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WHEAT GROWING FOR ELEVATOR

District Agriculturist Says Making of Market Will Stimulate Farmers

ALREADY MUCH GROWN

Hopes to Have at Least a Thousand Acres This Year as a Starter

R. G. Sutton, district agriculturist, has been very much impressed with the announcement that the western wheat pool has secured a lease upon the Prince Rupert grain elevator, says the Prince George Citizen. He sees in the operation of the Rupert elevator the making of a market for wheat grown along the line of the railway in his immense district, stretching from Tete Jaune Cache west, which should have a marked effect upon farming methods.

Last week, in furtherance of a suggestion from F. G. Dawson of Prince Rupert, Mr. Sutton made a request that the farmers who have been producing wheat in the districts contiguous to Prince George should submit samples of their grain to him. So far three farmers have complied, D. Turcotte and T. Houghmaruck of the Vanderhoof district, and Andy Miller of the Mud River district. The samples received are of high grade and Mr. Sutton is advised that others are on the way to his office.

Hay Declining

The operation of the Rupert elevator, in the opinion of Mr. Sutton, cannot fail to have a stimulating effect upon wheat production all along the line of the Canadian National within the provincial boundary. There are a number of reasons for believing this result will be achieved. For years the chief crop of the lands along the railway has been hay. Wheat will not give the same return per acre that hay has in the past, but hay prices have been steadily falling and most of the farmers are reconciled to smaller prices for the future. Last year may yield the farmers from \$18 to \$23 per ton, and in one or two cases, in which the producer reached his market direct, a price of around \$23 was secured. With an average of two tons to the acre this would give the farmer a return of about \$10.

On these prices the return on wheat production is not so bad in comparison. From such experiments as have been made it is estimated an average yield of 25 bushels to the acre could be expected throughout the district on lands suitable for wheat production, and at a price of \$1.25 per bushel this would give a return of \$30 to the acre. Wheat production, however, would put the farmers in a comparatively stable market, and would enable them to adopt one of the best four-year crop rotation systems known. Wheat is conceded to be the best nurse crop for the seeding of grasses and clovers, and the advantage afforded for a desirable four-year rotation-crop system would go a long way to make up the first disadvantage on crop sales as compared with hay and wheat.

Not Generally Hazardous

Experience gained during the past few years has in a great measure altered the prevailing opinion as to the hazard of wheat production in the district. There are admittedly a number of localities in which wheat production may be extra hazardous, but results secured over a number of years precludes this handicap from being applied to the district generally. If the matter can be properly presented to the farmers there is no reason why at least one thousand acres should not be sown to wheat this year and a start made at entering the district in the list of wheat producers, and this without disarranging the settled program of the farmers in their plan of crop rotation, but rather improving it.

In the Vanderhoof district Messrs. Turcotte and Houghmaruck are but two of the farmers who have had considerable success in wheat production. E. Smedley will have 20 acres in wheat this season, and there is so much land under cultivation that it would be rather difficult to set a limit upon the acreage which might be limited to wheat. J. P. Myers, of Fort Fraser, demonstrated what could be done in his section last fall when he threshed 200 bushels of excellent wheat in spite of unfavorable

weather conditions.

Near Prince George

Closer to Prince George, perhaps the greatest success in wheat production has been scored by Gustave Hiller of the Beaverly district. For some years past he has been cropping around fifty acres each season. One year he was badly frozen out, but this happens in the best of wheat districts, and taken over a period of years it is asserted his crops have been more uniformly good than those from most of the wheat-growing sections on the prairies. Andy Miller, of the Mud River district, has been producing wheat for a number of years and has no doubt as to the ability of the district to produce it once a stable export market is secured.

In the Pineview district R. J. Blackburn has been producing wheat for a number of years and B. Bendickson, Fred Bonnett and Gus Lund in the same neighborhood have also had success with it.

In the Woodpecker district uniform success has attended the efforts of William Koling, the Kerkhoff boys, Joe Dale, E. O. Hutchinson, and Pete Holtzart in the growing of wheat, and given a chance to reach a market there is every reason to expect that wheat would become an important factor in the crop yield of this section.

Increases Will be Steady

Wheat has been grown successfully in the Salmon River valley for a number of years by S. Johnson, Jens Andrews, the Lockyer brothers and Fred Hammond, in the vicinity of McBride.

The experience of John Oakley has been most encouraging. All that is needed to bring about a very substantial wheat production is for the farmers to realize it will be to their advantage to sow a given acreage of their lands to wheat each season.

