A good grain crop on farm east of the Northwest Experiment Station, 1919.

predictable, and it was necessary to go from the campus to Crookston in horse-drawn conveyances. Crookston's Grand Opera House was secured for the meetings, but soon crowds strained the building's capacity. Moves began to acquire a building that could accommodate the "Red River Valley Farm Crops Shows," as it came to be called.

The Red River Valley Livestock Association was organized and incorporated. Shares were sold for $10 to obtain funds for constructing a building in downtown Crookston for $15,000. The building was to house farm crops exhibits and to have a livestock judging room, as well as provide quarters for livestock in the basement area. The first building was ready for the 1919 show. In 1920, Annex A was added and Annex B was ready for the 1921 shows. According to Selvig, there were more than 2,600 stockholders of the Red River Valley Livestock Association.

So, on all fronts, growth took place. The 1916-17 school year showed an enrollment of 160 students in the regular three-year program. Added to that were 47 enrollees for the junior shortcourse, 145 for the summer training for rural teachers, and 1,824 for the farmers' short course. In one year, more than 2,000 persons had—in one way or another—been served by the Northwest School of Agriculture.

The First War Years

The work at the Northwest Experiment Station grew and developed to meet the special needs of this section of the State. During 1917 the Station assisted in carrying out the government program for increased production. The northwestern group of counties organized their wartime program early enough to influence the farm plans for the first year of the war, and in 1918 a record crop was produced.

Orville Kiser, animal husbandman, first arrived at the Northwest School on January 1, 1917. Kiser had earned a B.S. degree in agriculture from Kansas Agricultural College. He served as an extension agent and also taught at the school. He left and served as Nobles county agent during the war, then returned to Crookston to head the dairy and animal science department at the school and station.

During this period the value of straw sheds were demonstrated for the overwintering of beef cattle. These sheds were utilized on the Station into the late forties, "too long",