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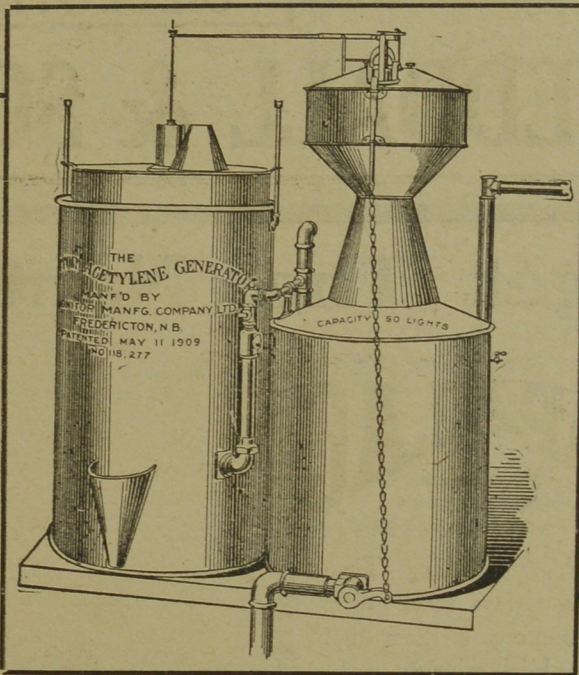
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WHEAT CROP OF 1909 STILL BEING SHIPPED FROM WEST

Farmers have Plenty of Grain and Deliveries are Heavy—105,000,000 bushels have been Inspected by Officials.

Winnipeg, April 11.—A consideration of the prospects for this year's crops in the west does not entirely obliterate a realization of the fact that the crops of 1909 are still "doing business." The advent of spring has given the farmers a strong desire to bend their energies towards active work in the fields, but ploughing, harrowing and seeding have not absorbed all their attention. In spare time a little concern for the delivery of grain to the elevators or loading platforms has been shown, and the records of inspections for the present month indicate that a fair amount of activity, considering the season of the year, was manifested. The total inspections for March are 7,502 cars, consisting of 5,076 of wheat, 2,041 of oats, 250 of barley and 135 of flax. For the same month last year the total was 6,804 cars, consisting of 5,202 of wheat, 1,304 of oats, 146 of barley and 152 of flax. The early break-up has probably contributed to the eagerness of farmers to send forward their offerings. They are apparently in a position to hold longer if they choose, but they do not care to market their stuff during the period when the roads are in bad shape. The present high level of prices is also a factor in the psychological process which induces the owner of grain to liquidate. Hard cash is as useful as hard wheat at this season of the year, and no man makes a great mistake in releasing his grain. He might make more by waiting for a few weeks, especially as displays of fireworks usually occur in the speculative markets in the spring months. But the money in the bank looks well, and the majority of farmers in this country can afford to run the risk of losing prospective profits. The ups and downs of a gambling campaign are not sufficiently attractive to the ordinary agriculturist to make a prolonged holding advantageous.

ENORMOUS RECEIPTS.

The inspections for March bring the total for the seven months of the crop year up to startling proportions. Since September 1, 1909, the officials have examined cars containing 105,000,000 bushels of grain. In this quantity wheat represents 74,400,000 bushels, oats 23,600,000, barley 3,750,000, and flax 3,250,000. For the same period in the preceding crop year the total was about 67,000,000. Wheat is responsible for a little more than half the increase, and of the coarse grains oats are easily the most conspicuous in the returns. And the country has not yet been drained of its produce. The quantity which is still being held on the farms and in the interior storehouses will come through between now and harvest, and it will not be a matter of surprise to those who realize what last year's wonderful production means if the deliveries continue at the rate of 7,500 cars per month for the rest of the crop year. The heavy deliveries during March have been important in themselves, but they have been noteworthy because they prove that the farmers have plenty of grain to ship. The record-breaking inspections during the first six months may have left the impression in some quarters that a decided selling tendency had taken possession of the agricultural community. The story of the past months shows that the grain was persistently held back by shrewd men, who realized the nature of the market on which they were depending. The grain which is still being held will sell at a good profit, and, while increased offerings may be expected when the roads resume their normal condition, there is no sign of a pressure to unload. The grain is coaxed out by the strength of the markets.

WHAT USED TO BE.

Comparisons with "what used to be" in this portion of the Dominion serve to illustrate the advances which have been made in the production of the chief cereals. The deliveries of wheat during the past seven months have been larger than the total output of all grains ten years ago. Oats, barley and flax now have a fairly large portion of the stage for their part of the performance, and they acquit themselves creditably. The value of the deliveries of coarse grains at current quotations makes an amount which would have looked large to the bankers of the west at the close of the last century. The race between wheat and its companions is an interesting one, and it is bound to grow more interesting from now on. Time was when the only grain worth considering here was wheat, and the development of the rough varieties were slow. Wheat has already been relegated to second place in the statistics of output, oats having a long lead. In exports wheat is, of course, the main item, and it will hold first place in that procession for a long time to come. The

reason is that by far the greater part of the wheat is shipped out, the proportion assigned for domestic consumption being less than 20 per cent. On the other hand, only a relatively small quantity of oats can be shipped out with profit. The great demand for these lies in the west, and it absorbs more than 85 per cent. of the output. Barley and flax are minor considerations as yet, and there is no prospect that they will increase their relative importance in the near future.

