

New Harvesting Methods Make Canada Wheat Crop More Secure

Rapid Introduction of the Combine, Motor Trucks, and Good Roads, Frees Western Plain From Labor Worry, and Aids Marketing

Quebec—There is every indication that western Canada may produce the greatest wheat crop in her history. This will probably create a new world record for average yield over the total of 23,659,999 acres estimated as sown to this crop and bring the total yield of the Prairie Provinces appreciably nearer the 500,000,000 bushel mark. Apart from this the western Canadian harvest of 1923 is significant as exhibiting certain trends which may have an influential bearing on the future of wheat growing in that territory. It is extravagant to say that 1923 is setting the stage for an almost complete revolution in western Canadian harvesting which will inevitably have its effect upon transportation and marketing.

While the western Canadian farmer's round is considered one of unremitting toil, the actual grain growing season is a short one, but punctuated at either end by tremendous activity. Wheat must be sown at the earliest possible date after the frost danger has passed in order that it may achieve its growth and ripen in the fall. The ripened crop must be taken off and threshed before the advent of winter's snows which may bury it and tie up the year's income, subject the grain to deterioration, as well as confuse seasonal activities by necessitating threshing in the spring. In marvelous manner, by some Herculean effort, farmers manage generally to get in the acreage they have planned, especially since tractors have become so general in the area the individual farmer accomplishes the work of several teams and hired men. Not infrequently, however, many are compelled to leave some acreage idle or run serious risk from frost.

From seeding to harvesting is a brief hundred days or so. In its earlier stages the farmer can note the short, sturdy growth complacently enough, but as the stalks grow taller and the heads hang with their weight he grows steadily more serious. Finally as the broad waving fields take on the rich golden tint, his immediate responsibility, the colossal proportions of the task confronting him, comes him to break his leash. It is then that the concerted cry comes eastward from the western plains, "Send us men!"

The Harvest Expansion

The harvest excursion has from the earliest days of western Canada's grain growing been a feature of Dominion life in the fall of the year. In startlingly brief time in response to the insistent call from the West an army is mobilized, of young eastern agriculturists who, their own work done, seek to round out the year's income; the temporarily unemployed seeking a winter's stake; and the merely adventurous who seize the opportunity to economically visit the great plains. For some years now an average of 50,000 men have rushed by special trains to the waiting grain fields. The temporary transfer of labor has come to be regarded as inevitable. Yet a gradual but very definite movement has started toward independence of this seasonal help.

In other parts of the continent, the western Canadian harvest is a somewhat vague and indefinite affair. People read that the prairies have been blessed with a bountiful yield and react cordially because they realize in a hazy way that general prosperity is somehow bound up with good western crops. Late visitors from the mountain resorts comfortably survey from the observation cars the waving fields, revel in the picture, envying the farmer his romantic calling. Perhaps they read later that a good deal of the crop was snowed under and will not be available for threshing until spring, and this occasion nothing more possibly than a passing thought that farmers have been very careless.

The western Canadian farmer, or his wife for that matter, have little time to dwell on the picturesque in harvest time, or opportunity to revel in its romantic aspects. It is for the farmer a period of ceaseless effort. While he has been able to send that crop himself or with the aid of a single hired man, such labor is abso-

lutely unequal to the task of garnering it, still less of threshing it. He must secure additional labor and pay it wages the urgency of the work demands. He must then take his chances of a threshing machine getting round to him before the snow comes. Until all these things are done, the money in the crop is tied up as tight as ore in a mine. His wife faces the prospect of having to house and feed an indefinite period additional harvest hands, and then for a period of weeks to attend to the wants of a threshing crew which may consist of any number up to 30 men.

In many European countries the binder or mechanical harvester would be considered as far advanced, but western Canada could never have made any progress without it, and no farm in the territory is to be found without at least one of them. A labor-saving device introduced into this common system of harvesting was the stook loader, which eliminated the necessity of pitching the stooked sheaves by hand into wagons for transport to stacks or the threshing machine. Then the ultimate seemed to have been achieved when the mechanical stooker was invented, which, attached to an ordinary binder, eliminated the manual work of picking up the sheaves and standing them in stacks. Neither of these, however, came into general use, possibly on account of the relatively small saving in labor in relation to cost. Then suddenly several harvesting operations were completely eliminated and the whole season's work revolutionized when, after a season or two of experimentation, the combine reaper-thresher came to be generally adopted over the area, permitting a vision of an almost complete liberation from the hired man thralldom at harvest time.

