

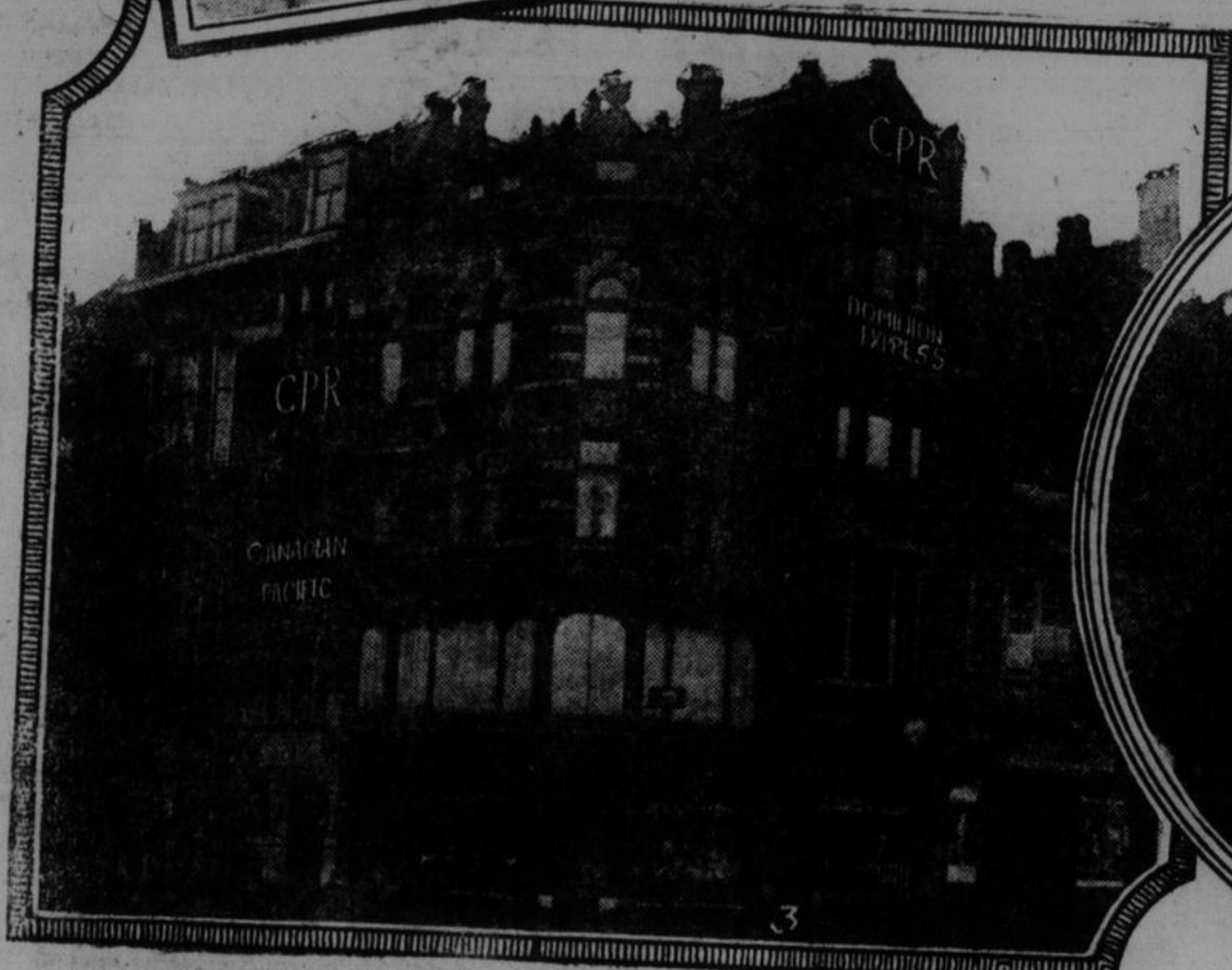
Picture News---A Progressive Farmer



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- (1) The Prince of Wales steers a Hydro-Glider on the river at Paisley Mills, England.
- (2) The Queen and Princess Mary pay a visit to Oxford, Eng. Miss Jex Blake receiving the Queen at Lady Margaret Hall, a woman's College.
- (3) New Canadian Pacific Railway Office, Rotterdam, Holland.
- (4) Two New York college girls took advantage of their Easter Holidays to lay in their year's supply of maple syrup.
- (5) New Canadian Pacific Railway Office at 98 Boulevard Adolphe Max, Brussels.
- (6) Four sons and a grandson of the late Yuan Shih Kai, first President of China, who are attending school in the United States.
- (7) A St. Hilda College crew in training at Oxford for the Ladies' Henley.

Eighteen Years of Progress



View of the Laurence Home and Farm at North Battleford, Sask.

The nature of the experiences of pioneer farmers in Western Canada twenty years ago is exemplified in the story of Job Laurence, a farmer who has found success in Central Saskatchewan. He and his family left their home in England in 1903. Saskatoon was their "jumping off" place. On arriving here they invested the greater part of their capital of \$800 in a milk cow, a yoke of oxen, a wagon, a plow, drag harrows and a few small tools. But as their capital dwindled their hopes grew. After all, as Mr. Laurence says: "Hope is the best capital any newcomer to a new country can have." They were now ready for their three hundred mile trek across country. With bag and baggage and their newly acquired outfit they left Saskatoon on May 1, 1903, and made for that part of the country of which the enterprising town of Lloydminster is now the centre. But here they did not stay. The great distance from the railway and the poor prospects of their obtaining any work in this district, which at that time was very sparsely settled, was not very encouraging. They, therefore, came east again as far as Battleford and looked for land in the surrounding country. It was near Battleford that they finally located about the middle of 1903 on the farm they now occupy. They built a sod stable, which proved to be so shady and cool after living two or three months in tents that they moved into it themselves. Haying time now having arrived they cut with a scythe, or an "arm-

