

## FARMING IN WESTERN CANADA



A WESTERN CANADA WHEAT FIELD.

### Canadian Correspondence:

"What are the settlers of Western Canada—and most of all the farmers who have immigrated from the United States—doing this year? I was asked by the editor of one of our big American papers a short time ago, by which I was assigned to travel through the great wheat provinces of the Dominion West to discover just what the conditions were there, and how the many thousands of American farmers in this 'Eldorado of Wheat' were prospering."

This was my fourth journey through Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. I followed close upon the 60,000 good American farmers who left the States to make new homes for themselves in these provinces last year—and in different words, this was how I answered the question of the editor of the above paper.

Imagine first of all a train of forty-ton cars, 1,554 miles in length—a train, in other words, which would reach from New York City to Denver, or from the Canadian border through the States of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and for 250 miles down into old Mexico, and you will have some idea of this year's production of grain in the three great provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

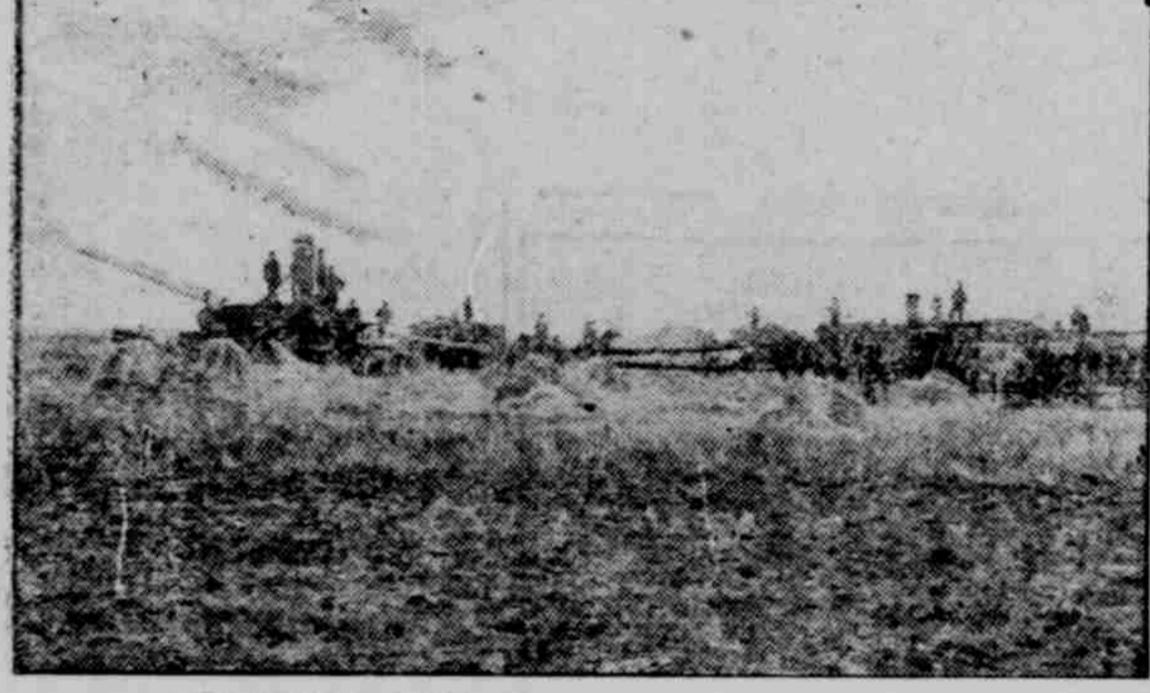
In other words, it will take more than 200,000 cars to carry the grain production of the three provinces alone this autumn.

If a person would be standing at one point, and this "grain train" passed him at the rate of twenty miles an hour, he would have to remain in that one spot for just

year. Under ordinary conditions the settler makes a living during his first year. He builds himself a cabin or a rude board house, and if he has not much capital of his own, he works a part of his time for his neighbors, for work is always plenty and there is always plenty to be had, however, he has in his own grain. It is a common saying throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta that "the settler makes a good living the first year, builds himself a good home the second, and is independent the third."

