

EXPECT BIG CROPS

Conditions in Western Canada Please Farmers.

Seeding Has Been Begun Earlier Than for Many Years, and Soil is in Perfect Shape.

With weather conditions highly favorable, the farmers of Western Canada, with the exception probably of a portion of Manitoba, have completed seeding from ten to fifteen days earlier than for some years past. In some parts of Manitoba there were floods which delayed seeding, but they have abated, and left the land in good shape for quick work and speedy germination. In Saskatchewan soil conditions for seeding were never better. With a generous quantity of snow, which after melting left needed moisture, and another snowstorm after seeding was finished, there was an ideal condition created. From all parts of Alberta there came the best of reports as to rainfall and snow moisture, leaving the ground in the condition required for the prospects of a good crop.

Spring, as in most other parts of the continent, was backward, but notwithstanding this, as has been said, farmers were able to get on the land earlier than for some years. In fact, seeding was practically commenced about the 12th of April, which to many farmers may seem remarkable, when it is known that several hundred miles farther south it was not possible to do spring seeding for several days later. Reports to hand on the 16th of May state that wheat is up above the ground in a great many places, oats are being sown, and corn planted. Farm labor was scarce for awhile, but the demand has fallen off. One feature of the demand for farm help is that farmers are now employing help by the year, at of course smaller wages than those paid for special work. The increasing tendency to employ help by the year is evidence that farmers are not relying solely upon wheat growing, but are going out into other branches, such as dairying, stock raising, etc. The prospects in all portions of Western Canada were never brighter than at present. Information regarding the condition of the crops at any time will be sent on request made to any Canadian government agent.—Advertisement.

A Blessing

Mrs. Scragginton—My contempt for you is too deep for words.

Scragginton—I am thankful for that.—Boston Evening Transcript.

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Fires Cost 500 Million a Year

Eighty Per Cent of Fires Preventable, Says President of Fire Protection Association.

Chicago.—There is a bonfire in the United States, a blazing pyre fed by frame cottages and brick factories, by forests and farm crops, by ships and automobiles. Every minute, year in and year out, \$1,000 is thrown into this fire. Every half hour, day after day, a man, woman or child is cast into the flames.

There is no such bonfire in reality, but the picture of the blaze fed by money and by human beings represents the actual toll of fire in America each year as it was expressed at the 27th annual meeting of the National Fire Protective Association in convention at the Drake hotel.

15,000 Lives Yearly Toll.

"The tragedy of the whole thing is that 80 per cent of these fires are preventable," said H. O. Lacount of Boston, president of the association. "Carelessness is the thief that is stealing \$1.70 out of every \$1,000 of the nation's wealth through the annual fire loss of \$500,000,000. Carelessness is the assassin who annually causes the death of 15,000 persons through fire accidents in this country."

The smoker who heedlessly drops his pipe or cigarette ash into a waste basket and the person who thoughtlessly tosses a glowing match into a pile of waste are the ones who start most of the fires. Next in order of responsibility come defective chimneys and flues—proper cleaning or a trowel full of plaster would prevent nearly all of these fires. Dustless mops and electric flatirons, the latter left going while the house wife answers the front door, represent the two classes of fire causes which run a close race for third place—electrical installations and spontaneous combustion.

Assails School Conditions.

"Lack of proper exits, proper fire drill and sufficient fire fighting apparatus endanger 90 per cent of our school children," declared R. S. Moulton, member of the Safety to Life committee which made its report recently.

The association seeks improvement of fire laws, establishment of more rigid building codes. Among other things, it protests against use of the inflammable motion picture film and urges adoption of the slow burning film now on the market. "Nitro-cellulose film," read the report of the committee on public information, "discarded by picture houses, is being sold and transported

In lengths of from 10 to 200 feet through the malls to the owners and operators of amateur projectors throughout the country. There is at present no legal restriction to this traffic."

Two Men Sail Canoe Through Panama Canal

Balboa Heights, Canal Zone.—An 18-foot canoe, carrying a mainsail and a jib, enjoys the distinction of being the first sailing craft of any description to pass through the Panama canal under the power of its canvas.

The little vessel, manned by Lieut. Miller of the United States navy and H. J. Grieser, a swimming instructor, started from Cristobal at 6 a. m. and docked the same evening at Balboa at 8:45.

The frail craft squeezed its way into the great locks alongside of huge steel freighters, was raised or lowered to the level of the next lock, and passed on to repeat the process until it had negotiated the entire lock system. The tolls were 72 cents.

Heiress to Estate Must Wed 2-Generation Yank

Denver, Colo.—A bequest of the greater part of the residuary estate of Gen. Frank D. Baldwin, Colorado's greatest military hero, to his granddaughter, Miss Alice Annie Williams-Foote, providing that she marry an American of at least two generations, marks the general's last will and testament, filed here. Total assets of the estate are estimated at slightly more

Holland Is Getting Rattlers From Idaho

Ontario, Ore.—Idaho rattlesnakes are being shipped to Holland where they will engage in the manufacture of a serum for the benefit of the human race, the enemy of all snake-domin.

Robert Lambert, of Boise, has shipped 47 rattlers to Amsterdam, Holland, where they will be used by the Dutch government in experimental work, chiefly in the development of a serum calculated to provide a cure for rheumatism. The snakes were captured in an hour and a quarter at Black's creek, 12 miles from Boise, on the Mountain Home highway. They range from 10 to 30 inches in length.

