

BOUNTIFUL PROMISE FROM WESTERN CANADA

Average Increase of Acreage in Wheat Over 22 Per Cent.

Province.	Wheat Acreage Increase.
Saskatchewan	25 per cent
Alberta	32 1/2 per cent
Manitoba	15 per cent
Average for prairies	22 1/2 per cent

The growth of the crop during the past week was very satisfactory. Rain fell in many places during the early part of the week, followed by warmer weather, which has been most beneficial to the grain. Breaking and summer-fallowing were well under way, and conditions generally were most promising.

The following reports have been received by the department from the various centers: Denholm—A little rain needed in the northern part to start late grain; remainder of district plenty of moisture. Davidson—Ideal growing weather; a few farmers harrowing grain to conserve moisture by breaking crust formed since last rain. North Battleford to Prince Albert—Good growing weather; crops looking well. Slight damage near North Battleford from cutworms; recent rains beneficial. Kindersley—Crops looking fine and prospects good; plenty of moisture, with prospects of more rain. Every slough in this country is full. Prince Albert—Crops in fair condition, though cutworms and light frosts have done damage in some sections. Have had moderate quantity of rain.

Owing to prompt marketing of the harvest of 1914, the farmers were enabled to devote more time than usual to cultivation in the autumn, under conditions which were decidedly favorable, and that, combined with the opportunities for soil preparation presented by an early spring this year, has resulted in the seeding of a wheat area estimated at twenty-five per cent greater than last year. Areas sown to oats and flax may be less than last year, because of the concentration upon the cereal in greater demand for export. Wheat seeding was completed eight days earlier than the average, under almost ideal conditions.

Alberta.
Prospects excellent. Abundant moisture throughout the province, following rain. Area thirty to thirty-five per cent greater. Crop generally two weeks earlier.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the land has not been in such fine condition to work for years; neither has there been as much moisture as there was last autumn. This was protected during the winter by a little more than the average snowfall, which remained on the land, not being removed by the warm chinook winds, as is usually the case. There never has been a more optimistic feeling than exists today, judging by the information received from various parts of the province. We feel justified in saying that the crop never went in under more favorable circumstances; weather splendid and land particularly well worked.

While it is true that the acreage will be greatly increased, it is pleasing to learn that despite the high price of feed, the receipts of milk and cream at the dairies continue to keep up, and that the output of the creameries has increased in quantity.

One of the most encouraging things in last year's work was the increase of

practically thirty per cent in the output of cream and butter south of Calgary.

Manitoba.
Owing to the exceptionally early harvest last year and favorable fall weather, a much larger acreage of land was prepared than usual, and partly for the same reason and the prospects of high prices for all kinds of grain, farmers took more pains in the preparation of land, so that the spring opened up with 1,235,000 acres of fully prepared land above the previous year. Seeding was general by the 7th of April, some days in advance of the average. Since that time the weather has been exceptionally favorable for the sowing of wheat, and the farmers have taken full advantage of it. Much of the crop is now above the surface. There has been a very general and liberal rainfall; this will hasten the germination of the recently sown wheat, and will prevent the soil from drifting off the later sown crop. The area sown in wheat is fully 15 per cent greater than last year.

To sum up the agricultural situation generally, the Department of Agriculture says: "The area is larger than usual, the land has been well prepared, and the wheat has been sown at the right time; not so early as to run the risk of being killed off by frost, but sufficiently early to insure its ripening in the fall."—Advertisement.

Victims of the Drug Habit.
According to a recent estimate of the United States public health service, the number of persons in this country who are victims of the drug habit is about 70,000, and the number of doses of narcotic drugs consumed by them annually is about 850,000,000. This estimate is based on figures collected in the state of Tennessee where under a recently enacted antinarcotic law 1,403 permits were issued in six months to persons petitioning for the privilege of using narcotic drugs, and the consumption of such drugs amounted to 8,498,200 average doses.

Too Late.
Senator Kenyon, congratulated at a June wedding in Fort Dodge on his eloquence, smiled and said: "Well, let us admit frankly that the gift of the gab is, after all, a good thing. For my part, I have never found silence golden except at a wedding or a funeral—when it's too late to say anything."

Important to Mothers.
Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletchere* In Use For Over 30 Years. Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Looking Backward.
Madge—The present styles make one look very girlish.

