FINE CROPS SURE

Outlook in Western Canada Never More Favorable.

Perfect Weather Conditions Enabled Early Seeding and Wheat Has Long Been Above Ground in the Land of Opportunity.

The greatest optimism prevails throughout every district in Western Canada. From the eastern boundary of Manitoba to the slopes of the Rocky Mountains the farmers have been busy for three weeks in seeding operations. Last fall, even for Western Canada, was an exceptional one. Threshing was completed at an early date and the amount of fall plowing made ready for crop from fifteen to twenty-five per cent more acreage than in any year in the brief history of the country. Therefore there was ready for seeding this spring an acreage away beyond anything ever before experienced in that country.

On April 20 Calgary (Alta.) reported that in south country points there was a notable spirit of optimism amongst the farmers there. Moisture and weather conditions were good, while land in most places was in the best possible condition. More tractors were being put into operation than in any previous year. In some parts of the south country, however, there was a marked shortage of labor, but in the consideration of the country as a whole the labor outlook was bright.

Seeding operations were well under way in every part of Western Canada by the fifteenth of April. The practice of the farmers in that country is to commence as soon as the frost is out of the ground enough to allow the few inch seed bed to be worked up well. Beneath this the ground may still be frozen, but from this frost the young and tender wheat roots get the moisture at first so necessary to its existence. The warm days of spring and the long hours of sunlight that are ushered in with it thaw the frost out day by day and pay to the growing plant the moisture as it is needed. Nature's way of producing moisture to the young wheat plant is one of the chief reasons why Western Canada has become world famous as a wheat-producing country. What may be said of wheat can as truly be said of oats and barley, and yes, in fact, corn, too. Rapid and strong growth is stimulated in this manner. Heavy spring rains usually occur after seeding is over and the grain well above ground.

Already a report has been received, dated April 20, that a farmer near Cabri, Saskatchewan, had 180 acres of wheat showing above the ground.

A good, strong and sturdy wheat plant is necessary when it is expected that there will be produced a forty-bushel-to-the-acre crop of wheat of a quality that will weigh out its sixty-five pounds to the measured bushel.

These spring wheat conditions represent but one of the reasons why Western Canada has been able to produce, with so little effort, world's record grain crops, wheat and oats that have carried off all championship awards at America's largest expositions.

Western Canada has this spring shipped ten thousand bushels of Marquis wheat, the variety that holds most of the world's championships, to Australia, where it is to be tried out. Seventy-five thousand bushels of the same variety has been sent to France to be used for seed.

The wheat lands of Western Canada are probably the most undervalued of any on the continent.

A comparatively small acreage of Western Canada's lands has been sold as high as $60 an acre. The greater portion of the best farming land in its unimproved state may be purchased at $25 an acre. The comparison between these prices and an annual revenue derived from grain-growing alone, with big yields and present prices, can but more firmly impress one with the certainty of a rapid increase within the next few years.—Advertisement.

Out of Order.

The village was all agog. Flossie Flatfeet was marrying William Giles. The church was crowded. Flossie, looking as pale as her somewhat highly colored countenance would allow, bore up until the plain band ring was safely on her finger, and then, overcome, burst into tears.

The villagers were touched, but not anxious. All girls cry at weddings.

Then suddenly William Giles screwed up his face and broke into howls. Tears poured down his face and dripped off his whiskers.

"What's up? Hush, man!" those nearest him urged. But Giles continued to howl, and at last burst out:

"Let me be! I feel wuss 'an 'er about it!"—London Tit-Bits.

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Cement From Oyster Shells.

Oyster shells are being used extensively in the manufacture of portland cement along the coast of the gulf of Mexico.

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If you want to make a man howling mad just keep cool when he abuses you.

Germany's New Army Lacks Snap

Soldiers Slack in Discipline and Show Familiarity Toward Officers.

