

INTERESTING LIGHT ON CANADIAN TAXES

Western Systems Studied by Columbia Professor—Gives Much Material on Cities

Professor Robert Murray Haig, instructor in economics at Columbia University, prepared an elaborate report on the exemption of improvements from taxation in the United States and Canada for the Committee on Taxation of the City of New York. Professor Haig spent several months in Canada investigating systems of municipal taxation. The Professor points out the difference between land value taxation for municipal revenues and the Single Tax.

By taking the voters' lists for various cities and working out the percentages of tenants and owners Professor Haig furnished some very useful statistics on home ownership. In Winnipeg 55.5 per cent. of the voters are owners, of whom one-fifth are non-residents, and 46.5 per cent. are tenants. In Regina the percentage of houses which are occupied by their owners is approximately sixty-five. In Edmonton sixty to sixty-five. Sixty per cent. of the voters in Vancouver are owners, according to the voters' list. It is estimated that eighty per cent. of the houses in Victoria are occupied by their owners.

Wide Lots in Victoria It is interesting to note that while 25 feet is the standard width of a lot in Winnipeg, it is 35 in Edmonton and 50 in Victoria. Speaking of the unusual width of the lots in Victoria, Professor Haig says that there is no indication that the land value tax has prevented the liberal use of land for residential purposes.

Figures with regard to the percentage of land built upon in ten different cities is not complete. It is estimated at forty per cent. in Regina; twenty-one per cent. in Edmonton; and between sixty and seventy per cent. in Victoria. The percentage is not given for Winnipeg or Vancouver, but the density of population is given at 12.7 persons per acre in Winnipeg and ten in Vancouver. It is, however, quite safe to say that not twenty-five per cent. of the land inside the limits of the city of Winnipeg is built upon.

Helped Building Trade The exemption of improvements from taxation has been universally followed by a marked increase in building operations. Although the taxes have not been heavy enough as a general rule to stop land speculation, Professor Haig states that the town of Castor, Alta., furnishes proof that land speculation can be stopped by means of taxation as owing to heavy taxation there was a wholesale surrender of land held there by speculators. It is also noted that the surtax on idle land in Saskatchewan is having the effect of bringing many large holdings into cultivation.

CLEVER GRAIN HANDLING

Elevators of Canada Dry and Clean Wheat

The method of handling grain in elevators at Port Arthur or Fort William is described as follows: If the car which is being unloaded, on the way to the elevator is to be cleaned it is dropped from the scale into a bin on the ground floor, from which the cleaning machines lead, and the exact percentages of small seeds, dust, etc., as given by the government inspection of the car is taken out. As the grain is passed from the cleaning machines it is re-elevated, weighed, and sent on to the storage tanks. This cleaning is done under the eye of government officials. If the car just unloaded is "rejected," otherwise smutty wheat, and it has been ordered to be "scoured," it practically goes through the same process as the car which was to be cleaned, except that it is passed through the scouring machines or "smutters" instead of the cleaning machines.

Enamel on Auto Parts One thing which does its share to preserving the general appearance of the automobile is to occasionally touch up the lamps, windshield frame and other black enamel parts of the kind. Scratches and slight chipping off of the enamel on these is bound to come, and makers of paints and varnishes can supply special enamel preparations to apply to scratched or marred spots in the metal. These enamel paints often are furnished to do their work with one application with a brush and without any rubbing.

Grade Animals Win The Shorthorn grade cows of England are, in the majority of cases, just as pure-bred as the pedigree animals. There the ordinary farmer has almost invariably used pedigree bulls so long that very little difference in quality is to be observed between well-bred grade cows and pedigree animals, and in milk production the grades often capture the premier prizes at the London Dairy Show.

To remove stains from a steel fan-rib with a piece of raw potato.