Offers Bill to End Peerages in England

London.—Arthur Ponsonby, laborite member of parliament from Sheffield and himself of aristocratic lineage, introduced a bill in the house of commons designed to terminate hereditary titles. The bill would enable present peers to renounce their titles and would bar heirs and heiresses to titles born after the passage of the bill from succeeding to the titles.

Prague a Busy Aerial Center.

Prague.—A commercial aerial transportation company is making regular airplane flights at the rate of eight a week between this city and Paris, Warsaw and Constantinople and return. Mails, merchandise and passengers are carried.

Officers of High Rank in Favor of Premium to Keep Men for Long Terms.

Washington.—Despite the attention attracted in recent months to the question of gun elevation on battleships and modernization of the fleet, the problem of biggest concern to the navy today is personnel.

In the recent fleet maneuver, ranking naval officers made every effort to emphasize that the question of enlisted personnel is the main consideration in the maintenance of the 5-5-3 naval ratio of the Washington treaty.

It is estimated that 60,000 of the 86,000 provided by law will be due to retire at the expiration of their terms of enlistment, while the navy will be lucky to get 40 per cent of these to reenlist. This constant turnover from year to year is regarded as the weak feature of the fleet.

Longer Enlistment Periods.

In stressing the problem in its relation to personnel efficiency naval experts point out that the British enlistment term is twelve years, while the Japanese term is ten years, thus assuring these countries a permanent personnel of trained men which the United States cannot hope to have at the rate of the present yearly turnover.

Doing away with the war enlistment periods of two years and three years and going back to the four-year period will help to some extent, but even at that it is estimated that, in order to have a personnel sufficient to maintain the efficiency ratio of the 5-5-3 treaty, the United States should allow itself at all times a larger personnel than Great Britain has, while at the present the total British personnel is 20,000 men greater than of the United States.

Not Enough Radio Men.

The constant turnover is particularly felt in the bigger and more technical phases of naval work. As an example of this it is pointed out that the navy today is unable to maintain anything like the requisite quota of radio telegraphers, although radio communication is the very nerve center of naval operations.

It is estimated that there should be enough of these to take care not only of the fleet but of every shore station under the American flag. Development of expert gunnery also is severely handicapped by the same situation as regards personnel shifting. Down in the fleet it is not at all unusual to see officers of a battleship throwing dice to decide who shall get an electrician newly assigned to duty.

The demand now is that congress put some kind of premium on technical ability in the navy and allow compensation which would enable the navy to keep this class in the service for a long term of years.

Broadcasters Form Association



Radio broadcasters met the other day in Chicago to form a national association and to combat the royalty demands of authors, composers and publishers. Here, left to right are: Eugene F. McDonald, president Chicago Radio Laboratories, temporary secretary of the National Broadcasters' association; J. Elliott Jenkins, director WCAP, a member of the committee to draft a constitution and by-laws; Wilson J. Wetherbee, director Westinghouse station KTW; Thorne Donnelly, temporary chairman, director WCAP; Powell Croley, Jr., temporary treasurer.

RUSSIA IS NOW FACING BIG SURPLUS OF GRAIN

Districts Starving Year Ago Now Swamped With Wheat.

Moscow.—Too much bread promises to be Russia's dilemma in 1923.

From 1917 until 1922 bread was the most precious thing in Russia. A farmer could trade into Moscow with a small sack of grain and trade it for a grand piano or anything which the hungry city dwellers had to offer. Now the same peasant could walk from one end of Russia to the other and, excepting in a few isolated famine districts, could not get a jackknife for the same sack of grain.

If the harvest of this year turns out as expected, Russia will have a surplus of grain which could be sold abroad.

From a country which less than 18 months ago was clamoring for crusts, Russia has changed into a nation which

promises within a few months to be swamped with wheat and rye.

At Saratof, near certain communes, that have been listed as famine-stricken, rye flour, the staple of bread, is quoted at less than 25 cents a pood, which is 36 pounds. At Samara, the district where even cannibalism occurred among the starving a year ago, rye goes begging at less than 40 cents a bushel. In Moscow, transportation costs have made prices somewhat higher, almost double the reigning price in the great producing regions. Siberia, once the granary from which wheat poured into western Europe, did not fare so well in last year's harvest, and there prices are higher, but in Odessa and at Kieff, in the southern wheat belt, recent official quotations show wheat costing under 70 cents a bushel.

The soviet government, through the collection of taxes, has rolled up 2

grain amounting to nearly 200,000,000 bushels. Some of this is needed to feed the army, but as for the bulk of the grain, unless it can be exported, the government does not know what to do with it.

Prince of Wales Picks Beans at Big Banquet

London.—English hostesses who have been vying among themselves to have the popular Prince of Wales dine with them have been dismayed to find that his royal highness has very abstemious tastes and eschews all except the simplest dishes.

One of London's most aristocratic and wealthy families set a regal banquet before the prince lately, only to find that their guest passed it all by and chose a plate of cold ham and beans.

English physicians attribute the prince's good health to his frugal diet, abstention from all rich, highly seasoned dishes, especially flesh foods, much outdoor exercise, and a cheery, optimistic disposition.

Children Cry for



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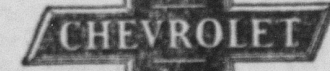
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