Right from Tete Jaune Cache, Croydon, Dunster, McBride, Newlands, Willow River and Giscome there are areas favorable to wheat production. There is every reason to believe the ice will be well broken this season, and that each succeeding year will see a substantial addition to the flow of the golden grain to the elevator at Prince Rupert.

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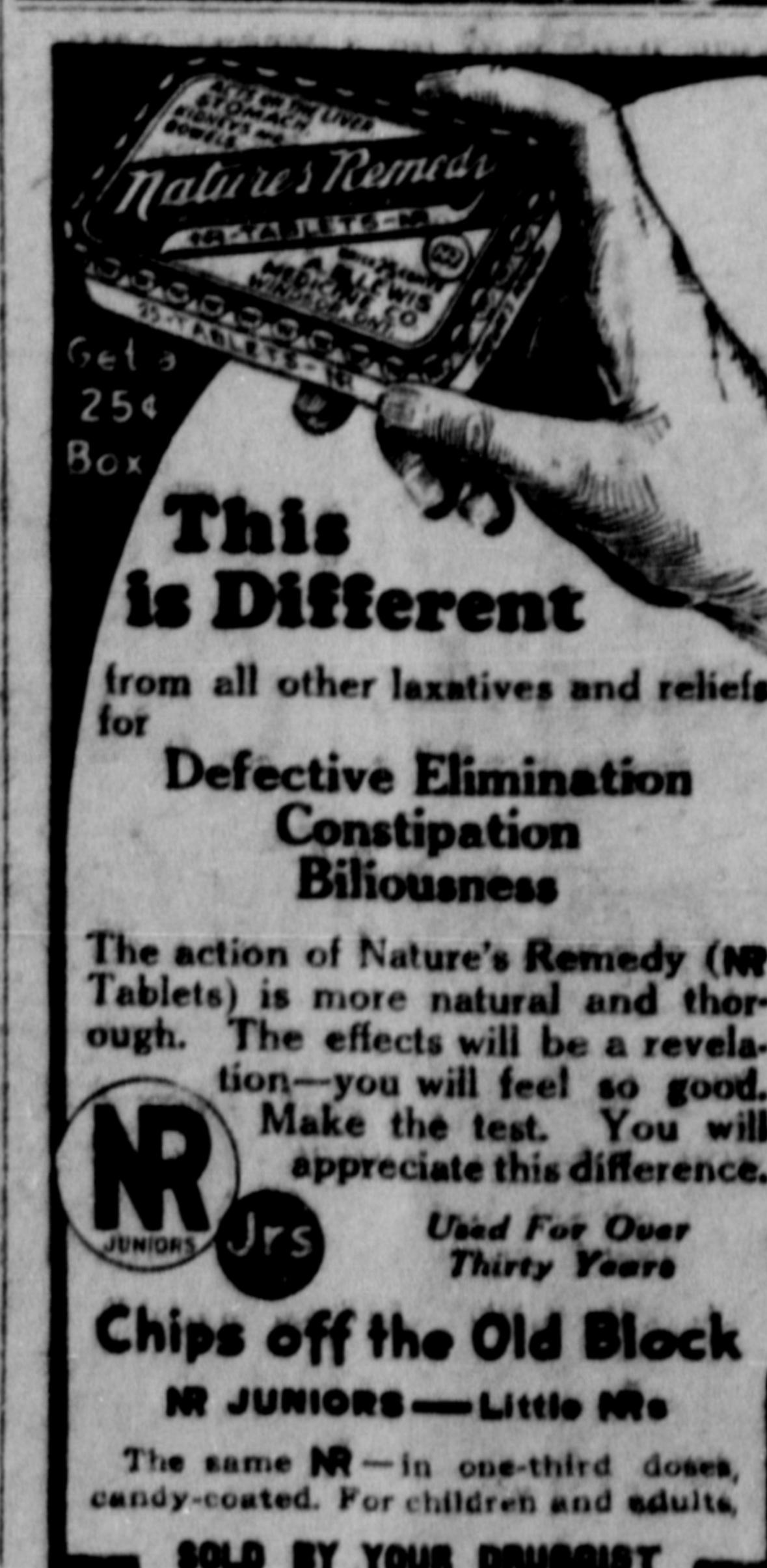
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ASSISTANT DISTRICT ENGINEER IS COMING FOR ATLIN DISTRICT

Mr. Talbot, who has been with the provincial department of public works in the Revelstoke district, will succeed J. A. Stephen as assistant district engineer for Atlin district and will arrive here from the south on the steamer Prince George tomorrow. Mr. Stephen resigned from the service recently and will go south in the near future to locate.

The headquarters for the assistant district engineer in Atlin district have been moved from Anyox to Stewart.

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