

# FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

## Co-operate Or Bust

The "Scoop Shovel", official organ of Cooperative Dairies, Egg & Poultry Pool, Cooperative Livestock Producers, and Cooperative Wholesale of Manitoba, reprinted this article from the June issue of "The Country Gentleman" as it would seem to have a general application to our local marketing situation, especially of Island livestock, it is being passed on for your perusal by the Dominion Live Stock, office through the courtesy and assistance of this newspaper. There is no doubt but that the principles here involved are those which affect our own problems. The spirit is the same which has given impetus to cooperation in this province and which is needed from every farmer if conditions and returns are to improve. Competition within an industry is harmful but as farmers we must put ourselves in a position to compete with the other organized industries.

In the June issue of the Country Gentleman there is a most interesting article entitled "Co-operate or Bust". It is the story of the experience of the California grape producers and their 1930 crop. As one reads this article he cannot but be impressed by the similarity between the disappointments of the grape producers of California and the wheat producers of Western Canada. In a general sort of way, the word "wheat" could be substituted throughout for the word "grapes" to give an approximate picture of conditions as we have them during the past summer. The problem of the California grape growers was one of surplus production, that is, surplus over and above the purchasing power of the consuming market. The writer of the article ascribes the low price of grapes to two main factors, first, the stock market crash with its consequent crippling of the probable grape yield. In addition he refers to the prospect of the increase of grape production in other countries, especially in Soviet Russia. He tells the story of how the Federal Farm Board instituted a relief plan for these California grape people; a plan which the writer, well known as an economist and a student of marketing problems, supported. The plan was based primarily upon co-operative centralizers marketing. Briefly, it organized the producers to withhold large quantities of raising grapes from the market in the anticipation that an enhanced selling price for the balance would easily provide for an assessment which would take care of the acreage which produced unmarketed grapes. Practically ninety per cent of all the commercial grape production of California was signed up in this

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great co-operative effort to ease the situation. But the expectations of these co-operators were not fulfilled. This was not the fault of the plan or of the Grape Control Board.

Western Canadians will understand and appreciate the picture thus drawn. It is our wheat story repeated, in many respects. But, it is to the concluding words of this article that I want to draw particular attention. This well-known economist, well-known to the people of California, after careful and serious study of the whole situation, says: "Control by shippers is the only correct; but this is not to be secured without effective co-operative action. Co-operation includes co-ordination of efforts of bankers with those of growers. . . . Along the line of competition lies no solution. . . . In co-operation lies the only hope. Immediate and effective revival of co-operation is difficult in the light of the disappointment experienced last season. It has been the misfortune of growers of grapes to learn, like the growers of wheat and cotton, that the trough of a business cycle is a most unpropitious time to recognize the marketing of an agricultural product. But whatever the hardships the fact remains that only through co-operative organization will it be possible for the grape growers of California to revive their industry."

These are stirring words; words to stimulate a rally among any flagging spirits whose faith in co-operation is inclined to wane. These words constitute the studied opinion of Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor, economist of the Food Research Institute and one of the star witnesses before the Stamp Inquiry Commission several weeks ago. There is something significant about this message from Dr. Alonzo Taylor. The significance lies in the fact that this man who is far removed from any possibility of being labeled as an opportunist of the co-operative movement, has brought out exactly the same advice as that which our farmers are receiving from their own wheat pool leaders. Dr. Taylor says: "Co-operate or Bust". He says: "along the line of competition lies no solution of our present difficulties. After recognizing the difficulties of re-organizing along co-operative lines at the present time, he says 'whatever the hardships the fact remains that only through co-operative organization will it be possible to get back to a satisfactory and sound basis of agricultural progress. If these words had come from Mr. A. J. McPhail (Mr. H. W. Wood, or from Mr. C. H. Burnell, non-co-operators might find some justification for saying that these men are so deeply committed in Co-operative movement that they cannot do other than advise the farmers thus. But when the advice comes from the economic expert who appeared before the Stamp Inquiry Commission as a star witness for the grain trade point of view, no such objections are valid, and one is forced to the conclusion that there must be something in this gospel.

The more one reads, and the more one hears the words of the keenest economic students of the day, the more one must be convinced that the tendency of the whole commercial structure is toward co-operative effort. The open competition school of thought has no friends nowadays other than the dwindling group of die-hards who think that laissez-faire is still supreme and that Adam Smith is its prophet. It is only the un-informed who still believe that the co-operative aims of the wheat pools is a small cry in the wilderness. The cooperative cry of the wheat ports is but a part of a world wide demand for rationalized co-operative effort; a demand which comes from those who guide the destinies of manufacturing, banking, shipping, mining, and distribution activities everywhere. When the farmers of Western Canada place their faith in co-operative organization they are simply taking their part in this great, world-wide movement which says

that the day of unrestrained individual exploitation is done and that from now henceforth men must work together, side by side, to accomplish their tasks and achieve their end.