Marjorie—Why shouldn't they? My skirts are about the same length as the ones I wore when I was twelve.—Puck.

Irresistible.
Peyton—Bennet is organizing a regiment of English butlers.
Parker—Why butlers?
Peyton—To scare the enemy to death.—Puck.

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Some of the "scenery" is employed in the theatrical business and the balance of it is worn by women.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Florists Present Roses to the United States

WASHINGTON.—The formal presentation to the United States government of more than 400 varieties of roses now growing in the experimental farm of the department of agriculture at Arlington, Va., took place the other day at a gathering of prominent rosarians from all sections of the country. The roses were accepted on behalf of the government by Dr. W. A. Taylor, director of the bureau of plant industry, who represented the secretary of agriculture at the exercises. The formal presentation was made by Wallace Pierson of Cromwell, Conn., president of the National Rose society.

The roses have been growing in the experimental farm for about two years. They were donated by florists, both amateur and professional, living in all sections of the country. The roses are being grown for the purpose of ascertaining the effect of this climate on the different kinds of plants. Similar testing gardens have been established by the National Rose society at Hartford, Conn.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Ithaca, N. Y., and others are now being established on Long Island and at San Francisco.

Two years ago the department of agriculture set aside about two acres of ground in the experimental farm for rose testing. The rose plants were supplied by various rose growers desiring to have different species tested. The testing of rose bushes takes three years. They are examined by experts at frequent intervals during this period and an accurate record kept of their growth and performance.

Silkworms and Their Work in National Museum

A SMALL army of silkworms is busy in the older building of the United States National museum, gorging itself on mulberry leaves, and spinning cocoons from which the silk thread and fabrics are made. The case containing the live silkworms forms the beginning of a series of exhibits showing what silk is, how it is manufactured, and many samples of the various products derived therefrom. This section of the division of textiles takes the visitor on a brief tour of instruction in silk—literally from the worm to the gown. The exhibit includes examples of practically every kind of fabric manufactured from silk in this country and abroad, as well as dyed and printed silks. Each worm winds about itself a cocoon composed of a single thread from 300 to 700 yards in length. The time consumed for spinning is usually from two to five days.

A case of preserved specimens shows the cycle of life of this industrious little animal. The egg of the silk moth is about the size of the head of a small pin, and hatches in about ten days into a tiny worm. Its growth from this minute form takes about a month, during which time it develops into a very respectable worm about three and one-half inches long and one-fourth of an inch in thickness. Upon reaching its maturity, the worm stops feeding, and begins to crawl about in search of a place in which to spin its cocoon.

When the finished cocoon sheds its skin, and passes into the pupa, or chrysalis, stage. If the cocoon is not put through a stoving or stifling process, which kills the chrysalis inside, it will become a grayish-white moth in about two weeks more, and break its way out of one end of the cocoon. Such procedure, however, is allowed only when silk moths are needed for breeding purposes, since in breaking its way out the moth pushes through every layer of the filament, thus making the cocoon useless for reeling, and of value only for spun silk.

In order to reel the cocoons, they are first immersed in boiling water, and brushed, to rid them of the loose outer filaments. The true thread is then unwound almost to the chrysalis, but the inner lining is far too fine to be reeled, and is used with the outer waste in the manufacture of spun silk. A single cocoon strand is too fine for commercial use, and is, therefore, combined with several others to make a single thread of reeled silk. One pound of six-ply reeled silk will reach a distance of about 180 miles.

How Army Prisoners Get Back to the Colors

IN connection with the system of honorable restoration to the colors now in force at the United States disciplinary barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and the branches at Alcatraz, Cal., and Fort Jay, N. Y., an interesting exhibit of the system of military instruction required at these places previous to returning general prisoners to duty with companies of the regular army is on view in the office of Adjutant General McCain at the war department.

It is a representation in sand, on a reduced scale, of an infantry trench, which the members of disciplinary organizations are required to be proficient in constructing. Many of the kinds of revetment now in use are shown—the sandbag, sod, fascine, gabion, hurdle, together with the methods of fastening. All men who desire restoration are put through a regular course on modeling these trenches in sand in a "sand table," as well as instruction in constructing overhead shelter, zigzag approaches, pits, barbed wire entanglements, etc., in miniature. After the prisoners have become expert at the modeling game they are transferred to the open fields, where they reproduce the work on the normal field scale.

