WHERE FARMING IS PROFITABLE

The Future of Great Possibilities.

Some idea of the great wealth that the Western Canada farmer had in view a few years ago is now being realized. The amount received from the sale of wheat, oats, barley, flax and rye in 1917 was $270,000,000, while the sales of live stock at Winnipeg alone netted $40,000,000 additional. Of this sum hogs alone gave over eleven million dollars. The increases at Calgary and Edmonton were over 6¼ million dollars.

This money, so easily earned, is being spent in improvements in farm property, purchasing additional land, buying tractors, automobiles, and improving home conditions, providing electric light, steam heat, new furniture, pianos, buying Victory bonds, paying up old debts, etc.

Over five hundred tractors were sold in Southern Alberta in 1917. One implement agent reports that the increase in his business in 1917, over that of 1916, was equal to the total business in 1915. It is the same story all over the country. And it is not this evidence alone which proves the advancement and growth of the three prairie provinces, but the large increase in the number of settlers; the improvement in the extent of the cultivated areas and agricultural production; the increase in value of which over 1916 was $77,000,000.

This wonderful progress that has been made in agriculture in Western Canada is but the beginning which marks the future of the greatest agricultural country on the continent, showing a future of great possibilities. There are millions of acres yet untilled, and of land as good as any of that which is now giving its owners a return of from twenty to thirty dollars an acre, figures that in many cases represent the cost of the land, with all cultivation costs included. It is true that the cost of production has increased during the past few years, but the price of the product has also increased to a figure which leaves a large balance to the credit of the producer.

The following table shows how this works out.

FARM NEEDS.	1913 Price in bus. wheat	1917 Price in bus. wheat
Machinery—		
Self binder	160	100
Mower	70	38
6. H. P. gas engine	250	112
Seed drill	122	60
Cream separator	87	88
Building—		
Bathroom, sink and septic tank	300	127
Pressure tank system	156	118
Steel shingles, per 100 sq. ft.	7	4
Lumber, per 1,000 ft.		
Hemlock	28	17
Pine	47	32
Bricks, per M	16	8
Cement, per 350 lbs	2.5	1.2
Steel fence, 40 rods	15	10
Paint, per 10 gals	25	19
Pianos	440	215
Clothing and Food—		
Sugar, per cwt	6.2	4.9
Cottonseed, per ton	50	24
Linseed, per ton	50	25
Blue serge suit	31	17

Percentage increases are shown too in another way, leading to the same conclusion, from consultation of the Department of Labor's review of prices. Taking 100 as the index number of normal production in the decade from 1890 to 1900, the increases in prices of farm products have slightly outdistanced the increases in his needs.

	1913	1916	1917	Pct. Inc.
Grains and fodder	138	200	280	103
Animals and meats	176	213	293	66
Dairy produce	145	184	229	58
Bldg. materials	143	179	229	58
House fur'sh'gs	126	163	205	64
Implements	105	139	199	90

—Advertisement.

Signs of Spring.

"What makes you so uneasy? Is your conscience troubling you?"

"No, winter underwear."

Proof.

"So you think art can improve on nature?" "Certainly. If not, why the Easter egg?"

Mean Insinuation.

"Harold proposed to me last night."

"There! He told me he was going to throw his life away."

Words are sometimes used to express ideas and sometimes the want of them.

GARDEN JOGS

Are your flats filled with fertile forcing soil?

The new handle for the spading fork? Did you think of it?

Those wood ashes from the fireplace? Are you saving them for the potash they contain?

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

HOW TO GROW

ASPARAGUS.

This crop is one of the most enduring and satisfactory vegetables. It can be grown on almost any well-drained soil, but will do best on a deep sandy loam. There is little possibility of having the ground too rich, and liberal applications of partly rotted barnyard manure should be made before the plants are set. The seeds of asparagus may be sown during the spring in rows where the plants are to remain, and the seedlings thinned to stand 14 feet apart in rows.

It is usually more satisfactory to purchase two-year-old roots, as considerable time is saved in this way. As the asparagus bed is a permanent feature of the garden, it should be located accordingly. Before setting the plants the soil should be loosened very deeply, either by subsoil plowing or by deep spading. It is a good plan to remove the top soil and spade manure into the subsoil to a depth of 14 or 16 inches. The plants may be set in rows for horse cultivation or in beds. If in rows they should be set 14 inches apart, with the rows 3½ feet apart. If in beds, one foot apart each way is the proper distance to set the plants. In setting the plants the crowns should be covered 4 or 5 inches deep.

In the North the plants should receive a mulch of 4 or 5 inches of manure in winter. In the South the mulch is not necessary, but the plants should receive a coat of manure or an application of fertilizer, preferably in autumn.

No shoots should be removed during the first year the plants are set in the permanent bed, and the period of cutting should be short during the second year.

LIMA BEANS.

