

communication between buyer and seller, and were the Winnipeg Grain Exchange freed from the dominating influence of the Northwest Grain Dealers Association and the corrupting influences of the gambling element, fostered by the clearing house, it could be made to discharge the functions that properly belong to such an organization. We cannot conceive of the Grain Exchange being run upon the lines of an ideal church organization, but we can anticipate, if relieved of the dominance of the elevator interests and the gambling element, of its business being conducted with a minimum of sharp practice and a maximum of honesty.

To some it may appear that so far, the efforts of the Grain Growers' Association, to effect reforms in the marketing of grain, have met with failure. NOT SO. The purposes of those preliminary skirmishes being to expose the tactics of the manipulators—unmask the batteries of the enemy, so to speak, by throwing on the searchlight of public opinion; in this respect it was successful. We have now on record, as sworn evidence, facts that might otherwise be successfully denied. For instance, the Secretary of the Northwest Grain Dealers Association, on two or three different occasions stated in evidence that:

He wires the price to be paid for street wheat to all the country buyers.

That every buyer was expected to stay by those prices.

That every buyer was expected to report any break in price.

That if a buyer was discovered breaking prices he would be disciplined.

That the prices sent out were arranged by consulting with any members of the Association who happened to be around the exchange.

That the prices agreed on were based on the closing cash price on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, and

THAT THE WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE FIXED THE PRICE BY THAT SAME GENTLEMAN STANDING UP ON THE FLOOR OF THE TRADING ROOM AND ASKING FOR CLOSING BIDS FROM THE IDENTICAL BUNCH OF TRADERS WHO GIVE HIM THE PRICE HE WIRES OUT TO COUNTRY BUYERS.

That the 100,000 progressive farmers who raise wheat in the West, should submit tamely to such buffoonery, is one of the phenomena of the first decade of the 20th century.

To denounce these men is useless and a waste of time and energy. The remedy is in the peoples own hands. Take the storage facilities at country points out of the hands of the combination that now controls our elevators, and you immediately break the back of the grain combine. Our Provincial Government is only waiting an expression of public opinion sufficiently strong to justify them in undertaking the necessary expenditure to establish a system of public elevators.

We heartily commend the suggestion of our correspondent "Mossback", that farmers should take immediate steps to enlist the co-operation of their local members. The Grain Growers' Association is in duty bound to take the initiative in crystallizing public opinion. If every branch in Manitoba and Saskatchewan will avail itself of its opportunity in this respect and do it quickly we will have a Government system of elevators, in time to handle the crop of 1909.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

North Battleford, Sept. 8, 1908.

To the Editor

The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg.

Dear Sir:—The Guide for August duly to hand, and my opinion about same is, that I would like to see every Farmer in Western Canada to be a subscriber. I agree with you that other Farm papers have served a useful purpose in their own sphere. In fact some of them have

made themselves rather too useful at times, especially when they attempted to throw cold water on the enterprise of some of the farmers of Western Canada when they branched out in the new enterprises such as the Canadian Society of Equity and the Grain Growers' Grain Co., both enterprises however, are progressing notwithstanding. Re Canadian Society of Equity, we notice that a second attempt is being made for an amalgamation between the C. S. of E., and the Alberta Farmers' Association. That is about the best thing that could happen for the farmers of Alberta, and the difficulty which was raised two years ago by the then President of the A. F. A., when a similar attempt was made, no longer exists.

The new point is for the three provinces to get a move on and get the farmers lined up for battle a great deal faster in the future than in the past.

What is the matter with a Grain Growers 'Special' starting from Winnipeg along the Canadian Northern as far as Edmonton, then to Calgary and back to Winnipeg? If it would take too long to stop at every siding then let it be at every other stopping place. Without a doubt a branch of the Grain Growers' Association could be established at every shipping point in the West.

There are plenty of well-informed good speakers to be got for the purpose, no doubt. Mr. McKenzie and Mr. McCuaig of the Manitoba G. G. A. Mr. Crerar and Mr. Kennedy of the G. G. G. Co., Mr. E. A. Partridge and Mr. F. W. Green of the Saskatchewan G. G. A., and probably some able speakers from the Amalgamated Alberta Farmers (we hope to see amalgamation take place) and others whom we do not know could be got to take part in such a tour through the West.

The Government gave us the Seed and Dairy specials, but the dear Government (Eh! what?) have not yet been able (?) to send speakers through the country to teach us how to market our produce, and yet that is by far the most important branch of our industry to study, therefore let us club together and get some of our best men on the move. Surely the three Provinces could manage to put up enough funds for the purpose. Yours truly is willing to subscribe from 50 cents to \$5.00 if need be for the purpose. If the three associations could not put up sufficient, might not the G. G. G. Co., be called upon to do some? It surely would be far more beneficial for us if half the dividends of the company were used for such a purpose for a few years than to turn it over to us.

What have others to say about it any way? Let us get that ball rolling if possible?

The Socialists in the U. S. A., are getting up a Red Special for the purpose of getting new recruits. Surely we can get up a Grain Growers' Special for a like purpose?

G. Boerma.

To the Editor of the "Guide."

Dear Sir:—We have information from Old Country dealers that, on account of the shortage of wheat in the world's markets, we can dictate the price of wheat, as the most of the wheat must come from America. But when we look closely into the matter we find that we have an Elevator Monopoly that controls the price of our wheat and the producer has no voice as to what he will get for his wheat.

The large line elevators and the large mills have a monopoly of the storage and no one else can go into the market and buy wheat against them. They can buy wheat at from 8 to 10 cents less than what is paid for track so they can sell cheaper in the Old Country and make a profit. This reduced price is cabled back to Winnipeg and down goes the price accordingly. The mills in this way get their wheat cheap and then form a combine with the elevators to beat the farmer out of the price he ought to get for his wheat.

The present system works directly against the interests of the producer forcing him to sell at any price