OLD ARMY HAS DISAPPEARED

About 70,000 Men Commanded by Hindenburg About All That Remains of Great Host—Revolution Changes German Troops.

Berlin.—Under the new republic the departments of the army and navy are no more, in name at least. The republic's name for them is defense, and they are placed under charge of Gustav Noske, much trusted by the government for his prompt action in emergencies, and much hated by the Spartacans for his relentless opposition when disorders break out.

Noske's appointment as head of the navy, as well as the army, was regarded none too seriously, by Noske himself, at least. When asked by a newspaper man what he expected to do about the naval affairs of Germany in the future, Noske laughed and replied: "Why worry about naval affairs, when we haven't any navy?"

There are still sailors in big numbers in Germany, however, and they have been a problem. During the revolution the sailors played an important part, and most of them developed such a liking to land duty in Berlin and the other big cities that they have refused to leave for Kiel or any of the harbors. Now the sailors are used in the guard regiments all over Germany, along with soldiers.

Big Army Disappears.

The German army is in process of reorganization. Immediately after the armistice the army almost disappeared as an organized unit, and though there were millions of men in uniform scattered all over the land, none was responsible to anyone, and officers were not safe in uniform. In localities the soldiers joined "Red guard" groups, and some served and others misused their privileges. Thus the army as it was known in the old days practically vanished, except for a few divisions under Hindenburg, camped behind the Rhine, and the troops along the Polish border.

Now the only army of the field that Germany has is in the east to guard against the Poles. It is commanded by Hindenburg and is supposed to be not more than 60,000 or 70,000 men, if it numbers that many. However, government troops are scattered over the country in every big city and in industrial centers to guard against disorders. The big problem is keeping these troops faithful and satisfied, when Spartacan propaganda and money is at large. Under Noske and the minister of war, Colonel Reinhard, the morale and discipline of the government troops have improved tremendously until a great part of the former efficiency is restored.

Depends on Peace Terms.

Germany's army is in a transitory state. What it will become depends upon the peace terms, the Germans recognize. But there has evidently been a change in idea in the government. Early in the revolution Ebert declared himself against a conscripted army, and Noske and Reinhard were appointed to organize volunteer forces, serving for short periods, to defend the new government. As a matter of fact the troops used for interior defense are all volunteers, mostly young men, serving for three or six months at good pay.

The policy of the new republic will be against conscription in theory, declares President Ebert, but there is not much hope of putting the theory into effect, for it is pointed out that Germany will not abolish conscription unless the neighboring nations do. Since the Germans do not expect their neighbors to depend on volunteers, plans are being worked out for a new conscription army, serving shorter periods and modeled more after the Swiss than the old Prussian army. The militia idea is popular, but is considered idealistic.

The German army of interior defense, which probably numbers around a hundred thousand men, or possibly a few thousand more, is an expensive proposition. Volunteers have to be paid well to keep them from being won over by the Spartacans, who offer more money. Food and equipment is good.

The new army has a rather slack discipline, and none of the old Prussian snap is seen when officers appear. Familiarity and almost insolence are seen on every hand. The German trooper has changed a lot with the revolution, and if appearances are at all indicative, the government forces in Germany today are not to be feared outside Germany.

2,000 Murdered by the Bolsheviki

U. S. Red Cross Agents Tell of Reds' Atrocities in Siberia.

DIG OWN PITS; BURIED ALIVE

Murders Were Without Provocation and the Victims Were Largely of Thrifty or Intelligent Classes or Servants of Church.

Omsk.—Indisputable evidence of the massacre by the bolsheviki of more than 2,000 civilians in and near the town of Osa has been obtained by Messrs. Simmonds and Emerson and Dr. Rudolph Teusler of the American Red Cross, who have just returned from Perm, Osa and other re-occupied Russian territory. Approximately 500 persons were killed at Osa and 1,500 in the surrounding districts.