Lima beans should not be planted until the ground is thoroughly warmed up, as they are a heat-loving crop and the seed will rot if planted when the ground is cold. Most gardeners prefer the pole varieties, as they yield better than the bush varieties and are superior to the bush varieties in many other respects. One marked advantage of the pole beans is that they may be planted around the fence, utilizing the fence as a support for the vines. In this manner a crop of beans can be secured with the use of a minimum amount of spacing.

When planted in rows in the garden, pole lima beans are usually planted in hills 3 to 4 feet apart and supported on poles or a string and wire trellis.

The bush limas are usually drilled in rows some 3½ feet apart for horse cultivation, or slightly closer for hand cultivation. The lima beans are a full season crop, that is, they occupy the ground for the entire growing season, and a sufficient amount should be planted to provide for the needs of the family for the entire season. Any surplus not used green may be allowed to dry on the vines, picked and stored for winter use.

Lima beans constitute one of the most satisfactory crops for growing for winter's use, as the only care necessary to save them is to pick the ripe pods, dry them thoroughly and shell the beans. In the northern portion of the country where lima beans do not thrive, pole beans of the Lazy Wife variety will give satisfaction.

RADISHES.

The radish is quite hardy and may be grown throughout the winter in the middle section of the United States. In many portions of the South it is possible to grow it in the open ground throughout the winter. For the home garden the seed should be sown in the open ground about the time of the last killing frost. The seed should be sown in drills at a convenient distance for cultivation, usually about 18 inches. To be of good quality, radishes must be grown quickly in rich soil, and be used as soon as of sufficient size. Successive plantings should be made every few days until the weather becomes warm. They will not withstand hot weather and are suited to early spring and late autumn planting.

There are autumn varieties of radishes which may be grown late in the season and stored for winter use the same as beets or turnips. A few of these will add variety to the winter supply of vegetables.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS.

Brussels sprouts are closely related to cabbage and cauliflower, and may be grown in very much the same manner. The seed may be started in the window box or in the hotbed and transplanted to the garden when the ground is in condition to work.

Instead of a single head, Brussels sprouts produce a large number of small heads, these heads being formed in the axils of the leaves. If the heads become too crowded, the leaves should be broken off so as to give the heads more room. However, a few leaves should always be left in the top of the stem where the new heads are being formed. Brussels sprouts are more hardy than cabbage and in many sections may be planted in the fall. They should be set in rows 30 to 36 inches apart if for horse cultivation. The plants should be set from 20 to 24 inches apart in the rows.

Brussels sprouts may be stored for winter use in much the same way as cabbage. The best method is to take up the plants, pack them closely together in a trench, covering them with straw or other litter to protect them from freezing and thawing.

KOHL-RABI.

The edible portion of the kohl-rabi is the thickened stem. It is closely related to cabbage and cauliflower. It should be started in the hotbed or window box and set in the open ground about the time of the last frost. The method of planting and the cultivation is similar to that practiced for cabbage. It can be planted in the open at the same time. Early sowings are made, and if thinned to 4 to 6 inches apart the plants will soon grow to edible size under favorable weather conditions. This plant should receive much more consideration than usually is given it. It is really a poor man's cauliflower.

COLLARDS.

The culture and uses of collards are the same as for cabbage. The plants should be started in very early spring and set out as soon as the ground is in condition. They withstand the heat better than cabbage and are much used in the southern portion of the country. Collards do not form a true head, but instead a loose rosette of leaves, which, when blanched, are very tender and of delicate flavor.

No southern garden is complete without this plant. Too often, however, it has constituted the sum total in the shape of garden supplies. Use it, but don't abuse it.

PARSLEY.

The seeds of parsley should be soaked for a few hours before planting to insure germination. They are slow in germinating and should be handled very carefully. After one or two transplantings they should be set in the open ground in rows 12 to 18 inches apart and 3 to 4 inches apart in the rows as early as the soil can be put in condition. A small area devoted to this crop will be sufficient for the average family.

It is used as a garnishing and for flavoring soups. Keep a little of it growing at all times. It gives a pleasing touch to many dainty dishes.

PEPPERS.

Plant the seeds of peppers in the hotbed about six weeks to two months before time to set them in the open ground. They should be transplanted at least once and should not be set in the open until the ground is thoroughly warm. When grown in the garden the large bull-nosed types should be placed in rows 3 feet apart with the plants from 15 to 17 inches apart in rows. Frequent shallow cultivation should be given, and the plants will continue to bear until frost kills them.

IN YOUR HOME GARDEN

"Dig deep, manure well, work often." Thus Pliny the Elder, nearly 2,000 years ago, summed up gardening. His advice is good today.

Enthusiasm must be backed by solid purpose—enough of it to surmount obstacles and survive disappointments.

The best insurance against accidents in gardening is knowing how to garden.

PROFITABLE USE OF MANURE

Garden and Orchard Will Take Good Care of All Fertilizer Produced on Farm.

Save and apply all of the barnyard manure that is produced on your farm. The garden and the orchard are like prospective candidates—they are "in a receptive mood." It is difficult to get garden land too rich. In case there seems to be more nitrogen from heavy applications of manure than the other constituents, apply acid phosphate and hardwood ashes to balance the fertility constituents.

