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## THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

News from the European conflict occupy comparatively small space in the daily papers. After two years, even the killing and wounding of thousands daily gets monotonous and stale. The world is getting hardened to bloodshed. Only such extraordinary events as the German attack on Verdun or the late "drive" of the allies arouses more than casual interest. But there is one part of the telegraphic news that is of more than ordinary interest—to those vitally interested—the published lists of killed, wounded and missing. Those who have never had friends or dear ones in contending armies can hardly realize the tragic interest with which a mother, a wife, a sister or a sweetheart scans these lists, so closely and yet so deardingly. In these lists "no news is sure good news" to these readers.

The British and French have apparently held all of their last month's gains notwithstanding many fierce assaults made by the Germans. and later reports are to the effect that they have made some small gains while heavy fighting is going on for the possession of certain points. At Verdun there is sporadic fighting but the heavy offensive of the Germans has apparently abated.

The Russians report gains practically all along the lines from Riga south and in some places have their enemies on the retreat. In the far east Grand Duke Nicholas is beating the Turks according to the Russian reports. The Italians report gains against the Austrians. Thus Germany and Austria appear to be on the defensive on all sides.

It is reported that the Swedes who enjoyed a very lucrative trade with Germany across the Baltic are very angry with Britain since the latter has tightened the blockade so that trade has nearly stopped.

The merchant-submarine "Deutschland" is still at Baltimore at this writing, loaded and ready to run the blockade of British men-of-war, a number of which are reported outside the capes on the watch for her. The "Bremen" a sister ship, expected before this time, has not shown up as yet.

Our Mexican affairs are going on as usual. Some 50,000 militiamen are watch-

fully waiting for the diplomats to arrange for a settlement with the "de facto" government of that country and for possible attacks by Villa or other bandits with whom as yet the diplomats have not exchanged terms. In order to make peace with and within Mexico it will be necessary to make several paces with the several pieces of Mexico. There is only one way to bring the Mexicans together, it is for us to invade that country with the intention of forcing them to behave themselves. We are not sure but that would be the very best thing that could happen to that divided country—for that is what they need more than anything else. If we could once get them united then we could either pound or put some sense into them. And we will have to do it "eventually, why not now?"

## TRACTOR FARMING.

The farm tractor is here to stay. As yet the tractor is in an experimental stage in several important particulars, but has passed the experimental stage as a general utility farm machine. It will take time and experience to work out its economical features and use, but that it is useful is no longer a question. There are now more than one hundred and fifty different manufacturers of farm tractors, as well as an almost innumerable number of patents. This in itself shows the demand and sales.

The tractor is to some extent a sort of by-product of the automobile and especially of the auto-truck motor, but as an actuality it is more and more beginning to resemble a stationary engine on wheels driven by its own power.

In the development of the farm tractor, rather strangely, the heavy powered type was the first. Such tractors were fitted to pull from eight to twelve plows and could also be used as threshing powers. During the fast few years the one-man, two or three plow machine has been developed and is proving the most popular.

So far in the mechanical contest between large and small tractors perhaps as yet we have not arrived at any very definite conclusions as to economy except that generally speaking the small tractor is better for the small farm. The first cost may have considerable to do with this matter as the small farmer seems willing to invest say \$500.00 to \$1,000 in a small tractor when he would not be willing to invest from \$1,500 to \$2,500 in the larger machine.

Generally speaking there seems to be but little difference in the cost per acre between the large and small machines provided both machines run steadily day in and day out. And the cost per acre for either when figured in all details does not vary very much from the horse drawn plow.

As between horse power and gasoline power the question of economical work has yet to be definitely settled as to dollars and cents. But in another economical sense there are great differences. It seems to be a settled fact that there are times and places when the horse is the better machine while at other times the gasoline power is the best.

We heard a man say that he could plow more in a season with four horses than anyone could with a three-plow tractor. Perhaps in this statement he struck at the root of the whole matter. On Saturday we saw the so-called "Happy Farmer" tractor drawing three plows through four inches of dry quack grass, pasture sod at a gait of about three miles per hour and apparently doing it with ease and was not sweating a bit though the day was very warm. And the tractor named is typical of several other machines that are doing similar work in this locality.

It is apparent that the remark of the gentleman could not be true in that case. No four horses could have worked but very few hours, even if it were possible that they could have drawn the three plows at all. But as we said this brings us to the real root of the matter.

The real question is not what a tractor can do in an hour, not what it can do in a day, perhaps not even what it may do in some certain week, but what can it do in a month or for the whole year? In other words is it reliable? Will it stay on the job? Will it work ten, twelve, fourteen hours a day for six days in the week and four weeks in a month?

When the tractor is made that will work like that it will have to be simple, strong and have considerable reserve power at all times. These three elements are what are necessary to keep it out of the repair shop. Simplicity is necessary because the operators are not usually expert machinists. Simplicity will make accidents more easily foreseen and prevented, and repairs more readily made.

Strength in a tractor is necessary, but the addition of unnecessary weight is undesirable. Only the repair shop will in time bring the desired minimum of weight and the maximum of strength. When the manufacturer finds that one certain part of his machine is continually breaking he knows that part needs more or better metal; when he finds another part is rarely broken then he studies if he will not be able to reduce the metal in that part. That has been the history of all farm machinery and is now the study of the automobile makers.

Reserve power is also a necessary thing in all machinery. No machine ought to be expected to "stand-up" under a full strain at all times. An auto is rarely called on for but a small part of its power, but a farm tractor is expected to run ten hours or more a day pulling a full load and do it day after day. That is expecting a great deal from a piece of machinery.

