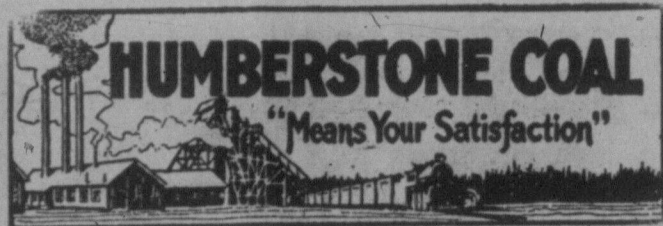


The Farm Page



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SOUTHERN ALBERTA FARMERS HAVE CROP FAILURE

Lack of Rain and Hot Winds Create Havoc in the South

A survey of crops on June 30th showed that the important wheat lands of Southern Alberta were in a precarious situation. This unfavorable condition in the south country has since been confirmed and intensified.

In the south the situation, briefly is this: there was sufficient moisture from snow or spring rains to germinate the grain and the crops came up satisfactorily. There was not sufficient moisture below to constitute a reservoir for the steady supply of moisture to crops for subsequent growth and there has not been sufficient rain since.

There have been showers over many parts of the south since that but in no cases have these showers been heavy enough to saturate down even to the little moisture that there was below and so induce any water movement into the crops. The rains that have occurred over the whole of this area have been showers that have wet the surface soil but only to a depth of about an inch. They have quickly evaporated without becoming effective to the furthering of crop growth, as it needs to go at least four or five inches down. The crops that had reached some height and were standing still at the end of the month have since gone back. High winds have persisted throughout practically all of Southern Alberta and the grain that is headed out is bleached at the top of the head and only has a few grains in the middle.

There are not a great many localities that will be able to even supply their own seed in the country tributary to the Crows' Nest Railway and on the Aldersyde line. Crops that grew fairly well at points between Lethbridge and Medicine Hat and on the Suffield branch, likewise on the main line of the C.P.R. have been subject to steady reduction for the past three weeks.

Many people are holding their crops in the hope that they may get seed for next year but they would be better to cut them for feed where they have reached any height and trust to some other arrangement for seed next spring. There are limited localities also where crops will furnish something more than seed. The country on the main line of the C.P.R. tributary to the railway between Gleichen and Bassano and also north to the Goose Lake line between Rockyford and Drumheller will have some crop but cases of this kind are not sufficiently numerous to affect the unfavorable conditions over the whole area. There is nothing to be said except that the grain crop in Southern Alberta is a failure. The pasture and hay are equally light and the situation is bad for live stock and equally precarious for the health and welfare of the settlers and their families. The scarcity of hay in Central Alberta and the prices that will have to be paid for it are going to make it impossible for southern stockmen to buy Alberta hay to feed their stock. The chances for disposing of stock are also poor. The local markets are not absorb and re-distribute the live stock of the south and the prices obtainable by southern farmers for their stock are not what they should be. There seems a need of finding an outside market for the stock. Flax is standing still and will not realize very much of a crop.

On the Noble farm there is a large area of rye. This crop has withstood the drought better than wheat and oats. The opposite end of the province, namely, the Peace River country continues to have bountiful rains and high temperatures. The crop is making good progress and it is generally heavy. In a few localities there is almost too much moisture. While the conditions in the Peace River are good the total area is not of importance compared with Central and Southern Alberta.

Central Alberta is in about the same situation as it was at the time of the last report. The eastern side continues dry and all of the country needs rain, but considering the absence of general rains the crops in most parts of Central Alberta are standing up pretty well. They have made some growth since last report and there is no new limiting factor to the success of the crop but it will scarcely be a full crop.

Wheat in Central Alberta that has been sown on breaking, or summer-fallow will be considerably over half a crop. On spring plowing it will not be so good. The oat crop is the most important crop of Central Alberta. The early oats are rather short and can not be a real good crop. The oats that have been sown late have rather better prospects. They are showing strong and have plenty of time for a good crop yet if we have a reasonable amount of rain. Six weeks of favorable weather would make things fairly satisfactory in Central Alberta.