Find Amount of Seed Needed.

Aim to make every seed count. Remember the supply of some of the more important varieties of garden seed is limited, and in order that all may obtain enough to meet their needs, everyone should co-operate to make what is used produce a maximum crop.

Broadcasting Manure.

Manure for broadcasting on top of the plowed ground should be well rotted and fine. After spreading mix it well with the harrow before drilling in the seeds.

Grown in Greenhouse.

Swiss chard is sometimes grown in the greenhouse to advantage. Beets may be started under the greenhouse bench if there is light enough to prevent their becoming spindling.

Place for Permanent Crops.

Berry bushes, rhubarb, asparagus and such garden stuff that is permanently established should be grouped on one side of the garden and extend in rows the full length of the garden.

BOY IN JAIL FINDS HE HAS A MOTHER

Carried Away While a Baby, He Is Identified by His Brother.

New York.—The prospect of doing a bit in a penitentiary for carrying a gun isn't a particularly happy one, especially when a fellow has pleaded guilty, but sixteen-year-old George J. Burke was smiling all day in the Tombs, and he doesn't give a whoop if the court of special sessions sends him to jail for life, because he now knows he has a real, honest to goodness mother, and what's more, he's going to see her at once.

"That's the big idea," he told Warden Hanley in the Tombs. "I didn't know if I came to this earth in a flour

"I Think I'm Talking to My Brother."

bag, or how it was. I've been bumpin' from one institution to another in Massachusetts, and freightin' from one place to the other, and I always wondered why I never had a mother, and here I gotta get pinched by a unformed bull to find out I really got one."

John R. Burke, a sailor on the U. S. S. Seattle, read of the youngster's arrest and told his mother, Mrs. Josephine Reid of Brooklyn, the name was the same as that of the seven-months-old child that was kidnaped from her, and so she sent the sailor boy post haste over to the Tombs.

"I think I'm talking to my brother," he said to the youthful prisoner, who came toward him from the barred gate.

"Is dat so? I ain't got no brother. I ain't got anybody I know of," was the reply of George. But the sailor asked him if he had a scar on his side, and, brushing back his touseled black hair, another scar was revealed, and then there was no question about the identity of the prisoner.

"Say, have I got a mother?" was the first question the lad popped at him. And when told that not only had he a mother, but a good one, who has been waiting 16 long years to see him, the kid nearly wept for joy. He has a sister, too.

"Now I'm happy," he said.

LOVED WISELY, BUT TOO MANY

Seventeen-Year-Old Girl Marries Three Men, but Finds Third Is Real Thing.

Oakland, Cal.—Edna Metcalf, a seventeen-year-old girl, who loved wisely but too many, is under the wing of her mother here, while attorneys are debating as to how she shall be disentangled from three marital complications.

Edna's love-making was entirely confined to the navy. Last August she wedded Ensign Edward Reese. Duty called him from her side, and soon she met and promptly married Jack Overstreet, a Mare Island marine. Finally, a naval radio operator, Lewis Linwisky, wooed and won her.

Although desperately fond of each of her naval husbands at the time of the marriage, she now declares that it took the third application for the love virus to take.

FIND NEW 'BOOZE TRANSPORT'

Woman Arrested in Kentucky Wears Peculiarly Contrived "Underalls" With Many Pockets.

Newport, Ky.—Officers here discovered a new "booze transport" when they arrested a woman who had several aliases as she stepped off a train from Popular Bluffs, Mo. She wore a peculiarly contrived pair of "underalls," which contained many pockets, and in each pocket was a pint of Missouri whisky. Lacking money to pay the imposed fine of $300, the woman is now in jail.

PLAYFUL KITTENS COST DEATH OF AGED WOMAN

Eau Claire, Wis.—Five playful kittens of which Mrs. Carrie Hagen, sixty-seven, widow, was intensely fond, cost her life. The kittens, while playing on the floor, ignited a box of matches, setting fire to Mrs. Hagen's dress.

Essential.

The novice was not enjoying his first trip through the air, and his more experienced companion regarded him with much amusement.

"I say, Bill, what's on your mind?" he demanded.

"I was just thinking about Abraham Lincoln," replied Bill thoughtfully.

"Abraham Lincoln?"

"Yes. I was thinking how truthfullyfully he spoke when he said a man's legs ought to be just long enough to reach the ground."—Puck.

Downward Growth.

Teacher—"Why do words have roots, Johnny?" "So that the language can grow."

He who has "common" sense has sense to "come on" in the world.

Up for Inspection.

This is a story told by a man home on furlough from Camp Custer:

The soldiers were lined up for inspection and every man was clean shaven but one.

"Why have you such a beard?" asked the sergeant.

"I couldn't find any barber shop any place," said the man.

One must be poor to enjoy the luxury of living.—George Elliott.

Our most exclusive circles—silver dollars.