

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, January 5th, 1916

GOVERNMENT REDUCES GRAIN RATES

Last Friday official notice was given that the Dominion Government had reduced export rates on the National Transcontinental from Armstrong to Quebec and Montreal to 6 cents per bushel on wheat, 5 1/4 cents on barley and 4 cents on oats, taking effect January 6. Armstrong on the National Transcontinental corresponds with Port Arthur and Fort William on the other two lines, and the rate given on the government line is just half that given on the C.P.R. and C.N.R. These low rates will be available only to shippers on the G.T.P. in the West, as there are no rates to Armstrong over the C.P.R. and the C.N.R., and the two latter roads have not yet announced any reduction in their rates from Fort William east. Rates on grain from shipping points on the prairies to Armstrong are the same as to Port William and Port Arthur. These new rates on the government road are for export shipments only exclusive of terminal charges. Shipments to Quebec will go over the N.T.R. direct. Shipments to Montreal will go via Cochrane on the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway to North Bay and thence by Grand Trunk to Montreal. These low rate shipments for export over the government road carry the privilege of reconsigning for winter export to various Atlantic ports on the basis of the current thru all-rail export rates. This means that when this grain is shipped from Montreal or Quebec east to the seaboard, the rate on that portion of the trip will exactly offset the low rate over the National Transcontinental. Grain held for spring shipment from Montreal or Quebec by water will get the full advantage of the reduced rate, but grain exported by rail during the winter will receive no advantage in freight rates. It is stated that the aim of the government in giving the reduced rate is to relieve congestion and fill up the Eastern elevators at Quebec and Montreal. Up to the present time the G.T.P. has handled 36,000,000 bushels of grain over its lines in the West, and in addition there are 6,000,000 bushels in the country elevators on the G.T.P. lines and 1,000,000 bushels in transit. It is estimated that there will be a total of upwards of 20,000,000 bushels yet to come out over the G.T.P. The capacity of the Harbor Commissioners' elevator at Montreal is 5,000,000 bushels and the G.T.P. elevator 2,500,000 bushels. At Quebec the government elevator has a capacity of 1,000,000 and a private elevator at that point has a capacity of 300,000, making a total capacity at these points of 8,800,000 bushels. The G.T.P. will probably handle an average of 100 cars per day to these points and with what is going over the C.P.R. they will rapidly fill up. Farmers shipping over the government road have the option of having their grain weighed at Winnipeg or taking the weights at Quebec or Montreal. The handling capacity for weighing at Winnipeg is limited and the G.T.P. officials recommend that as far as possible Quebec and Montreal weights be accepted. Farmers west of Saskatoon may get their weights at the government elevator at that point. Local agents on the G.T.P. will be equipped with full information to assist farmers in making out their shipping bills correctly.

THE FARM HOME

There will be a large number of farm houses built thruout the prairies during the coming spring and summer. The first house on the prairie farm is generally of a temporary character, intended for use only until prosperity smiles upon the family and a more comfortable and commodious abode can be constructed. In the history of this country

there never has been a year when the crop has been so large and so well distributed, and, what is more important, the high prices give a splendid margin of profit to the producer. The big crop and the big prices will put thousands of farmers in a position to build the house which they have been planning on building for some years past. The price of lumber for the past two years has been very low. An increase has recently taken place, but the prices are still much lower than they were prior to the recent glut of the lumber market. Under the new system of purchasing lumber in car lots, which has prevailed for the last few years, farmers have been able to save from 15 to 25 per cent. on the ordinary retail prices of lumber and this has meant a great saving to them in building. During the winter months the farmer and his wife usually study out the plans for their new home and decide what they will build. There is too much of the packing box variety of architecture in prairie farm houses. It costs no more to make an attractive house, but it adds greatly to the pleasure of the family and immensely increases the pride of possession. In pursuing its policy for service to the farmers and their wives The Guide has decided to assist in providing plans and building instructions for farm homes attractive in design, convenient in lay-out and varied in cost to meet the requirements of those who are building during the next year. To this end an experienced architect has prepared a series of ten house plans from instructions provided after study and consultation with men and women in touch with Western farm conditions. The houses for which these plans are made will cost from \$1,600 to \$6,000. Descriptions of two of these plans have already appeared in The Guide and a third appears in this issue. The remaining seven will be published every other week henceforth and a decoration plan for each house on the alternate weeks. Architects ordinarily charge from \$25 to \$50 each for providing the plans and bills of materials for the construction of such houses. The Guide, however, has purchased them in quantities and will supply to its readers at from \$1.50 to \$2.50 each. At the end of the season all these house plans will be collected together in booklet form and supplied free to any person upon request. If this effort on the part of The Guide to improve the style and comfort of farm homes is appreciated, and we feel sure that it will be, it will be a matter of satisfaction.