The hay crop is quite light as to both native and tame hay and there will be practically no surplus in any part of the province for the southern stockmen.

HIGH TEST MORE PROFITABLE THAN LOW FOR CREAM

There is a strong notion which prevails with a good many farmers who separate their own cream to the effect that it is more profitable to them to make a cream testing, say, 30 per cent or under rather than 40 to 50 per cent. They are utterly wrong in this for two good and sufficient reasons:

1. The low testing cream robs the farm of a large amount of skim milk. Such skim milk is easily worth 85 cents per 100 lbs. as a feed for calves and young pigs in these times.
2. Rich cream keeps sweet much longer. To those sending cream away at a distance this is an important point. Another reason is the saving in freight in proportion to the dollars' worth involved.

THREE YEAR EGG LAYING CONTEST BEGINS NOV. 1ST

Canadian Poultry Breeders Should Take Advantage of Opportunity of Entering Pens

Canadian poultry breeders should take early advantage of the opportunity of entering pens in the second Three-Year Egg-Laying Contest, which is to be conducted by the New Jersey State Agricultural Experiment Station at Vineland, N.J. This is a particularly valuable contest from which each contestant will secure a great deal of valuable information about his own breeding stock, and at the same time the results secured will prove a guarantee for advertising purposes. It is a contest based on the principle of the production of the progeny of the birds entered. The contest will begin November 1st, 1919 and extend for a period of three years, ending October 31st, 1922. All records, including eggs laid, weight of eggs, amount of feed, duration of moult, frequency of broody periods, and other data, will be published from time to time in regular reports, bulletins and circulars.

Competition is open to all poultry raisers throughout the world. As in nearly every other contest, only pure bred birds, of a recognized standard breed, will be accepted for competition. Furthermore, only birds bred and owned by the one making entry will be eligible for competition. This is an improvement over the rules of some other contests, where men have simply bought a pen of birds to enter in the contest and have advertised their own home stock on the results secured by their newly purchased pen. This rule in the New Jersey contest is made in order to make the contest of the greatest benefit to poultry breeders to whom we must look for the development of improved strains of birds. In order to make sure that the rule is complied with the party entering the pen in the competition must make an affidavit on the application blank to show that he has bred and owned the birds.

Each entry will consist of a pen of 20 pullets, the pullets entered to be hatched between the dates of January 1st, and July 1st, 1919. The dates in which the pullets were hatched must be given in order to add to the value of the experimental data. The 20 pullets will be trap-nested for the year 1919-20 and the year 1920-21, the latter being their yearling or second year production. On November 1st, 1920, the best 12 pullets will be selected to be bred from and the balance will be returned to their owner at that time. During March, April and May, 1920, these 12 hens will be mated to a male bird furnished by the owner, and approximately 200 eggs will be hatched from each pen, approximately 20 eggs being hatched from each hen. From these chicks hatched 20 pullets, approximately two from each hen in so far as possible, will be selected in the fall of 1921 and from November 1st, 1921 to October 31st, 1922, these pullets will be placed in the pens occupied by their parents, and will be trap-nested for the year. The 12 hens used as breeders will be returned to the owner November 1st, 1921.

STRONGLY FAVOR FIXED PRICE FOR WHEAT THIS YEAR

At their session in Winnipeg this week, the members of the Canadian Council of Agriculture expressed themselves as strongly in favor of a fixed price on Canadian wheat for this season. With the narrow western market, it was feared that there might be exploitation if the Winnipeg market was the only one which was open.

Stock in Central Alberta is looking well. The characteristic trouble with the central district is that it has not had any heavy rains. There have been a number of small showers over most parts of this division. They have benefitted the crops a little and have kept the weather cooler and high winds have ceased, but for even an ordinary harvest good rains are necessary.

FARMERS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HELP OF EXPERTS

Training in Agricultural Colleges Enables Experts To Be Of Benefit To Farmers

Farmers are naturally democratic, and country social life is largely built upon the principles of equality and fraternity. But these foundation principles have been often applied too literally so that the conception of democracy has been to some extent a false one. All men are not equal nor have they all equal opportunities in life. As Shakespeare says: "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." Some men are better able by education than others to perform certain offices of the community; some are ten-talented, while others are one-talented.