Complete Change

The combine seems due to completely change the familiar picture of harvest time in the Canadian West. In 1926 there were 148 of these machines in the western provinces, and in 1927 there were 774. These years definitely took the machine out of the experimental stage for the territory. This spring and summer orders were extremely heavy and in the present harvest the utilization is general, signaling the real opening of the combine era in western Canada. One authoritative estimate states that at least 500 of these are being used in the grain fields of Alberta, south of Calgary, whereas there were but 35 in that section in 1926, and 150 last year. It is unquestionably the most revolutionary factor ever introduced into western Canadian farming. Briefly, the use of the combine eliminates the operations of binding, tying, and stooking, and threshes the grain as it moves along. More particularly the combination of the reaper and thresher does away with the elevator, the knoter, and the sheaf carrier on the binder and the feeder and blower equipment on the thresher.

By means of the combine from 25 to 45 acres of grain per day can be harvested and threshed with a machine cutting a 15 or 16-foot swath. As an instance of its economy of operation, the case may be cited of the Noble Foundation Farms in southern Alberta, said to be the largest grain farm in the world, where there are many thousands of acres in crop. In 1927 six combines cut and threshed the crop in one operation, the grain being taken directly from the field to the railway cars. All the labor required to operate the reaper-threshers was 12 men, two to each machine. It was estimated that the machines performed the work of 12 binders, 15 stookers, and at least 66 thresher-men. The 1927 harvest was the cheapest this mammoth farm had ever known.

The combine can be used in western Canada regardless of local maturing or unsettled weather conditions through the attachment of the wind-row header and pick-up equipment which has similarly passed the experimental stage in the territory and proved a success. Harvesting by this system consists of two distinct operations. The crop is first cut and left

England's Grand Old Sports



PENSIONERS: SERGT. ALLEN AND J. BRYCE

at a bowling match between Royal Alfred Home and Chelsea Pensioners Royal Hospital where England's old time regulars are taken care of.

in the field to dry and ripen, supported by the stubble in a loose mass with the heads on top where they dry and ripen quickly. When ready to thresh, the combines, equipped with the wind-row pick-up, threshes and cleans the grain ready for market. A considerable quantity of grain which at the 1927 harvest was covered up by the early arrival of snow and lay flat on the ground or in swath all winter was in the spring successfully threshed by this means with little damage or loss.

An outcome of the extensive building of good roads and the greater utilization of motor vehicles is the more general use of motortrucks at harvest time for the transport of grain. Last fall the demand for these could not be met in many parts of the West and this year there will be a great many more hurrying grain from the farm to the railroad. The use of the combine has reduced grain storage requirements on the farm and the grain is frequently taken directly from the field to the elevator or railroad car, eliminating many handlings. Today the long lines of horse-driven wagons laboriously toiling over rough trails have given place to fleets of powerful motor trucks effortlessly transporting much greater loads over good roads. —Christian Science Monitor.

Detective Stories

Among the patrons of mystery thrillers today are not only the office boys and junior white collar clerks, who have always been credited with keeping the market flourishing, but also many citizens ordinarily included in the category of "best minds." The fierce light that beats in any direction the public eye chances to rove has lately been exploring some of the stacks of favorite possessions are those of the detective stories.

Herbert Hoover at present would probably be rated as leader of the clan. He is a habitual reader. Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg, in the rare moments when he takes a little leisure, likes to have a stack of mystery books at hand. Dwight Morrow, the United States Ambassador to Mexico, is an inveterate reader of them.

J. P. Morgan enjoys the same pastime. On a recent trip home from Europe, when as usual he wished to avoid public attention, he spent all his while time inside his private suite absorbed in the exploits of imaginary detectives. Clarence Darrow, Lloyd George and even George Bernard Shaw have the reputation of being fond of detective stories, while to President Wilson it was only rivaled for relaxing qualities by a visit to a good vaudeville show.

Albania's King Won Crown by His Wits

Scanderbeg III. as Ahmed Bey Zogu Had a Short But

Stirring Career

BY T. J. C. MARTYN.

The recent coronation of Ahmed Bey Zogu as King of the Albanians, under the title of Scanderbeg III, brings up a host of questions. First of all, Who is Ahmed Bey Zogu? Where is Albania? Why did he choose the title of King of the Albanians rather than King of Albania? Who were Scanderbeg I and II? And what kind of people are the Albanians?

The answer to these questions weaves itself into a story which, so far as Zogu is concerned, is matched perhaps only by Napoleon's.

King Scanderbeg is now 33 years old. For most of the time he has lived, it ever a man has, by his wits; and, by the same token, he has risen by a combination of merit and shrewdness that would be commendable in so young a man were it not thoroughly unscrupulous.