PEAS IN POTATO FIELD

Record of How Crops Thrive and Make Money Together

Walter Johnson writes in the Maritime Farmer as follows: I have been interested in the method my brother in Vermont used to grow his market garden crop of green peas. He plows his soil ground in the fall for potatoes, harrows in cow and horse manure. The next spring, just before planting time, he marks the ground 3 feet apart each way, dropping one piece of potato with two eyes to each hill or cross mark. He then has a man follow with peas, which have been soaked for a day in soft water, dropping not more than two peas at each two hills apart, fertilizer having been dropped before the potato. The hills are now covered by drawing the loose dirt over seed with the hoe and giving each hill a tamp with the hoe to pack dirt onto seed.

The peas and potatoes come up together, a little in peas' favor. He goes through twice with the cultivator and once with the horse plow or shovel plow. If the peas are not of extra late variety, and season not too dry, they come up enough ahead of the potatoes so the cultivator and shovel plow do not cover them while going through. For spraying the potato vines he uses a commercially prepared liquid of the bordeaux type, which does not hurt the pea vines in the least.

He goes through hts rows twice a week gathering peas for market, making a good revenue from peas to the acre. The pea vines do not choke the potato vines, and I believe help them, because in the hills where pea vines grow the loam seemed to be much lighter and porous. At potato digging time in September I measured the marketable potatoes; they averaged a bushel to 13 hills, or 268 bushels to the acre, which, considering the season, showed up much above the average.

TO A PINE FOREST

A pine forest is one of the most beautiful features of nature. Of all quiet scenes it is surely the quietest. The harsh sounds of the busy human world, and even the dreamy murmurs of summer, are hushed there; no song of bird or hum of insect disturbs the solemn stillness; and only at rare intervals the mournful coo of a dove, making the solitude more profound, is heard in the deeper recesses. The weary, care worn spirit bathes in the serenity of the silence, and feels the charm and refreshment of its highest life. The trunks of the trees have caught the ripened red of many vanished summers, and are bearded with long streaming tufts of grey lichen, which impart to them a weird, savage appearance; but they are touched with grace by the wild flowers growing at their roots; childhood sporting in unconscious loveliness at the feet of old age. They form long drawn aisles and vistas, like the pillared halls of Constantinople, which are indescribably attractive, for they appeal to that love of mystery which exists in every mind; they reveal only enough to stimulate the imagination, and lead it onward to lovelier scenes beyond. Life itself without these vistas of expectation would not be worth living.—Rev. Hugh MacMillan.

RAISING ORPHAN LAMBS

Rich Milk is One Secret of Shepherd's Success

A problem is the proper care of the orphan lamb. If the flock has been badly wintered many ewes will fail to supply the requisite milk and will disown their lambs. With such flocks the shepherd's days are full of trouble. Unless another ewe with plenty of milk can be induced to take the orphan lamb, the only recourse is cow's milk. Cow's milk is not nearly so rich as ewe's milk, and for that reason should not be diluted with water. In fact, the chemists find that ewe's milk has just about three times as much butter-fat material as cow's milk. Use, therefore, the richest milk possible. Give it often, warm, and in small amounts. The young lamb is used to sucking every hour or so, and the ideal way is to give from three to five tablespoonfuls every two hours. This, of course, is bothersome, and the space of time between feeding periods should be gradually lengthened out. Always be sure that the milk is given warm and clean, and in too small amounts rather than too large amounts. Be sure that the nipples and bottles are perfectly clean. The raising of orphan lambs is bothersome. Nevertheless, those who have had the most experience claim that they are able to raise their orphan lambs to weaning time with practically no losses.

HALIFAX: WORLD PORT

Because of its geographical location, because Halifax is the most easterly of the Canadian ports, and because, too, strangely enough, it is never closed by ice, Canada through its Department of Railways and Canals, is engaged there on one of the biggest port developments in the world. Work to the amount of \$7,000,000 has been contracted for, and a total outlay of \$30,000,000 is contemplated. The port development at Halifax is attracting the attention of engineers everywhere. There is being built an entirely new railway entrance to the city, which means a relocation of the railway track through virgin territory within the city limits. Furthermore, a radical innovation in quay wall construction is being introduced. The work is no less interesting as a study in commercial development and national self-sufficiency, for the port of Halifax, when completed, will be the climax of the grand Canadian transcontinental railway scheme, which has been fruitifying for the past decade; the transshipment point which is intended to guarantee that Canadian goods will be carried entirely on Canadian soil, the link in the British "All Red" intercontinental transport.—New York Times.