To those who are becoming faint-hearted in their support of the co-operative marketing movement, there is little to turn to. The alternative is open competition; but those who are inclined to espouse the cause of open competition will find but small consolation in the views and opinions of the world's leaders of industry and commerce and economics. The day of cut-throat competition is fast disappearing, not only in agricultural marketing but in all the activities of men. There was a day when the popular gospel of 'let things be, to work out their own destinies' was on every tongue. But that day has now passed into the pages of history books, and the remaining laissez-faire doctrinaires form but a small and unimportant group of reactionaries who stubbornly refuse to acknowledge the advances which have been made.

The principle of co-operative self-help is now a universally supported one. And the viewpoint of its adherents has been aptly stated by Dr. Alonzo Taylor when he says, 'Co-operate or Bust' and 'whatever the hardships, the fact remains that only through co-operative organization will it be possible to pull ourselves out of the rut and get back to a basis of sound progress.' W. B. H.

## EARLY CUT HAY BEST

(Experimental Farms Note)  
The per cent of dry matter in both timothy and clover was found to increase after the plants had reached full bloom at the Experimental Station at Charlottetown, P. E. Island. This increase, however, was more than offset by the loss of quality in the cured hay. The following are some of the factors that enter into the question of when hay should be cut to produce the best forage for live stock.

First—Weather conditions—Hay cures slowly when the ground is wet. Dew or rain will greatly injure partly cured hay or hay that has wilted after cutting in bright sunshine, while in swarth or windrow.

Second—The first cutting of two-cut clovers and alfalfa should be made at the right time or the second will be light.

Third—The total yield may decrease as the hay plants mature due to loss of leaves or leaching by rain.

Fourth—There is a marked increase in fibre and a decrease in digestible nutrients as timothy and clover ripen.

When bloom appears on clover or timothy it is important that weather conditions be watched closely so that advantage may be taken of favourable conditions to cut at least part of the hay crop early. Good weather is needed for these early cuttings as they contain much more natural moisture than later cuttings, and cure more slowly. Periods of unfavourable weather frequently occur just after the hay has reached full bloom or when it saved it would make the best forage for stock. During the past several years there have been favourable periods for haymaking before the clover reached full bloom and hay saved during this stage of growth was much more valuable than other lots saved after the seed had formed.

Data collected from many sources indicate that the largest yields and the greatest amount of digestible forage can be obtained from either the grasses or clovers by cutting them when in full bloom, if curing conditions are favourable, or by the time the seed begins to form. There is therefore strong evidence in favour of commencing haymaking as soon as the clover is in bloom and that timothy should be cut when the bloom has fallen, to avoid dusty hay. The early cut hay makes the best forage for stock.—J. A. Clark, D. S., Superintendent, Experimental Station, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

## Canadian Agricultural Conditions

(July Letter, Royal Bank of Canada)

The wheat crop of Western Canada has suffered seriously from drought during the past month. Unfavourable conditions have prevailed from the beginning of the season; moisture reserves were low and spring precipitation deficient, so that seeding operations were carried on under most unpromising circumstances. The combination of these adverse conditions resulted in a substantial decrease in the acreage sown. Little improvement has followed and the latest official report estimated the condition of spring wheat at 80 per cent. of the long-term average, the lowest shown since 1909 when the official record was instituted. Since this report was issued, fairly heavy rainfall has broken the drought in many sections but important wheat-growing districts are still badly in need of rain.

In Manitoba, the most severe damage has been in the south-western parts of the province. Early in the season conditions in Manitoba were reported to be better than in either Saskatchewan or Alberta and strong hope existed that crops in this province would not show such heavy losses. June rainfall has been deficient, however, and deterioration has been substantial.

The poorest prospects are stated by the official report to be in the main wheat-producing province of Saskatchewan, where the condition is even lower than after the disastrous frosts of May 1917. The situation is particularly serious in the southern central parts of the province. Substantial damage has been incurred in these parts from wind-storms and soil-drifting as well as from drought. The northern districts have suffered much less damage and recent rains have been of considerable benefit to these areas.

Damage in Alberta has been most serious in the central section of the province in the important wheat belt lying between Calgary and Edmonton. Extreme conditions in this section have been relieved by the

recent rains, but additional moisture is still required for satisfactory growth. The crops in the south have had a fairly generous supply of moisture and the outlook is for at least an average crop. Conditions in the northern sections, including the Peace River district, have been more satisfactory. Moisture has been fairly plentiful and crops are reported to be making an excellent showing.

In the past, experience has shown that the Western wheat crop possesses remarkable recuperative powers. There is hope, therefore, that the recent rains will result in a fairly satisfactory recovery being made by the crops in many sections and that the yield may be somewhat better than has seemed probable during the last few weeks.

The neighbouring spring wheat areas of the United States have suffered similar damage. In at least six states the deficiency in rainfall this spring has been greater than last year. The condition of the spring wheat crop is described as "the poorest on record." Winter wheat continues to do well and a crop of approximately 650,000 bushels is indicated by present conditions. This compares with 604,000,000 bushels produced last year and 547,000,000 bushels, the average production from 1925 to 1929.

