

Business Outlook in Canada

From Toronto Daily News.

There are evidences of increasing commercial activity and of more prosperous conditions all over the Dominion. The Maritime Provinces escaped the real estate boom and the subsequent reaction which have afflicted the rest of Canada. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are probably more prosperous to-day than ever before in their history. The application of scientific methods to agricultural and agricultural settlement has brought results. War contracts keep the industrial regions busy, and in the coal mining regions there is some fear that the labor supply may fall below the demand. Though a good many men have gone to the war, current bank statements reflect a progressive accumulation of deposits. Down by the sea, as elsewhere in Canada, the general practice of shrift has produced concrete benefits, and the burden of patriotic and relief funds is cheerfully borne.

Despite inequalities of returns for two years past, the farmers of Quebec and Ontario are better off than at any previous time since Confederation. The despatch of troops to the front and extensive munition orders make it pretty certain that the unemployment problem will not attain serious proportions during the coming winter. As for the Prairie Provinces, the splendid prices received for last year's crop and the unprecedented abundance of this year's yield have combined to place the people of the plains in an exceptional position. They do not yet realize the extent of their good fortune. They have two or three crops in place of one crop for 1915. Practically all over the three Provinces the harvest has been phenomenal. In many districts the yield per acre has been amazingly high, and hundreds of farmers will be wealthy from this year's labors alone. Winnipeg bank clearings have risen to \$59,000,000 for a single week—a new high record.

Earlier in the season The Grain Growers' Guide, which has always pulled a poor mouth on behalf of the Western agriculturist, made the following statement: "According to the last Dominion Census report there are 204,140 farms in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The estimated value of these principal grain crops alone would give each farmer in Western Canada an income this year of nearly \$1,700. In New York State the average income per family is under \$600. The Western Canadian farmer is in a better position financially than any other class in this district. The fall of 1914 saw a general tightening of credits. Less material was probably sold to the farmer, but collections were closer and mortgages were reduced or wiped off completely. As a result the country districts faced 1915 with less encumbrance of debt than formerly, and if the 1915 crop harvests as promised, the farmer of the Canadian prairies is the best logical object of the advertiser's attention from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Ocean." This optimistic forecast has been realized beyond all expectations, and the buying power of the prairie population must expand accordingly. Western authorities estimate that prairie farmers will this year put \$150,000,000 in the bank after meeting their existing liabilities. As for the future, we are told that there is already sufficient moisture in the ground to assure a good crop for next season.

Even the war-time freight rates on the Great Lakes and on the Atlantic cannot prevent the Western agriculturist from coming into his own. With wheat around \$1 a bushel on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, and around 90 cents as far West as Saskatoon, farming pays handsomely, especially when wheat runs, as it does this year, from 30 to 50 bushels to the acre, and even better than that. Extravagant estimates of what it costs to produce a bushel of grain have been published by the Saskatchewan Government, and repeated in Eastern papers. The prairie farmer, who is at once industrious and scientific in his methods, is by long odds the most fortunately placed citizen of Canada. He attains to a position of economic independence more readily than the average city dweller. Thousands of cases may be cited to prove this statement, and but for the presence of a certain proportion of poor farmers, some of whom will never succeed anywhere, it would never have been challenged. But this is no reason why the prairie agriculturists should not have adequate shipping facilities, cheap freight rates, rural credits, and whatever else will go to increase their prosperity and productiveness.

The cities of the plains, like the cities of Ontario, have still to pay for several years of rash speculation in real estate, and they will not get back

to normal conditions on the strength of one year's exceptional harvest. They have been over-extended, over-built and over-paved. Excessive obligations have been assumed in the development of public utilities. Taxes are not coming in as freely as in the days of the boom, assessments are being reduced, and some ratepayers have disappeared, but there is little danger that any considerable municipality will be unable to pay the interest on its bonds. Western cities must share the growing prosperity of the agricultural communities which surround them. Three transcontinental railways furnish abundant transportation facilities and, given a sufficiently aggressive immigration and land settlement policy, the country between the Lake of the Woods and the Rocky Mountains will surprise the world by its productivity and by its rapid accumulation of wealth. There is no reasonable basis for skepticism as to the great future in store for both rural and urban communities on the plains.