In his early youth he received the Albanian equivalent of a high school education. He was no sluggard and learned to speak, besides his native tongue, Turkish and German. He was still in his teens when his father died and he succeeded him as Beg, or ruler, of the Mati, the most powerful tribe in Northern Albania. He began by being pro-Turk, and, although he has been at various times pro-Serb and pro-Italian, he seems to have been, underneath it all, a sincere Albanian—which is more than can be said for many of his countrymen.

We hear of him as a Colonel at 20 and at about 25 he burst into politics, not like a roaring lion but with the suave nonchalance of a man who knew where he stood, and with the now evident determination to stand highest in the realm. This was at the time of Albania's recreation at the end of the World War, when it was neither a republic nor a monarchy and was governed under a provisional Constitution.

AT HEAD OF THE ARMY

Zogu was then anti-Italian and a Deputy. By 1921 he was Commander-in-Chief of the army, and as such put down with the utmost severity a rising of the Mirdite tribe. In Tirana, the capital, his stock increased by leaps and bounds—so did his power. He was appointed Minister of the Interior, and the following year, after successfully putting down a revolt in Tirana itself, he became for the first time Prime Minister. There was not

the shadow of a doubt that he was the most powerful man in the country.

Until 1924, when Fan Noli, a Harvard graduate, rode into power on the wings of revolution, Zogu was, in fact, the Government. With the advent of Noli, he fled to Yugoslavia, at this time being pro-Serb, and in the capital of Belgrade plotted for his return to Albania, allegedly receiving much assistance and encouragement from the Yugoslav Government, ever on the watch to secure an advantage on the Albanian. Noli, meanwhile, had made the fatal mistake of alienating some of the powerful tribes of the hinterland, and Zogu was quick to seize the advantages thus offered. Noli was a Christian and a reformer, and the combination of the two made him particularly unwelcome to the Mohammedan Begs. Six months after he had fled from the country, Zogu reappeared in Albania at the head of a small army. Noli fled.

Immediately after his return Zogu secured, by what means is better left to the imagination, his election to the Presidency of the country and soon afterward a constituent Assembly, convoked by him, created the country a republic and voted a definite Constitution.

Zogu took care to retain the Premiership. He appointed his own Ministers. They are obliged to obtain the confidence of the Senate and Chamber, but the Senators and Deputies receive salaries, and it is an open secret that Zogu used his control over the Treasury to bring the Legislature to heel whenever he wished to impose his will.

WHY HE TURNED TO ITALY

As to the man, Ahmed Bey Zogu, now King Scanderbeg III, he is, according to most of his interviewers, a man of very distinguished appearance. Tall, well set up, dark brown hair, blue eyes, white, nervous hands, a small, neat mustache, immaculate uniform, a winning smile—he is at once a charming individual and a winning personality. His speech is deliberate, and his manner is convincing; only his thick, sloping eyebrows give a hint of calculated suavity and distinguish the educated Albanian from a seeming polished Westerner. Urbane and dignified, he yet never lacks the air of an Oriental, with all the cunning and cautiousness of the East.

Zogu might be called a progressive. His clear, blue eyes look toward the West and his aims are the development of his country along Western lines. A good many more things enter into the picture, but soon after his return to Tirana Zogu found little to lure his gaze eastward toward his old friend Yugoslavia. She had no money for one thing. Moreover, Italy was quick to recognize a strong man, and, with firm intention of keeping her bottling grip on the Adriatic, made overtures to the dictator, accompanied by offers of glittering prizes—loans, development, roads (of which there are hardly any), and many of the things that Albania needs to start her on the way to civilization.

The dice were soon cast and Zogu's allegiance was transferred to Italy.