The "rush" to sell wheat during the first six months may have been induced by a desire to take monetary advantage of the superior quality, for which the yield of 1909 was noted. But the last is practically as good as the first. In the inspections for March the proportion of contract grades is more than 87 per cent., while the average for seven months is slightly over 88 per cent. In no other year has a high quality been so consistently maintained throughout the deliveries, and it is evident that the percentage for the whole of the current crop year will show little decline from the level which has been established. It is estimated that more than 30,000,000 bushels of the last crop are still to come forward for inspection, but a good deal of this is now in the interior elevators. In few countries will it be found that more than 30 per cent. of the exportable surplus in wheat is held in reserve seven months after harvest. Even if the returns from this year's activity should happen to be smaller than usual, the surplus from the crop of 1909 will help materially towards making up the shortage. And to judge by 'he way the weather is shaping up at present, the chances are against a shortage for 1910. There is more probability of congestion in grain shipments.

SIX DEATHS DUE TO WHISKEY POISONING

Rhode Island Authorities Will Investigate Matter—Two Women Among Victims—Symptoms Similar.

Westerly, R. I., April 9.—Six deaths within the last four days, all apparently from poisoning as a result of whiskey drinking are to be investigated by the authorities. Following the sudden death last Thursday of Henry Larrow and Charles R. Hood, Larrow's son-in-law, it was discovered that two women had died under similar circumstances within a day or two and today two more deaths ascribed to the same cause occurred.

William D. Perrin, of Ashaway, four miles from here, succumbed this afternoon to an illness which began last night after he had taken some whiskey, and at 9.30 tonight Edward Doherty, of this city, was added to the death list. Doherty was said to have a cold. He took some of it last night purchased some liquor in Westerly for and soon after became violently ill. Vomiting symptoms were followed by unconsciousness, which continued until his death tonight.

Physicians say that the same symptoms have been noticed in each of the cases reported. While the exact nature of the poison is unknown, physicians declare that it was probably not wood alcohol. The source from which the whiskey was obtained has been investigated in each of the cases but the authorities were not ready to say tonight whether it was all purchased in one place.

The death of Mrs. Ellen Doherty, which occurred suddenly last Tuesday was at first ascribed to heart disease as was that of another woman who died on Thursday. Both women are said to have taken whiskey as a medicine and the authorities now suspect that their deaths were due to poisoning. These deaths as well as those of the four men will be investigated and the contents of the stomach analyzed.

Westerly, R. I., April 11.—At least one of about a dozen mysterious victims of a concoction labelled "whiskey" who have died in Westerly and Stonington, Conn., and vicinity the past week, came to his death by poisoning by wood alcohol, according to the formal report of Medical Examiner George D. Stanton, filed with Coroner Frank H. Brown tonight.

The report was on the death of Edward Doherty of Stonington, who died Saturday night. Tomorrow the medical examiner will report on his examination of the bodies of Larrow and Hood, the two other Stonington victims and other examinations will be made of the remaining victims in the several towns.

COMET IN EVIDENCE PUTS TOWN TO SLEEP

Washington, D. C., April 10.—Halley's comet was seen here today for the first time, those favored with this primary view being Prof. Asaph Hall, of the Naval Observatory, and his assistant. It was about 4.30 o'clock in the morning, when through the big 26-inch telescope at the observatory a sight of the wanderer.

For about fifteen minutes the comet remained visible. In about three weeks, when the comet will be visible to the naked eye, it will rise two hours and forty minutes before the sun.

Popular apprehensions regarding harm to the earth and its inhabitants during the visit of the comet to this portion of the universe are unfounded. In a statement issued tonight, Willis L. Moore, of the weather bureau said that the result of a collision between the earth and a comet would depend upon the mass of the comet, the velocity of the bodies and the angle of impact, but that in the present case, a collision would be impossible owing to the safety margin of some 13,000,000 miles between the tracks of the earth and the comet.

The tail of the comet, through which the earth will probably pass, will be noticeable only as an absolutely harmless luminous gas or dust. It may produce electrical and magnetic effects that can be detected only by self-recording instruments.

Look just above the point where the sun sets between 6.30 and 7.30 o'clock if you have an ordinary field-glass and you will get your first view of Halley's comet. It will be visible all through April and May, but at its maximum brilliancy on May 18.

PARTING GIFTS TO PASTOR

Rev. A. B. Cohoe who is going to Halifax Baptist church pastorate will leave St. John first week in May and will spend three weeks in Upper Canada before taking up Halifax work. The church society made presentations to Mrs. Cohoe and children last night.

Farm hands will be scarce this spring from present indications. Most laborers prefer to receive \$1.50 a day in town and board themselves than go to the country and receive \$30 a month and board.

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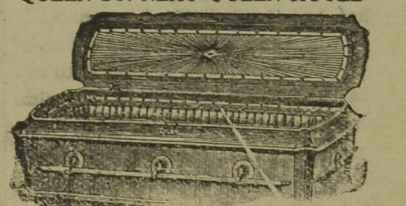
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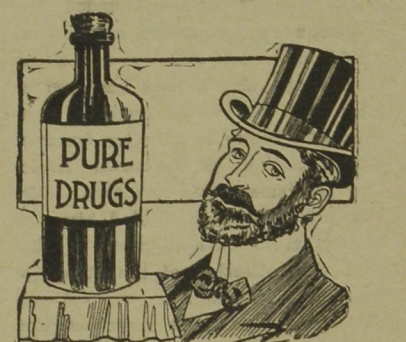
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