British Columbia has perhaps felt the depression and the war more severely than any other part of Canada. In Vancouver the real estate craze reached its most extravagant development and there has been a corresponding reaction. Men, who counted themselves wealthy two years ago, have lost their all if the loan companies care to close them out, and the story of their misfortune is nothing short of tragical. It is felt, however, that the worst is now being seen of the collapse. One hears that English capital is already picking up bargains, and it must not be forgotten that the bottom cannot fall out of a Province which Sir Edmund Walker once described as potentially the richest in Canada. Its timber, its coal, its silver, gold, copper, zinc and iron deposits, its agricultural areas and its fisheries give it a variety of resources perhaps not found within an area of equal size anywhere else in the world. The great bulk of these vast assets still remain in possession of the Crown, and with the additional transportation facilities furnished by the two new transcontinental railways, which have been completed across the mountains since the war began, the Pacific Coast Province must be regarded as only beginning to "arrive." These railways render extensive new areas on the coast and in the interior readily accessible from the outside world, and with the return of peace the development of the country should be materially accelerated.

Hon. W. T. White has said that nationally the Dominion is getting rich despite the war. The president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce has expressed the opinion that the year's field crops should mean general prosperity of a solid character. Experts in agriculture declare that they will exceed in value the crops of any previous year by not less than \$250,000,000. If Canada stands the strain of world-conflict so well, we are surely safe in predicting that when the people's energies are re-directed to the industries of peace we shall attain to new high levels of production. Nor need the period of readjustment at the close of the war be at all prolonged if timely preparations are made with a view to the fullest possible use of the great transportation and industrial machine with which the country is already equipped. We should secure a preferred share of the vast sums which will be spent on materials for the rebuilding of Belgium and Northern France. A greatly increased agricultural population is most urgently needed, and to the getting of this additional population the Dominion and Provincial Governments must devote as much energy as they can spare from the prosecution of a war without a final and complete victory in which every other consideration is so negligible as to be scarcely worth a thought.

Why the Price Was Low.

A shabby man entered a small general store in a Scotch village and asked the owner, a genuine Scot who was known far and wide for his "pawky" humor, if he might have an empty soap box.

"All right," said the shopkeeper, "ye can have one; but the price is twopence."

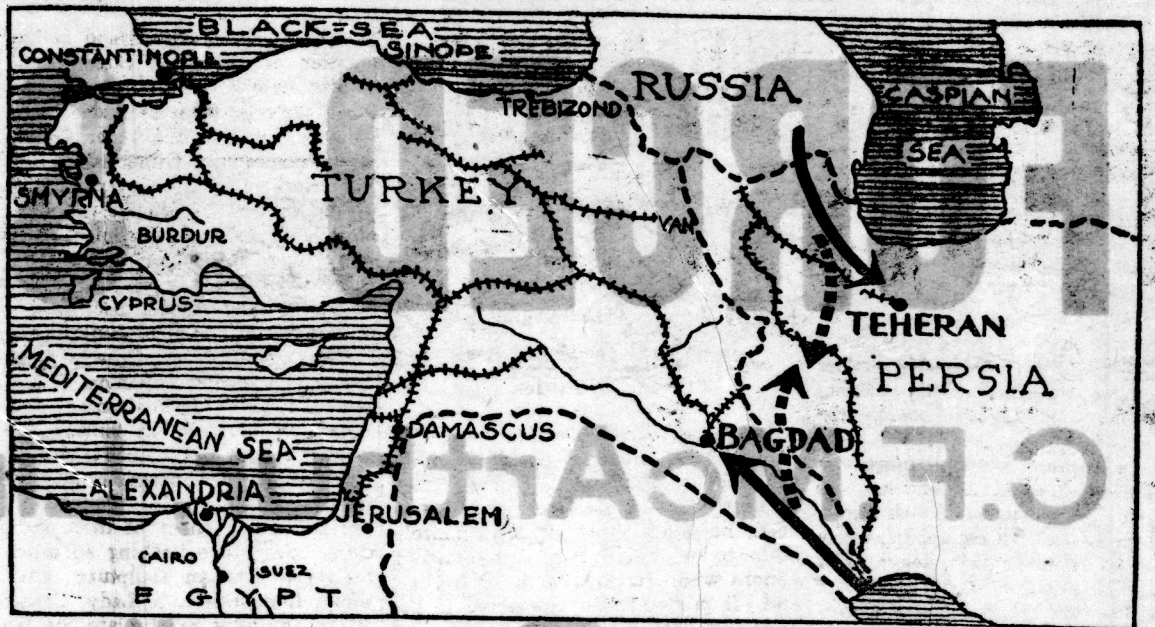
"Tuppence!" ejaculated the applicant. "That's too much money altogether. I can get them for less than that."