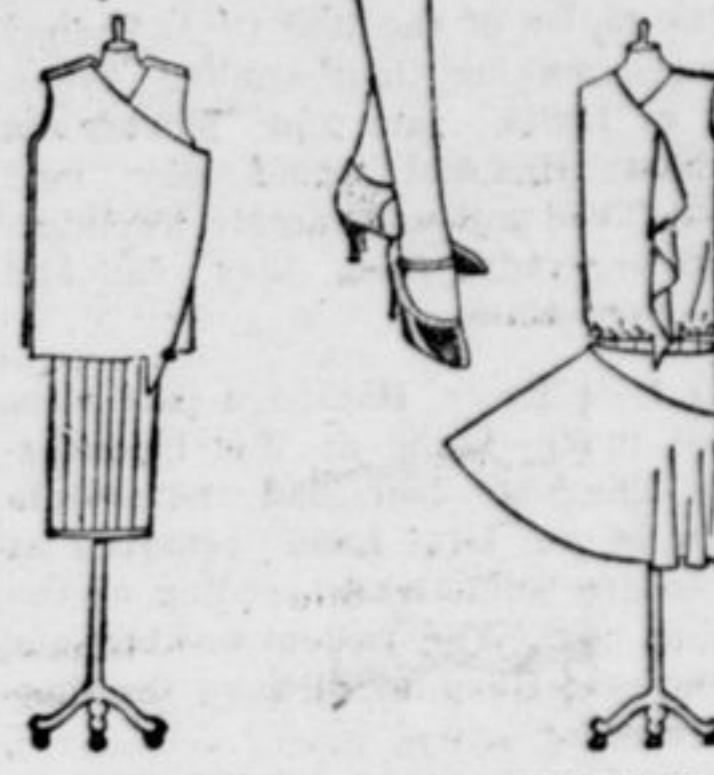
That he called himself Scanderbeg III, is a reminder of early Albanian history. The first Scanderbeg, "The Dragon of Albania," after having served the Turks, turned and fought them successfully for twenty-five years and in 1461 the Sultan was forced to recognize him as Impret, or lord of Albania.

Much has been made of the new King's need of a wife and mention has been made of Princess Giovanna of Italy and Princess Ilkana of Rumania—rather unlikely choices since Scanderbeg is a Mohammedan. Can it be that, like Napoleon, the King wants to found a dynasty allied to one of Europe's royal and ancient houses? In this connection it is to be noted that Zogu was engaged to the daughter of one of Albania's wealthiest Begs. This man is said to have lent him some \$80,000, a vast sum for Albania, and so helped him materially to win a kingdom. But nothing is heard now of his fiancée, but much is heard of foreign princesses. Perhaps Scanderbeg has learned already that kings are the servants of States and has forgotten the loves of Zogu.—N. Y. Times.

He: "I felt like working harder I'd get married." She: "Yes, and if you got married you'd feel like working harder."



263



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You'll look very dainty and charming in this model of printed shir fabric velvet, the season's newest attire for daytime occasions. The graceful swaying circular skirt chooses a new treatment, attached to hip yoke that is cut quite deep at left side, tapering to a point which brings it to waistline at right side. The jabot frill of bodice cuts in one with right section. The sleeves have attractive flared cuffs. Design No. 263 is suitable for silk crepe, georgette crepe, crepe Elizabeth, canton faille crepe, crepe satin and sheer woolen. Pattern is furnished in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust. Price 20 cents in stamps or coin (coin is preferred). Wrap coin carefully.

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LET HIM GET 'EM HIMSELF
Hubby: I've got to get three seats for Shakespeare to-night.
Wifley: Let him get his seats himself. I wouldn't be waiting on people like that.



A MYSTERY
Bird: I don't see how you manage to fly. You haven't any wings!

As a Substitute For Dan Cupid Mister Mutt is a Bust.

MUTT AND JEFF—Bud Fisher



The Blond Eskimos

On Victoria Island, in the frozen Arctic, not so very far from Greenland, lives an Eskimo tribe that can be compared to other natives of the far north in their modes of living only. Apart from that, in appearance, for example, they have little in common. The Victoria Island Eskimos can hardly be distinguished from whites.

It was Vilhjalmer Stefansson, the Canadian-born explorer, who discovered the "blond" Eskimos, or, as he called them, the "Copper Eskimos." In May, 1910, while on one of his first journeys through the unexplored north, he came across one of their villages, and for a short time lived with them, and it is to him that the world is indebted for what is known about them.

The blond Eskimos, Stefansson found, have many characteristics that place them above the level of the other Eskimo tribes. Not only are they more highly civilized than those of their blood who also make their homes in the Arctic wastes, but they show an understanding of the ways of the white man that is significant. It seems to hint that some centuries back the two had more in common than they have to-day.

It was night when Stefansson and his guides arrived at the village of the blond Eskimos. Information he had received previously from other Eskimos set him on the trail of a tribe which until then was unknown to white explorers, so he was prepared for almost any surprise when he entered the village.

Not wishing to alarm or incite the blond natives against him, he sent an Eskimo guide forward to arouse them, and tell them of his coming. They, naturally, were excited but their unaffected hospitality made amends for their excitement. One of their first actions was to tie up their own dogs so that they would not fight with Stefansson's.

"Though they had never seen a white man before, they, unlike other natives of this continent, did not regard his coming with distrust. Nine of the blondes walked out of their huts, hands raised, to meet and greet the explorer."