Osa, which had a population of 10,000, was so denuded of males by the bolsheviki that General Casagrande, upon the occupation of the town, was obliged to telegraph to Ekaterinburg for men to administer civic affairs.

Dogs Dig Up Bodies.

In addition to securing verbal and documentary evidence the American Red Cross officials witnessed the exhuming of scores of victims from trenches, where they were buried sometimes several deep in graves revealed by the digging of dogs.

The murders were without provocation, and the victims were largely of the thrifty and intelligent classes or servants of the church, which latter it was the announced intention of the bolsheviki to exterminate.

The evidence discloses almost unthinkable atrocities. A blacksmith, by economies, had attained a shop. He was required to pay 5,000 rubles; because he could not, he was shot. A man was shot because he lived in a brick house. All attorneys and jurists were killed, and doctors, whose services were not required for the moment, were disposed of in a similar manner.

A woman whose husband and two sons had been seized applied to the commissar for information as to their fate. She was told they had been taken to Perm. After repeating her visit several times she was informed that if she bothered the commissar again she would be shot, as they had been.

The body of a woman was exhumed and identified in the presence of the Americans as the wife of a general through jewels sewed in the lining of her clothing, of which relatives were aware. Another woman was compelled to fetch a lamp and gaze upon her murdered sons for the amusement of the slayers.

A wife required to pay 1,000 rubles for the release of her husband borrowed 800 and paid it over; later she returned with the remainder, and then was informed that her husband had been shot. There were scores of similar cases. All were killed without any form of trial.

The soviet called a meeting and prepared lists of those to die. The houses proscribed were visited by squads, the doors were smashed in, and the victims dragged to the edge of the town and forced to dig their own graves. Those who resisted were shot in the streets.

A survivor testified that he had seen men thrown into a pit and buried alive. This testimony has been confirmed by bodies exhumed, the clenched hands of which were clinging to the mud at the bottom of the pit.

The only spark of humanity discoverable was that in confiscating the belongings of the residents. In some instances where there was a family of small children, the family was permitted to retain one cow out of several. Occasionally a peasant was allowed to keep his worst horse.

The bolshevik attitude toward the church was uncompromising. Priests were hunted unmercifully. The evidence showed that men were slain whose only offense was that they worked as sextons or caretakers of churches.

Milk Can Causes Death.

Lawton, Okla.—W. S. Mantooth twenty-two, a well-known young farmer near here, was instantly killed when a milk can several boys were using as a boiler exploded. Some boys were using the milk can as the boiler of an improvised engine, and Mr. Mantooth stopped to warn them that they had too much steam up. Just then the boiler let go. The big can, weighing thirty pounds, hit him between the eyes.

WOMEN FACTORY WORKERS OF GERMANY

Group of women who are employed in the factories of Bitburg, Germany. Some of them are wearing wooden shoes, leather being very scarce in Germany.

Aliens Quit Country

New York.—Enriched by war work, aliens are leaving this country at the rate of more than 1,000 a day, it was learned here from custom officials, who expressed fear that, with the possibility that congress may limit immigration for the next four years, the United States will face a serious labor shortage, instead of a condition of unemployment.

Since the signing of the armistice, it was said, Italians, Greeks, Spaniards and Portuguese have been pouring out of the United Staes through this port. Since November 76,221 passports have been vised at the custom house, and since December, 33,000 aliens have sailed. Every ship clearing for Mediterranean ports has sailed with a full steerage, so that rates have jumped from $40 to $80.

Custom officials estimate that an enormous sum has been taken out of the country since the exodus began. Each alien, it is said, carries with him from $1,000 to $7,000 to enable him to live in his native land in greater ease than he ever enjoyed before. Since April 2, when all outgoing passengers were forced to pay their income taxes before leaving, more than $68,000 has been collected.

Byron R. Newton, collector of the port, who has been asked by members of the United States senate and house immigration committee to reduce the exodus to statistics, said today more than 90 per cent of the aliens are Italians, and that "something ought to be done to check the outflow."