## EASTERN CROPS ENCOURAGING

The crops in Eastern Canada are reported to be in much better condition than in the West. Weather in the Maritime Provinces has been ideal for farming operations and recent growth has been most encouraging. From present indications it is expected that all field and grain crops will equal or exceed last year's figures. Notwithstanding the uncertain marketing outlook the area has planted to potatoes in Prince Edward Island is approximately the same as last year. The apple bloom has been unusually large and the fruit is setting well. Recent rains have prevented spraying and this may possibly detract from the quality of the fruit.

Seeding in Quebec was completed from two to four weeks earlier than usual but the cool weather during May delayed germination. Oats, barley, mixed grains, hay and pastures are in better condition than the average, but wheat, rye and peas have not done so well. Orchards and small fruits have had luxuriant bloom, although frost caused some damage.

Ontario fall wheat is looking exceptionally well in most parts of the province. Some damage has resulted from winter-killing. Spring grains are well above the ground and yields should be better than the average. The acreage sown to potatoes and corn has been considerably increased this year. In the fruit-growing sections, reports are very optimistic. There has been a good show of bloom and weather conditions have been favourable.

Field crops in British Columbia have suffered from variable conditions and warm weather is needed for proper growth. Indications point to an average yield in most crops but not nearly so heavy as was anticipated earlier in the season. In some districts, vegetables and small fruits have been damaged by frost and a shortage of water for irrigation purposes exists in the Okanagan Valley.

Pastures in the Prairie Provinces have become very dry as a result of the drought. In some sections, farmers have been obliged to feed grain to livestock, and from others cattle are being shipped to the northern districts or thrown on the market in an unfinished condition. Feed is plentiful in other parts of Canada and livestock are in much better shape. Cheese prices have been very low and there has been considerable falling off in the amount of milk sent to the cheese factories. Butter production has been expanded and butter prices have fallen to export levels for the first time since 1926, but the disposition of surplus milk supplies remains a difficult problem.

## Rural Education

C. E. MacKENZIE

There is no disputing the fact that a country's most valuable asset is the boys and girls. Then Prince Edward Island, essentially an agricultural province, should be most interested in the welfare and education of the boys and girls of the rural districts, because at least four fifths of our people are rural dwellers. The greatest need of these boys and girls is an education that will make thinkers of them and equip them to make a living and get the most out of life. It is more important that the boy and the girl are able through the training which their young minds should get to go out in the world and use their heads, than it is that they early education be such as to get them properly for life's battle while parents work their fingers off to get a farm for each of them.

How many boys and girls are there but would rather have early training, or education, which would fit them to think in such a way and to act in accordance with their thoughts so that they could make the money to buy the farm themselves, than do without the education and take the farm which father and mother had slaved and saved to buy and pay for!

The question is: Are our rural schools, as at present organized, in the best possible position to give the boy and girl the training necessary to make the kind of thinkers and workers out of them that will enable them to get most out of life financially and in every other way?

As far as equipment and teachers are concerned the town or city school has a great advantage over the small one roomed rural school. This fact gives a great advantage to city or town boys and girls, and is it right? Are you satisfied that our rural boys and girls be handicapped as compared with the town boys and girls? Is it fair to the child on the farm that the little one roomed school house, presided over by girls in their teens, who have the entire school to look after and who, very often, have very little sympathy for agriculture and very little time or opportunity to teach it, should be, as it is, the early training ground of the young minds of the country?

What chance have the children in the rural communities of getting elementary instruction in agricultural science, in mechanics, knowledge of which is so necessary in this advanced age, in domestic science, which the farm girl has every right to have as any other girls? The isolated rural school with its young, inexperienced teacher, and its fifteen to twenty pupils cannot accomplish what it should for the boys and girls of the farm.

At the present time education is costing this province too much money for what we are getting out of it. It is only right that we give our children the proper training to enable them to make progressive citizens and at present it looks as though consolidation of schools would be a move that would pave the way for better things. I am sure there is no person on Prince Edward Island but would be willing to pay more money for education if that education would better fit our boys and girls and make them better assets to our country. With consolidation plus a better system of teacher training together with greater agricultural knowledge progress alone can be made.

It may or it may not mean a little expense, but the best equipment the boys and girls of this province can get is a thorough, elementary education which trains them to think, and no farmer or his wife should be satisfied unless their boys and girls are getting that education. Put a little of the energy devoted to saving money to add another farm to the holding, into securing for the boys and girls raised on the farm in this province a broader and better elementary education as a start in life, and the boys and girls will get more money to buy their own farms when they have grown to man and womanhood, and will have an outlook on life which is impossible to the boy and girl who have not had such education. Think this out brother farmer from a broader outlook and I feel that eventually we will have changes for the better in the educational system of Prince Edward Island.



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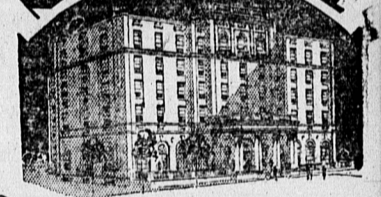
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