Through this somewhat false conception of true democracy, the farmer has been slow in acknowledging that he can be helped by experts in agriculture, although he has long recognized the value of experts in other lines, as for example in medicine, in the teaching of his children and in the preaching of the Gospel. In pioneer days the need for experts was not keenly felt "and democratic ideals prevailed, but with the development of the country when a gradual change from a simple to a more complex organization took place, it became more and more evident to many farmers that the advice of persons trained along special lines was necessary to cope with the new conditions.

In recent years the farmer has received much help from government and college men, and the introduction of County Demonstrators or Agronomists has dispelled to a large degree the ingrained resistance to the use of experts. These men are experts in the sense that they are devoting all their time and energy to the advancement of better agricultural methods. With the training they have received in the Agricultural Colleges they are in a position to get into touch with and call in the help of men who can solve many of the difficulties that are brought to their attention. On account of the very real service they have rendered in the matter of greater production they have won the regard and respect of the farmers.

It is becoming more evident every year, however, that there is another field that is of equal importance to that of production and which relates to distribution and marketing of farm products and to better country life. To solve the problems in this field experts are needed, and the farmer must turn again for help to the country demonstrators.

LACK OF FEED CAUSING DROP IN PRICE OF HORSES

Buyers Getting Many Snaps, and Lots of Cheap Horses Are Being Shipped

Unfavorable feed and crop conditions are causing a big drop in the price of horses in the southern part of the province. Auctioneers A. Layzell and J. W. Durmo have held some big sales recently at Calgary at which there have been some cheap horses sold and shipped to various parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The highest price said to be paid at these sales was \$445 which was for a nice team of mares.

Many good teams have been sold for between \$250 and \$350. Light teams of mares and geldings have been going cheap, and the horses which are not broken have been snaps in most cases. From present feed conditions in the southern part of the province, and extending well into southern Alberta, there is not likely to be any demand for horses for harvesting, and the hay-feeding operations will be equally light.

FARMERS POSSESS ONE QUARTER CARS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Thirty-seven per cent of the farmers of Pennsylvania own automobiles. The number increased relatively from 14 per cent in two years. The total number of pneumatic-tired cars owned by Pennsylvania farmers now is 80,505.

Three years ago there were 40,700 farmers in the state who owned automobiles, but their use around the farm and in going to and from market, as well as for passenger service, made them so popular that the farmer ownership increased during 1917 to 55,726. Last year the total climbed to 80,505. In 1916, 14 per cent of the farmers were owners; in 1917, 27 per cent, and in 1918, 37 per cent.

The total number of pneumatic-tired automobiles licensed in Pennsylvania during 1918 was 362,961, showing that the farmers owned virtually 23 per cent of the total number of automobiles owned in the state.



MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE FEES

1. \$5 in case of a motorcycle, and for any other motor vehicle according to the length of wheel base in inches as follows:

For motor vehicles not exceeding 100 inches	\$15.00
Exceeding 100 inches but not exceeding 105 inches	17.50
Exceeding 105 inches but not exceeding 110 inches	20.00
Exceeding 110 inches but not exceeding 115 inches	22.50
Exceeding 115 inches but not exceeding 120 inches	25.00
Exceeding 120 inches but not exceeding 125 inches	27.50
Exceeding 125 inches but not exceeding 130 inches	30.00
Exceeding 130 inches but not exceeding 135 inches	32.50
For every motor vehicle exceeding 135 inches	35.00

2. The foregoing fees shall include the cost of one set of number plates.

3. The fee, payable after October 1 in any year, shall be one-half of the fee above prescribed.

4. Fire engines and fire patrol apparatus, police patrol and municipal owned ambulances shall be exempt from payment of the above fees, but such motor vehicles shall be registered and number plates issued on payment of fee of one dollar for each pair of number plates on filing of the statement required under section 3 of "The Motor Vehicle Act."

E. TROWBRIDGE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.
Edmonton, April 24th, 1919.

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