Growing Nasturtiums

There is nothing to equal the nasturtium for brightening up corners, and the more you cut it, the better it will bloom. There is such a delightful fragrance about the foliage and flowers that it is almost impossible to have too many of them. They will bloom during the hottest midsummer sun, and on cloudy days you will appreciate the gleam of gold or crimson. Even during a drouth, a number of flowers can be gathered daily. The flowers should be cut every other day, as seeds are produced at the expense of the flowers. The nasturtium, unlike most other flowering plants, will grow the finest flowers in a rather poor soil, that is, the flowers will be brilliantly colored. Each plant should be given a foot of room. This is one of the most easily cultivated annuals.

FOWL ON GARDEN LAND

How to Care For Fowl—Don't Use Fowl Lano

There are two methods by which fowls may be kept on the garden plot. If the plot of land is on the small side, it will be necessary to keep the birds confined to their shelters during the time such land is under cultivation; but if there is a good-sized piece of ground at one's disposal, and it is desired that the birds shall account for hatchable eggs in season, then one portion of such ground may be run over whilst the other portion is being cropped. In adopting this method, the house and scratching shed should be erected at the south end of the plot, and the latter should be divided by means of wire netting fixed to suitable stakes, a boarded fence two feet high being fixed to the stakes to prevent the birds from becoming restless through being unable to get at the produce on the other side, a thing likely to result if they were allowed to see such produce. By having the house provided with two outlets, the attendant would be able to let the birds out into the run it is intended they shall occupy.

Should the plot of land be in area, say, twenty yards square, then it is a good plan to erect the house and scratching shed in its centre and divide the land into four parts, three parts being put under vegetable cultivation, whilst the other part is being occupied by the fowls. The birds would be allowed to occupy each plot in turn, the several plots being cropped in rotation. Portable fencing will be necessary when adopting this method, such fencing being of such a kind as to facilitate easy erection around each plot in succession.

Many there are who possess good sized plots of garden ground, and devote them entirely to the use of poultry. This is a great mistake, and one that, unfortunately, is only discovered when disease incidental to fowl land breaks out among the stock. Where a good sized plot of land exists there is no reason why the fowls should suffer through tainted ground, if it is managed on the lines indicated above. When the birds have rendered the plot of land on which they run unsafe for their health, the spade can be got to work and the seeds sown, or the plants put in, and the crops will feed upon the manure, and so sweeten the soil ready for occupation again by the fowls. Fowls run upon land recently cleared of crops breed exceedingly well, the eggs being strongly fertilized and the chicks robust and quick growing. This is due, no doubt, to the fact that the birds have fresh land to run upon, and, in addition, an abundance of insect life to consume—just the thing to invigorate and strengthen the reproductive organs.

PREVENTION: BEST CURE

If you want to protect your oat crop from the ravages of smut give your seed the formalin treatment before you sow it. If you want to protect your potato crop from the ravages of scab, you should do the same thing before you plant the seed. This treatment requires the expenditure of a little money—not very much—and a little extra labor and inconvenience. But it is certainly worth while to go to this expense and trouble when you consider what it means to you in the way of increased income from these crops. If you do not believe it, try it. Sow a part of a field of oats with properly treated seed. Sow the rest of it with untreated seed. Then, after the oats have headed, go into the field with a barrel hoop. Toss it into a portion of the treated field, count the total number of stalks inside the hoop, and the number which are damaged. Do this three times in different places in this part of the field, and figure up what percentage of the crop has been damaged by smut. Do the same thing in the untreated part of the field and figure up the percentage of damage. Then sit down with a pencil and a sheet of paper and figure up how much increase in the yield of the field there would have been had you treated all the seed sowed instead of only a portion of it. Perform this experiment once, and there will never be any question in your mind about the advisability of treating your seed. Do it just once, and you will never again sow untreated seed.—Maritime Farmer.