SILVER BULLETS FROM CANADA

A new stage in Canada's participation in the war has been reached. From the moment war was declared on August 4, 1914, Canada has been furnishing men and food. Within a few weeks this country began to furnish guns and ammunition, and now the time has come when Canada is called upon to supply money to help the cause of the Allies. Up to the time the Canadian internal loan was floated in November last all the money expended in equipping and maintaining the Canadian troops was borrowed from the British Government, but so great has the expenditure become and so great has been the dependence of the other Allied nations upon Great Britain that it is now considered necessary that Canada should pay her own way without further borrowing overseas. It is not entirely because of the heavy financial burden which has been thrown upon Great Britain, however, that this position has been reached, but also because in the present state of international trade, with Canada and the United States exporting much more than they are importing, it is practically impossible to remit large sums of money to this side from Great Britain. In

any case it is hardly in keeping with the dignity and reputation of Canada to be sending troops to help Britain and borrowing from Britain the money to equip and pay them, and Canadians generally would be gratified to know that in future the Canadian soldiers would be supported entirely by their own country without outside help. Sir Geo. E. Foster, in an address before the People's Forum at Ottawa on Sunday, December 26, forecasted another domestic loan and said that he had no doubt the people of Canada could furnish \$300,000,000 if they were asked for it, tho it would be necessary to economize as well as to put forth every effort to increase production. Hon. W. T. White, finance minister, states, however, that the money secured by the recent loan of \$100,000,000, which is payable by monthly instalments and will not all be paid in until May 1, will meet the needs of the Government for war purposes until next summer. Presumably another loan will be asked for about the month of June and those who wish to help the Allies win the war by furnishing "silver bullets" thus have time to save or adjust their affairs so as to be ready to contribute.

Another financial question which is being very much discussed just now is the matter of financing the war orders of the British and Allied Governments. The United States financiers made a loan to Great Britain and France of \$500,000,000 in order to provide money with which to pay the manufacturers of that country who are producing munitions of war and it will be necessary for the Allied Governments to obtain credit in this country also if they are to continue placing large orders here. Hon. W. T. White has suggested that Canadian manufacturers of munitions should accept part payment in British exchequer bonds falling due after the war, and this seems to be a reasonable proposition. If the British bonds could be deposited with the Ottawa Government and dominion paper currency secured in exchange, as can be done now with Canadian securities, it would enable the manufacturers to get their money at once. It would also considerably increase the amount of paper money in circulation, and there appears to be a difference of opinion as to whether the effect of this would be good or otherwise. The financing of war orders is, however, primarily a matter for the manufacturers. If they wish to continue their present highly profitable business they will have to trust Great Britain to some extent. She is worth trusting.

A BUREAU OF MARKETS

The question of marketing farm products of all kinds is steadily growing in interest and special efforts are being made from time to time by the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture to assist farmers in marketing special products. In the case of wool and dairy products this has been carried on in a manner generally beneficial to the producers. It would seem that the time has now come to provide instruction, information, advice and assistance in the marketing of all farm products. Thirteen states to the south of us maintain market bureaus or market commissioners for this very purpose and the province of British Columbia also maintains a market commissioner to assist the farmers of that province to dispose of their fruit and other products thruout the prairies. The United States Government maintains at Washington a Bureau of Markets and Rural Organization in charge of a large staff of experienced men. This office has been in existence for two years and has been favorably commented upon by American farmers and farm journals. Here in Western Canada, where the great