The sand-table work is a very small part of a very thorough three-month course of instruction required to be taken before a man is considered as qualified for restoration to the army. The course includes, also, drills, instruction in target practice, estimating distance and military signaling (flag and semaphore). Many restored men have been promoted to be noncommissioned officers. One of the latter is used to give lectures to the noncommissioned officers in his regiment, while the reports as to character from a large per cent of those restored show "excellent."

Naval Observatory Exposes North Pole's Vagaries

THE naval observatory has erected a very curious and interesting machine whose purpose is to see just how much the North pole falls from grace. This instrument is in charge of Prof. F. E. Ross, who is making the experiments. The object of this new work is to find just what are the variations of the pole. Of course, to a layman it seems strange to hear any reflection cast upon the upright conduct of the North pole, which was supposed to remain always an example of unflinching, steadfast devotion to keeping its position. Yet, as even a Jove may nod, so one must accustom one's self to the sad realization that the pole actually "wobbles."

The instrument is a small house on the observatory grounds. It resembles a water tank standing on end, but is ornamented with scientific paraphernalia.

Contrary to the commonly accepted belief the pole does not keep pointing in the same direction. Its axis is moving about constantly in a spiral and describes a path which varies at least 60 miles from its true station. Its farthest point will gain 39 miles one side and the same rate on the other, but it has not yet been known to make any wider swing out of its standard position.

Its variations are in periods extending over seven years. The pole spends about three and one-half years in swinging outwards, then the same time in retracing its steps. At the present the pole is going on its outward voyage and will take more than a year to complete the trip.

It's easier for a young man to raise a row than a mustache.

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Resembled Dining Car.
Jim Sullivan, typical American tramp, carried a kitchen cabinet under his coat, and when arrested in Red Wing, Minn., the following things were found: Eight large, raw potatoes, weighing seven pounds; one quart bottle of sweet milk, one ten-cent loaf of wheat bread, one-half dozen tea biscuits, one-half dozen rolls, fresh; two one-pound packages of ground coffee, two aluminum salt and pepper shakers, glass cruet filled with vinegar, one raw onion and two Japanese paper napkins.

Of Course.
"Did you ever hear such silly rot as that line of Tennyson's: 'Half a league, half a league, half a league, onward!'"
"What is there silly about it?"
"Why, anybody knows that not more than half a league can be going onward at any given time. For every game one team wins some other team has got to lose one."

Well Named.
Jack Slow—May I—er—kiss you?
Miss Sweet—What do you want—written permission?

Most old bachelors are hard to please; they don't even think a girl baby is fit to kiss until she is sweet sixteen.

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But a poet doesn't necessarily dwell in an attic for the sake of the view.

Drink Denison's Coffee. Always pure and delicious.

There may be a lot of credit due a man's wife, but she usually demands cash.

Good Reason.
"Why is the policeman looking at your wall so suspiciously?"
"I suppose he noticed it was covered with a vine that is something of a porch climber."

Money's Worth.
"You are charging more for summer board than you did last year."
"Yea," replied Farmer Cornstossel. "We've got a lot of new tunes for the phonograph an' my son Josh has learned all the latest dances."

Encore.
"I'm glad we didn't get any dupli-cates," said the bride as they inspected the wedding gifts.
"I wouldn't mind if somebody would duplicate that check your father gave us," replied the bridegroom.

Conflicting.
"What is the matter with the parson and the doctor that they cannot agree?"
"The parson says the doctor is so contrary. Just as soon as he gets a man properly prepared for the next world the doctor goes to work and cures him."

Shocking and Inexcusable Waste.
"The plaintiff in a recent suit for divorce," related the simp, "declared that he awoke in the night to find his bed soaked with alcohol and his wife hunting for a match!"
"Ar-r-r!" grumbled DeLeary M. Trimmis. "that was a heck of a way to waste alcohol, wasn't it?"—Kansas City Star.

Interesting Comparison.
"It beats all how luck does play favorites," remarked Farmer Cornstossel. "I jes' been to see Ezra Hankins."
"How's he gettin' along since he hurt his foot?"
"He's purty glum. The doctor charged him a hundred dollars fur cuttin' his foot off. An' when the railroad cut Uncle Jake's foot the company paid him six hundred in cash. Maybe these great corporations ain't as graspin' as some people says."

Crisp little bits of Indian Corn, rolled thin as paper, and toasted to a golden brown.

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