APRON FOR BICYCLIST

A lady who does an enormous amount of riding in all weathers has improvised a mackintosh apron which she says serves her excellently when the rain is driving hard in her face. It is just an ordinary waterproof apron of single texture, a little deeper than skirt length, and full enough to go three-parts round the body. When not in use it folds into a very small space, and is carried with the cape. She says it is light, not so cumbersome as one would think because it has plenty of air space at the back, and serves her admirably as a quick-drying garment to keep out heavy rain.

CONSERVATION

A factory for extracting oil from herring waste and making dried fish scrap from residue has commenced operations at Lubec, Maine. It expects to produce 750 barrels of oil and 300 tons of fish scrap in one year. The supply of raw material will be secured chiefly from the St. Stephen district of New Brunswick. The utilization of this waste will still further increase the value of the smoked herring industry of that port.

COST OF BAD ROADS

Much Greater Than Cost of Good to Farmers


Farmers have begun to figure the matter of roads a little differently than in former years. When the good roads movement was in its infancy they used to ask themselves, "How much will good roads cost me?" Thanks to the intelligent propaganda of the daily and farm papers, as well as other agencies, farmers are now asking themselves, "How much are bad roads costing me?" According to government experts, the cost of having a ton of farm produce a mile varies from seventeen cents, in localities where fairly hard gravel roads exist, to thirty-five cents per ton in parts of the country where the roads are in bad condition.

On the other hand, in those European countries where hard roads prevail, the cost is as low as nine cents per ton per mile. The United States Department of Agriculture estimated that the total haulage expense to American farmers for a year is approximately \$500,000,000. And every dollar comes from the farmer's pocket, for he is the one great producer who cannot avoid the haulage expense to his wares, for the prices he gets are on a delivered basis. If every farmer would take pencil and paper, figure the amount in tons of the produce and stock he markets in a year, multiply it by the number of miles he must haul it to market, multiply the total by twenty-five cents per ton per mile, and then consider that he could save nearly all of this amount every year if he had an improved road all the way to his market, he would become an earnest good roads worker.

SWEET CLOVER AS MANURE

Means Great Boon to Orchardist, Says Experimental Gardener

Writing of sweet clover as a manure, Wm. Linton, of Aurora, Ont., says: My experience with sweet clover as an orchard manure and a renovator of worn-out lands has led me to believe that there is a large field for sweet clover to fill, as every tiller of the soil appreciates the advent of a restorative, for the soil is fast becoming depleted of its nitrogen and humus in the older parts of Ontario and requires rebuilding. We plowed down an acre when it was three feet high, and another two acres we mowed when it was the same height, leaving the crop on the ground, and allowing it to grow for the second cutting. The results so far have been satisfactory, and we expect these results to continue. The growth of the young trees was exceptional; every branch grew from three to four feet. After cutting we were surprised to find how soon it rotted, both root and branch, and became a complete mulch. It covered the ground completely and gave a large percentage of nitrogen, and with its deep roots brought up the deep-lying potash. From our experience with it we think it a great boon to the orchardist, as well as to the agriculturist generally. Sweet Clover was first introduced into the United States in the early part of the 18th century by the colonists from Europe. Little did they think that this honey plant, as they called it, would be the sensation of the twentieth century, so far as adding wealth to the agricultural industries was concerned. It thrives over a greater area and under more varied adverse conditions than any other legume known to man. It will grow in the sub-tropics and up to the Arctic Circle, and it matters little whether wet or dry, sand or the hardest clay, or how poor the land is, as long as the land contains a reasonable amount of lime it will thrive, and for either hay or pasture it is excellent.



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