department that the committee will assist by handing over all information and collections made, to assist the authorities in the work of development.

Arrangements are now nearing completion for the Winnipeg Industrial Bureau's Trade Expansion Committee's annual business trip through Western Canada. It is expected that at least eighty business men join in this eight-day tour of the newly opened west. Many of the cities and towns included in the itinerary are offering special arrangements for the entertainment of the party and the Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific Railways, along whose newer lines the trip will be made, are also making preparations for the trip of the travellers.

PROOF OF AGE IN LIFE INSURANCE

The bill introduced in the Ontario legislature by Mr. M. C. McKeown, relative to the proof of age in life insurance, came up in the committee stage in the house on Tuesday, but it had a short passage, and on motion of the Prime Minister was sent back to the special committee. According to Mr. McKeown, the reprinted bill was radically different from what the committee had agreed upon.

"As I understand it," explained Mr. McKeown, "Mr. McGarry, at the last meeting of the committee, suggested an amendment by which notices that proof of age was necessary before payment of the claim should be made by the insurance company should be sent out with the policy. The bill here provides that the company must send out a notice within one month after the contract is made. I may be wrong, but that is not my understanding of what the committee agreed upon."

The requirement that the notice be sent out in one month—after the first premium had been paid—meant nothing. If the notice was received before the contract was made and the first premium paid the insured would have the importance of securing proof impressed upon him.