CUPID BUSY DURING WAR

Six Thousand French Women Were Wooed and Won by Yanks in One Year.

Paris, France.—That Cupid was nearly as busy as Mars with the members of the American expeditionary force and that romance bloomed in France in spite of war's alarms is shown by the fact that more than 6,000 French women have been wooed and won by American soldiers within one year. The majority of the French girls who have become Americans through marrying American officers and men are stenographers, salesgirls, teachers and a sprinkling of peasant girls and those of the middle class or bourgeoisie. The romances are in most cases very similar.

Less Than 4,000 Yanks Lost Arms or Legs.

Washington, D. C.—Nearly 4,000 officers and enlisted men in the American expeditionary forces lost arms or legs in the war with Germany, according to statistics furnished by the bureau of war risk insurance, which is now interested in bringing about changes in the law fixing compensation for maimed soldiers, sailors, and marines.

PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

AREA OF DETAILED MAPPING

Notwithstanding Interruptions by War, Larger Amount Was Covered in Year of 1918.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Notwithstanding a certain amount of interruption due to war conditions in the work of the soil survey carried on by the bureau of soils of the United States department of agriculture, a larger area of detailed mapping was done during the fiscal year 1918 than during the preceding year, the area covered amounting to 38,136 square miles. Prior to 1918 a total of 445,825 square miles had been mapped, so that the total area covered by the detailed work of the survey at the close of June 30, 1918, was 483,961 square miles. That part of the United States lying within regions where the rainfall is sufficient for crop production or where water is available for irrigation covers approximately 1,750,000 square miles. The area mapped in detail during 1918 was equivalent to 2.2 per cent of this area, the total mapped in detail to date 27.6 per cent, and the total, both detailed and reconnoissance work, much of the latter area calling for no further work, amounted to 54.3 per cent of it.

Plane-table Used in Soil Survey for Constructing Base Map.

TREES FOR ROAD PROTECTION

Active Steps Taken by New York Organizations for Development of Planting Scheme.

(By PROF R. B. FAXON, State College of Forestry, Syracuse, N. Y.)

Believing that the problem of roadside planting should not be entirely set aside during the movement for a greater mileage of improved highways, active steps are now being taken by the New York State Motor federation and the State College of Forestry at Syracuse for the development of a planting scheme for the section of the highway running from Syracuse to Utica, a distance of about 66 miles.

It has been demonstrated by those in charge of the work that aside from the purely ornamental value of trees along the highway, many practical benefits would result from their proper use. It is not generally realized that trees, by means of their shade during the summer months, prolong the life of the roadway for many years, and road experts in general are heartily in favor of this means for road protection.

IMPROVEMENT IN WISCONSIN

Ten Million Dollars to Be Spent on Developing Highways in Badger State in 1919.

Ten million dollars will be spent on developing, improving and patrolling the highways of Wisconsin during 1919.

This announcemnt was made by A. R. Hirst, state highway engineer, who explained that the increase, an amount almost double that spent in former years, was because $2,500,000 was left over from last year and also to furnish an opportunity for employment of returned soldiers and sailors.

"Approximately $7,000,000 will be spent in developing new roads, and about $3,000,000 will be used to patrol the state trunk highways. The money will come from federal, state and county sources.

The senate committee on highways is considering a bill to allow counties to institute trunk lines and to raise the present limit of 5,000 miles of federal aid roads in the state.

GOOD ROADS AID TO SCHOOLS

Higher Attendance of Children Shown by Government Survey After Improvement Made.

A survey made by the government of the effect of good road building on school attendance in eight counties shows that before the roads were improved the average school attendance was 66 pupils to each 100 enrolled, as compared with 76 after the roads were improved.

A Young Girl well groomed is an attractive sight.

Red Cross Ball Blue if used in the laundry will give that clean, dainty appearance that everyone admires. All good grocers sell it; 5 cents a package.

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