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Canadians Good Farmers

Canadian farmers should take a great deal of pride—and so should all other Canadians—in the showing made at one of the biggest and most important agricultural shows in the world—the International Hay and Grain Show at Chicago.

When representatives of a nation of some 12,500,000 people can take three out of four of the major awards at a show open to the farmers of a nation of nearly 150,000,000 people, it is really a praiseworthy effort. Particularly when that great nation is one whose progress in the field of agriculture is considered one of the miracles of the modern world.

And yet this feat is one that representative Canadian farmers performed this year. In fact, where wheat is concerned, Canadian farmers have shown the way no less than 26 times in the 30 years that the big Chicago show has been held.

This year the worthy successor to Herman Trelle and other wheat-growing "greats" of the past was a woman—56-year-old Mrs. Amy Grace Kelsey of Erickson, B.C. And this was not the first time Mrs. Kelsey has been adjudged the North American wheat-growing champion. She also won the crown in 1946, being the first woman ever to capture the U.S. wheat prize. She also won the world's wheat championship on Nov. 15 at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

Mrs. Kelsey's work with wheat is of especial interest, for her experimental plot is in the East Kootenays of B.C., a region not often thought of as wheat-growing territory. In the past, Canadian prize-winning wheat has generally come from the more northerly Peace River or Grande Prairie districts. The "wheat queen" specializes in Reward wheat, a hard, red spring wheat of excellent milling

qualities. Her prize-winning sample weighed 68 pounds to the bushel, 10 per cent over the accepted standard of 60 pounds.

An Alberta farmer, Sydney H. Pawlowski of Spedden, brought Canada the grand championship in oats for the 10th successive year with an exhibit of Victory oats weighing 48.2 pounds a bushel, well over the normal 45-pound bushel. Mrs. Pawlowski is barely out of the junior farmer class, being only 21 years old.

The rye crown at Chicago went to Saskatchewan, the winner being Albert Kessel of Rosetown, 220 miles northwest of Regina. Mr. Kessel also won in the rye class at the Toronto Winter Fair, and two years ago won a fourth prize in the wheat class at Chicago.

While the westerners took a large share of the honors in the four top grain competitions, Ontario farmers more than held their own in several other important classes. One of the most surprising victories was that of Earl Brackett of Morpeth, who won first prize in the yellow corn competition. It is generally conceded that United States farmers lead the world in corn quality, and this Ontario win must have come as a surprise.

Mac Gibbons of Adamstown won the alfalfa championship—another field in which American farmers specialize intensively. Canadian participation is generally conceded by all to be among the highest in the world, so it was no surprise, but it was most gratifying all the same when Ontario farmers won or placed highly with entries in the bull, junior bull and native lamb classes.

Truly our Canadian farmers are doing a wonderful job, and it is pleasant indeed that their efforts are bringing our country's name to the forefront in international competitions.

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DOUKHOBORS REPENT, PROMISE TO REFORM

Confession, repentance and no repetition of violence was the promise laid down last week by the radical Doukhobor fringe blamed for years of unrest in the rich area of south-central British Columbia, according to word from Uelso, B.C.

Elaboration of that promise comes Sunday at near-by Krestova, centre of the Sons of Freedom group of the religious sect, where British Columbia police officials will attend a public meeting of the Sons' members.

Recognition that it must clear itself of "such doings and come to the right, open path of spiritual life," was made in a signed statement handed to police.

Special squads of Provincial Police officers have patrolled the area since the provincial government instituted a law-enforcement plan at the start of the month to end railway bombings and put an end for all time to arson and violence.

Inspector R. S. Nelson told the four-man delegation, which presented the statement signed by themselves on behalf of the Sons, that it remained up to the Sons of Freedom members to make the promise stick.

The four signers — Anton Kolesnikoff, John J. Perepelkin, William J. Zmolf and Sons' leader, John Lebedoff — said their move followed a warning last Sunday from Provincial Police that the Sons this time had gone too far.

Three attempted dynamitings of C.P.R. rail lines — two successful — had precipitated a crisis among angry citizens and railway workers. The railwaymen demanded and got bridge guards and patrols.

Lebedoff had his home burned Dec. 4, by his own followers for no apparent reason other than that home burnings, accompanied by hymns and chants of the sect, have occurred before.

The promise, if kept, would mean the end of active resistance by the Sons of Freedom.

EGGS MOVE FROM EAST TO WEST

During the fall the egg market took a somewhat unusual turn. For the first time in nearly forty years, there was a large movement of eggs from eastern to western Canada. During September-November no less than 48-cars of 20,876 cases moved from the east to the Prairie Provinces and Northwestern Ontario.

The unusual demand posed something of a conundrum, because baby chick sales in western provinces last spring increased by 8.5 per cent over the previous year. The movement seems to have arisen from unprecedented demand and a scarcity of eggs in British Columbia, the normal source of supply for additional requirements for the Prairies.

A barn in New Jersey blows hay into feeding racks.

A German firm just delivered to a Bellast barber six razors ordered late in August, 1939, and apologized for the delay.

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