"We are friendly," they said, in an Eskimo dialect that Stefansson could understand. "Your coming has made us glad."

Each man in Stefansson's party was then taken to a separate hut to be sheltered and fed and entertained, as that was the greatest compliment they could pay any visitor. The explorer's dogs, too, were cared for well.

"Dogs like to be treated well just like men do," they said, and gave the animals boiled meat.

Stefansson expected to be surprised by the appearance of the hitherto unknown tribe, but it had never occurred to him that they would look as they did. To him they appeared like "stocky, sunburned, but naturally fair Scandinavians."

Though the explorer was surprised at his discovery, his Eskimo guides showed more incredulity than astonishment.

"These people are not Eskimos," they said. "They merely talk and act and dress like Eskimos. Three of them look like white fore-most hands on a whaler. And aren't they huge? And one looks like a Portuguese."

Some of the men had thick beards of a light brown color, and the hair on their heads was quite unlike that of other Eskimos, insofar as it was light instead of being black and coarse. And, strangest of all, some of them had red heads so colorful that they would be conspicuous even in Kiria. The women were comely, and their features were as delicately formed as those of some Scandinavian girls.

Modern devices which Stefansson brought with him did not even arouse the curiosity of the blond Eskimos. They regarded them as supernatural, and made little or no comment. When the explorer showed them, through his field glasses, caribou that they could not see with their unaided sight, they made this remark:

"Now that you have found the caribou that are here to-day, will you not also look for the caribou that are coming to-morrow and tell us where to lie in wait for them?"

Those Eskimos appeared to have discovered a means of working copper, as their fish hooks were made of it, as well as their knives and spearheads. Stefansson's rifle they passed off with a casual glance. It was something beyond their understanding, and they refused to bother themselves about it.

Numerous theories have been advanced to account for the origin of the blond Eskimos. Some hold that they descended from Hudson Bay free traders, but this theory is scouted on the grounds that none of the traders as much as knew of the existence of blond Eskimos, and had never traveled as far as Victoria Island.

A probable explanation of the origin of this blond tribe is that its members are descendants of the Scandinavians who founded a colony in Greenland several centuries ago. Late, when plague and war cut them off from Norway, their homeland, they may have intermarried with the Eskimos who lived near them. When the English rediscovered Greenland, its first colonists were living elsewhere.

Strangely enough, despite all they have in common, Stefansson found that all the blond Eskimos do not band themselves together.—(By H. L. MacPherson, Editorial Staff, The Border Cities Star.)

Was German Responsible the Wo

1.—The war was due to Austrian plot to dominate Europe.
2.—Germany and Austria were the victims of allied plots and secret diplomacy.

These are the divergent views of Senator Henry De Haven of France and Dr. G. C. Spinks of Germany on the debate on war responsibility. Senator De Haven has been for fully 25,000 words in the both of the debaters' statements which touch with foreign and local news and the war. Each made arguments on the covered and public of the war.

Senator De Haven's results of his statement are as follows:

"The signal for Austria's ultimatum made us for a crime, the Serbian ultimatum which caused the Austrian intervention, even to be pronounced in terms devoid of blame. Informed by intentions, Emperoring to modify this attitude was shown by a message on the dispatch of a note, which must be in Vienna, July 23, when the German plenipotentiaries showed the keep Europe quiet from Serbia from offering her own ultimatum, which was refused to act at Vienna of peace."

"After the Kaiser admitted the war existed. Yet by England, Italy or the Hapsburgs hastened to declare avoid a new attack. Powers tending to abandon projected intervention project and abandoned the staff asked Austria to let Germany in declaring war on the case of the admitted to be his burg and violated Belgium."

Dr. Rosen's new evidence in his concluding remarks:

"Russia had been against Germany's Balkan aims since the League of Nations. The Entente checked German aggression and when they were ripe. The Entente military protest, Irvolski, Minister, as an conspirator with the French pushed the general European many's Balkan aims. The care's desire to train for France. The League, the Entente's Austria, Serbia as a tool of itself and Serbia ever by the Entente assassination at in all details by the Intelligentsia members of the well as the plot at Belgrade and to Serbia, Italy, Austria, and Serbia's national existence, the world of the desperate in an agreement, were from the are because the league in a many and a never have against Austria. Not had the that if Russia would do her part, we England. Go peace for two always peaceful man documents their prove were 'more' of the cost of Germany."

Not in A Mississippian stream, we old lady the 'Cat' of become rep. 'But I can she replied 'Yes main, 'but ain't going Shepher able skirt, do you wa

Boisday.