Until I had become thoroughly acquainted with these thousands of my people who have emigrated to Western Canada, and with the conditions now existing among them, I was inclined to believe with other hundreds of thousands of Americans that Canada's wheat lands were considerably overestimated. There is a great deal of the United States which produces very much like to see good American farmers taking up land in Canada when they have vast tracts of their own to dispose of. One of the "stories" frequently seen in American papers is that the good homestead land, or free land, of the Dominion is already taken up. Millions of acres of the best land in the world are now open to American settlers in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and these acres are offered to them absolutely free, with taxes low, after they have gained possession, that they may almost be counted as nothing.

To-day three great railroads stretch across Western Canada, and within a few



THRESHING WHEAT IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA.

three days and three nights to see the end of it.

It would carry past him more than 100,000,000 bushels of the best wheat in the world, 120,000,000 bushels of oats and 20,000,000 bushels of barley, for these figures, according to very best estimates of the grain commission, show what the settlers of Western Canada have raised this year in the way of grain.

Never in the history of any country has there been a more prosperous year for farmers than the present one in the Dominion West. So enormous has been the grain production that nearly 25,000,000 bushels of binder wine were required to transport it.

One thousand bushels of grain

have gone as high as one hundred bushels to the acre, while over large areas of country the average has been as high as eighty and ninety bushels. The wheat yield has been as high as fifty bushels to the acre, and from figures already in it is believed that the total will show an average yield of between twenty and twenty-five bushels to the acre throughout the three provinces.

It is difficult for one to understand just what Western Canada means to the farmer until he takes at least one trip through that country. As yet the vast grain lands of the three western provinces, with an area large enough to support the population of a nation, have hardly been scratched. In other words, it may truthfully be said that "the end of production of these provinces is the day of the end of the world." A year ago the wheat of the best, as far as the United States took up new homes for themselves there, and from the statistics of the past two or three years each one of these settlers will be harvesting from 500 to 2,000 bushels of grain next year.

The Senator then reviewed Mr. Taft's career for the last ten years, when, he said, he had been called on to advise by two Presidents on questions of government which gave them the greatest concern.

It is asserted that through the relentless energies of the Bryan League as much as \$20,000 has been collected in this State for the Bryan campaign fund. When do we get the names of the contributors and the individual amounts, as promised?—Philadelphia Press.

Richard Olney, who was in Cleveland's Cabinet, opposes Roosevelt's policies, but supports Bryan, who says Roosevelt's policies are his policies. This is a great year for Democratic logic.—Philadelphia Press.

"You can't fall out of bed when you are already on the floor," is one of Mr. Bryan's latest epigrams. But that's mighty little consolation to the Democrats who want to get back into bed.—Washington Post.

The Democrats are very unfortunate in being compelled to explain that Bryan's bark is worse than his bite. Just now the people are demanding leaders whose views are not involved in doubt and not men for whom excuses must be made.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Californians buy more baseballs and bats, proportionately, than the people of any other State.

Every day the inhabitants of the United Kingdom wear away \$1,000,000 worth of sheep leather.

It is said that Lake Erie produces more fish to the square mile than any other body of water in the world.

Yellow is far the most permanent color in flowers. It is the only one not affected by sulphurous acid fumes.

We don't believe in free wool, and have no use for the "peculiar one" who advocates it.—American Sheep Breeder.

All the agricultural fairs report record crowds and excellent displays this season. These are certainly not signs of hard times.—Boston Transcript.

It makes no difference what ails us. Bryan knows several cures for everything, only the cures are worse than the disease.—Philadelphia Press.

It develops that Mr. Bryan is not the only one to be Roosevelt's policies any more than he was to the Bennett estate.—Chicago Tribune.

Mr. Bryan must be greatly disappointed that no one has gone on the stump, thus far, to argue that the people should not rule.—Kansas City Star.

Mr. Bryan admits that he is worth \$150,000. That's equivalent to \$300,000 of the kind of money he advocated in 1896.—Omaha Bee.

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