"Less than twopence? You're dreaming, man," replied the other, who disliked nothing so much as haggling. "Where can ye get them for less?"

"Down at your neighbor's, Tamson's," was the rejoinder.

"Oh," replied the man behind the counter, apparently much relieved; "no doubt ye would get them for less there, but I was never fool enough to leave my boxes outside on the pavement all night."

WAR IN THE LAND OF THE ARABIAN NIGHTS



On the map above the British advance to Bagdad, and the Russian Drive on Teheran, the Persian capital, are shown. It is reported that England and Russia are trying desperately to meet and thus form a wall of soldiers across Persia in the hopes of stopping a German-Turko invader of India.



POULTRY

PLANNING FOR THE SEASON'S WORK.

By A. P. Marshall.

At this time, when we have rounded up the product of the season, and know to a large extent the result of our effort, no doubt many will be giving considerable thought how to repeat in some cases and in others how to make desired improvement for the coming year. It is not too early to plan now, and it may be that the value of doing this early may bring a considerable increased profit because the breeder was ready to meet all necessities and had his work planned so as to bring the best results before it was too late.

Without some future definite objective it always seems as though very little good result would be possible. Whether it be to win some show that the breeder has in mind or whether to produce something that will make better results possible in the matter of eggs or meat or to bring bigger profit in some way or other, it seems quite clear that unless some such ideal is ever in mind the routine that must be continuously followed when it is planned and worked out will kill the first interest and make the work so commonplace that it will be much neglected and poor results secured just as sure as grass is green.

When we hear of men arranging so that the growing chicks can be fed at 4.30 a.m., and of others giving an extra feed at 10 p.m., surely we can realize that such arrangements must be due to a great ambition to get results, and the working out of a plan that will produce just a little better than the man who will not take every precaution that will be helpful in securing the most possible. Heavy milking cattle are probably fed considerably more than poor milkers, but in a great many dairies it has compelled the owners to insert an extra milking, so as to take care of the high production of the cows. Left to their own sweet will, these same animals would not produce half what they do, but the study of the very best producing methods have developed a routine that brings very much increased yearly returns. Many who have chickens could very much improve their returns by giving the matter just a little thought, planning the work along what they know positively to be better than they are now using, and by sticking to sure producing methods have a season that would be full of profitable return and be a real satisfaction.

When a photographer develops a picture he can tell pretty well why it did not come up as it should, and the experienced poultryman should be able to see in a general way what has been wrong with the results if he has the breeders before him and the finished product. Of course it is not always so, but much may be indicated by what is available and what can be seen in the breeders and in the product. If the birds have not grown well, it may be due to the breeding stock, the feeding, or the environment. All of these things may be readily determined if the breeder uses any sort of judgment, and by planning now doubtless a repetition of the same difficulty may be avoided.

There is one thing that all can settle as advisable, and that is that only the very best birds for the purpose for which they are bred be retained, and that any falling below the requirements be sold or disposed of. This may seem a very strict rule to follow, but anyone who has become accustomed to culling closely appreciates

that only when that is done can the best progress be expected. In many dairies where the only requirements of the cows is that they produce a large amount of milk, records are kept to see that all cows are keeping above the average. Any falling below an average that is set as essential is sold at once and another takes her place. In large manufacturing plants, when everything is running in full swing, and all machinery going, the question arises if it is not serious loss of production to have poor workers using machines that might produce more with more skilled labor. Higher production then can only be secured by changing for better workers. It is just the same with the hens. Birds that cannot be expected to bring better results than others that may take their places should be removed for the others to bring the bigger results possible with them.

Improvement sometimes involves the introduction of some good blood from some reliable breeder. He also is working down his flock to the best working units for his next season's efforts, and it pays well to secure what may be wanted as early as possible. It usually means a little better selection. If it is possible to give the breeder a good idea of what is needed in birds, he can do better, for while a bird might be better perhaps than another one of the same breed, this bird might be the best breeder to use in another flock on account of his being strong in points where the other flock was lacking. Naturally when a breeder gets an order for a bird at a price, he sends the best value he can for the price paid, and if he only had a little information, might have sent a more useful bird, strong in his customer's requirements. Every time the buyer takes the breeder fully into his confidence he should be the gainer by it, for the breeder, shipping birds as he does, wants to please every buyer, and he can do this better by sending just what the buyer needs than by any other method. His best advertising is in satisfying his customers.