But as we said at the first, tractors have come to stay. Hundreds of tractors are now working in this valley and doing good work. They may never take the full place of farm horses, but that they will take the place of some of the farm horses and do it well, has already been demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt.

## INFANTILE PARALYSIS

Infantile paralysis is increasing throughout the eastern cities and apparently gradually working its way westward. In New York city where it first started as an epidemic there have been nearly 700 deaths of children from this disease which shows a mortality of about one out of every four or five cases. Besides this it would have perhaps been better that many of those who have lived if they had died rather than be more less helpless cripples for the rest of their lives.

As yet the dread disease is more terrible because of the want of knowledge concerning both its contagious or epidemic character as well as treatment of the victims. In all these so far, doctors are practically at sea. While quarantine measures are being taken, yet nobody knows just how the disease spreads. Nobody knows why it is specifically a disease of children while adults are rarely affected.

Sporadic cases are likely to appear in and place though very often other cases in the same locality will occur and later the disease will disappear. This has occurred in places all over the country in cluding this valley in past years, but this is the first time that the disease has assumed so great proportions in so large a part of the country.

While we may congratulate ourselves that we at present appear far from the shadows of this infantile mortality, yet we are not immune and whether in town or country we should keep a sharp look-out and anything at all suspicious should be reported at once to some local physician.

## PEMBINA—THE PRETTY.

Perhaps in no one thing have the people of this city been more negligent than in advertising the natural beauties and advantages of this little city and surroundings. While the citizens have enjoyed these beauties and advantages, many of them since they were born, yet few have really realized them, fewer yet have ever sized them up in comparison with the prairie towns near and distant, and fewer yet have thought it worth while to tell anybody outside about it and invite them to come and see.

During the years past the city authorities have quietly acquired some twenty or thirty acres of park sites within the city limits but as yet little effort has been made to add to nature's gifts in adornment and care. Besides the land acquired by the city, a large part of which is wooded, many miles of woodland occupy the banks of the Pembina and Tongue rivers, mostly in their primal state. Woods, prairie and the waters of the three rivers give a variety of scenery, and shelter and beauty that are

possessed by few cities and should be very attractive to prairie dwellers.

We have miles of ideal camping places alongside beautiful waters, where campfire, swimming and boating would make perfect outing places, and yet so near town that supplies can be bought as readily as by the citizen householders.

Just now, we are glad to say, there is considerable public sentiment being awakened on this subject and probably the future will develop something, or several things in this direction that will later call many visitors to share with us the woodland and water beauties of Pembina.

## GOOD ROADS AND APPROPRIATIONS.

Below we give an extract of what the government is doing to help along road building. This is only the beginning. It will not be long before all the transcontinental highways will be kept up under the supervision of the government and than we people in the Red River Valley can look for the best roads of any place on the American continent. All these highways which have been designated as leading thoroughfares between larger commercial points, like the Meridian Road and others will be of immense value to people living in the neighborhood traversed by these roads. Don't do anything that will tend to obstruct a main highway that is officially marked but do every thing you can to keep it in good repair. The following is the extract:

The sum of \$65,000,000 of Federal funds is made available for the construction of rural roads, by the passage of the Federalaid road bill which became a law on July 11, 1916. Of this sum, \$25,000,000 is to be expended for the construction of rural port roads under cooperative arrangements with the highway departments of the various States, and \$40,000,000 is to be expended for roads and trails within or partly within the national forests. The act limits the Federal Government's share in road work in cooperation with the states to percent of the estimated cost of construction. Federal aid may be extended to the construction of any rural post road, excluding all streets or roads in towns having a population 2,500 or more, except the portions of such streets or roads on which the houses are, on an average, more than 200 feet apart.

Five million dollars is made available for expenditure during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, and thereafter the appropriation is increased at the rate of five millions a year until 1921, when the sum provided is twenty-five millions, making a total of seventy-five millions. In addition, an appropriation of \$1,000,000 a year for 10 years—a total of \$10,000,000—is made available for the development of roads and trails wholly or partly within the national forests.

The class of roads to be built and the method of construction are to be mutually agreed upon by the Secretary of Agriculture and the State highway departments.

This writer found plenty of black rust in the wheat near McArthur last Friday. As yet it was but slightly developed and the extent of future damage only to be guessed at with the question of weather as a large factor. The weather of the week has brought showers and somewhat cooler weather than the week previous. The showers were welcome and will benefit late barley which was needing rain very badly. Harvest will be on hand at about the usual date owing largely to the hot weather of July which hastened the growth of vegetation almost miraculously. The wheat market has been advancing rapidly this week owing to the black rust reports.

The Republican state committee resolved to accept to nominations made at the late primary. "In the spirit in which they are made." Now, the only question remains is to name the brand of the "spirit." Perhaps if a specimen were sent to Prof. Ladd, the famous North Dakota pure food expert, he might make a chemical analysis and decide whether the constituents may properly and legally be labelled "republican".

Way down in Dixie, Texas, five congressmen who have supported President Wilson's Mexican and European war policies have been retired at the primary elections and Governor Colquitt who has been outspoken against Wilson has been renominated. It would not be very remarkable if Texas and perhaps some other border states cast a very heavy vote for Hughes for president this fall, though of course it would take a very heavy vote indeed to overcome the normal democratic majority of those states.

## HENEMAN SAY'S:

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