

CHAPTER 6.

THE BOARD OF GRAIN COMMISSIONERS.

The administration of *The Canada Grain Act* is under the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada. It is entrusted to the Board of Grain Commissioners, which reports to the Minister of that Department. The Board consists of three members, appointed for ten years, with headquarters at Fort William. The work of the Board falls under three main heads—administrative, commercial, and judicial.

Administrative Work.—1. It has charge of the inspection and weighing of grain. It carries on this work through two executive officers: the Chief Inspector, Mr. Serls, of Winnipeg; and the Chief Weighmaster, Mr. White, of Fort William. Inspection is done at Montreal, Toronto, Peterborough, Kingston, Port Arthur, Fort William, Winnipeg, Calgary, Duluth, and at several of the large western mills. New inspection offices will be opened at Moosejaw, Saskatoon, Vancouver, and the Hudson Bay in connection with the elevators being erected there, and weighing is done at most of the inspection points. It appoints the Standards Boards and the Examining Boards.

2. It has charge of the licensed elevators of the Dominion. It issues the licenses, receives the bonds, fixes the tariffs, watches the insurance of the grain in the terminals, does the work of registration and cancellation of receipts, and maintains a staff of inspectors who regularly visit the country elevators.

3. It has a statistical department at Fort William, in which it collects all statistics relevant to its work.

The administrative work is organized in departments: those of inspection, weighing, registration, statistics, each in charge of an executive officer who is held responsible for this staff. The number of men employed in all these departments varies with the season. During the months September to December, the number goes over three hundred; during the rest of the year it is about two hundred and fifty.

Commercial Work.—It has already built one elevator at Port Arthur, which it operates as a public terminal. The elevator was built and is operated on commercial lines, and in this work the board competes with other terminal companies. The elevator is recognized as one of the best in Canada, and its cost of construction as one of the lowest. The board is constructing elevators at Saskatoon, Moosejaw, Calgary, Hudson Bay, and Vancouver, and it will operate these also. The total capacity of all the board's elevators will be 15,750,000 bushels, and the total number of men employed in the operation will run from one hundred and thirty upwards. For the construction work the board has an engineering staff, the Chief Engineer being Mr. Howe, whose office is at Saskatoon.