Perhaps the objective may be somewhat that means the chicks must be got out earlier than they have in the past years. Getting the breeders into first-class condition so they can produce fertile, hatchable eggs with lots of kick in them will be a big factor, and this must be given attention quite a long time before the eggs are needed. Green food and fresh air are such a big part in this that it is wily to get a crack at the wily Turk that they must be both provided for liberally if results are to be obtained. Equipment of the best kind is desirable, but if the breeders are not right the best equipment in the world will never produce what the breeder is looking for.

We might go on and enumerate a number of things that anyone who will consider the matter seriously could not help but think of, and they should be in a better position to see those matters that would particularly bear on their own particular case. The reason why so many keep right on making the same mistakes and getting the same unsatisfactory results year after year is because they do not really try to figure out cause and effect, as they could see it in their own individual cases, and which they could remedy better than anyone could suggest. If anyone who is really trying to make for improvement will honestly think the matter out, plan so far as they can, and try to outline their work, we feel sure it will develop a system that will be bound to help before the season is through.

Missed Opportunity.

Brown—I should think doctors would be even more tyrannical and autocratic than they are.

Smith—Why so?

Brown—Because all their dealings are with people who are in no condition to fight back.

A MAN WITH TWO FUNERALS.

A Sad History That Began on the Rhone Glacier.

In the cemetery at Goschenen in Switzerland, a strange burial took place at the end of the nineteenth century. The coffin, a small one, decorated and lecorously consigned to earth contained part of a human leg, a foot, some shreds of clothing, and one fine, fifty centimes of Swiss money. The unusual ceremony was the concluding chapter of a sad history that began on the Rhone glacier eighteen years before.

In the summer of 1882 the burgo-master of Goschenen and two friends undertook the ascent of the glacier. All three lost their lives, and the bodies were found a week later frozen stiff. The burgo-master was stuck fast in a crevasse, and in dragging it forth, the frozen right leg broke like a snapped icicle, and fell into the blue depths of the fissure. The poor mutilated body was laid away in the cemetery with every honor, for the mayor had been greatly loved and respected in his little community.

The peasants say, "Seven years the glacier grows; seven years she melts; and in melting she honestly brings to the mouth of her river all that has fallen down her icy, blue that—a belief that, although partly foolish, contains much that is true. This strange operation of nature, the leg of the mayor of Goschenen came to light after eighteen years. The boot was still on the foot; some shreds of clothing hung to the leg; even trifling sum of money in the unfortunate man's trousers pocket honestly returned by the glacier, which keeps nothing not its own. After eighteen years the leg was laid beside its master. The tragic history of its recovery robbed the occurrence of all absurdity.

SING "THREE BLIND MICE."

of Soldiers Who Lost Sight in Battle.

The following is an extract from a letter of an Australian soldier written at Heliopolis base camp, Cairo, Egypt.

Some of the troops left Australia with the idea that they were going on a picnic. The wounded have enlisted them, but they are now out of place to point out who from all accounts is wonderfully wily, but a clean fighter. In fact, only one case of atrocities I have heard of occurred where German officers were in command. I'll believe nothing almost of the Germans now. By heavens, but it makes one mad to see the wounded! Game? Game is inadequate to convey the direct impression of their conduct. In one hospital ward are three men blinded for life. One afternoon to get on the third's bed and the third sang "Three Blind Mice," then asked, "Are we downhearted? No!"

Disappointed.

An old Scotswoman, who at considerable personal inconvenience had gone a good way to visit a friend who was ill, learned on her arrival that the alarming symptoms had subsided.

"An' hoo are ye the day, Mrs. Crawford?" she enquired, in breathless anxiety.

"Oh, I'm nearly well noo, thank ye, Mrs. Graham." "Early well!" exclaimed the breathless visitor. "After me comin' sae far to see ye, too!"

Plan Went Askew.

"Say, Jack, why so sad?" "Asked the governor for \$50 to pay my tailor to-day and I received the receipted bill."