strong mower" as Mr. Laurence puts it, twenty-two tons of hay. By this time it was necessary to think about winter quarters. Logs were cut and built. The roof of this house was made of "prairie shingles" (sod from the prairie) and proved to be comfortable and warm in the winter and cool in summer. But no land was broken that summer. In the winter that followed they lost one of their oxen. The other was sold in the spring and a team of light horses bought. These proved however, to be too light for the breaking plow and it was possible to break only ten acres of land on the Laurence farm the second summer. "I would strongly advise all those who want to farm in Western Canada to put everything aside during the breaking season, and break every possible acre in May and June," Mr. Laurence says. "If the breaking season is allowed to slip by a year is practically lost." For two years Saskatoon, a hundred miles away was their nearest point, and "to keep the pot boiling" the Laurences did considerable "freighting" between Battleford and Saskatoon. In 1905 the railway came. At the beginning of the fourth year in the country of their adoption they had seventy-five acres of land ready for seeding. Sixty acres were seeded to wheat and fifteen to oats. With a sample of the wheat they grew that year they won the first prize at the first seed grain fair held at North Battleford.

With one hundred and fifty acres in crop the following year, the Laurences felt that they were now real farmers. Their pioneer days were over and they could face the future with confidence. Since that time they have broken more land each year and have summer-fallowed when needed. Prosperity has come to them slowly but surely and they have been able to add to the size of their farm by the purchase of adjoining land. From the beginning they have always had some livestock, and practically their first investment on their arrival at Saskatoon was in a milk cow and a calf. In fact, they are still milking a cow that is the off-spring of the calf bought during those early days. For a number of years the Laurences raised on their farm all their heavy work-horses, and have had a few heavy colts to sell besides. Since 1911 they have threshed their grain with their own machine and have also contracted to do threshing for other people, thus adding considerably to their income. Before coming to Canada neither of the Laurences had ever worked on a farm. They have now a home that compares favorably with city dwellings of the same size. With a hot and cold water system up and down stairs, electric light and local long distance telephones in the house and their automobile ready to take them wherever they want to go, they feel that the city dweller has no advantage over them.



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