

MARKETING LIVESTOCK AND OTHER FARM PRODUCTS

Next to the question of public ownership of the elevator system, the marketing of cattle, hogs and other farm products of the farm is the most absorbing topic for discussion in farmers' meetings. Several resolutions on the subject, as well as many private letters, have reached us within the last few weeks.

While there are differences of opinion as to the remedies to be applied to secure relief, the one most advocated, and which seems the most feasible and practical in its application, is that suggested in a recent resolution from the Grain Growers of Bowman River—the principle of co-operation. The principle involved is: to provide a medium to get the producer and consumer together so that an exchange of commodities could take place at the least possible cost to both parties concerned. Owing to natural causes, the individual farmer cannot bring his food production to the door of the individual consumer who uses it and must have it. It therefore naturally follows that he must trust to others the function of distributing his product, unless by co-operation with his fellows he can employ an agency that will be directly under his control and perform for the many a function which the individual cannot perform for himself.

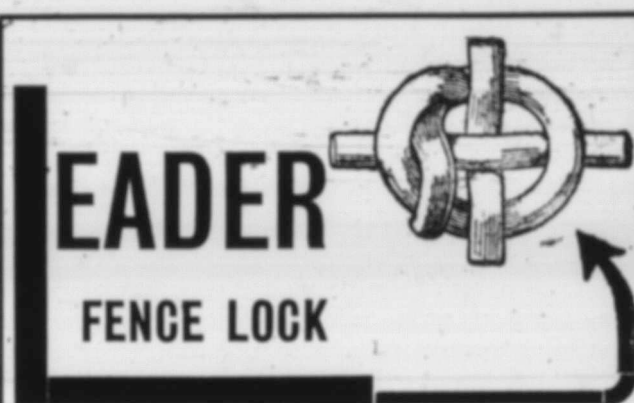
A farmers' agency in Winnipeg, properly equipped with modern appliances to care for and dispose of all kinds of farm products, would be of great value not only as a medium of distribution for domestic consumption but for finding a profitable market for that portion that would not be absorbed by local demand.

In these days of rapid transit and ingenious inventions, distances form no barrier to an interchange of commodities. Yet in the face of that fact we find large masses of people at centres of population insufficiently provided with food, due to prices being beyond their earning powers, and at the same time thousands of our western farmers ceasing to produce food products other than grain because of a system of distribution that will not permit them to receive due reward for their labor.

There is no good reason why the intelligent Western farmer should not devise a method that would place the output of his skill and energy where it is most needed and give him the best return without the intervention of groups of men whose only interest in the commodity is what they can annex while passing through their hands.

All that is needed is organization along the lines indicated in the resolution referred to above.

"Resolved that we, the members of the Ashville branch of the Grain Growers' Association beg to extend our most hearty thanks to the Central Association for taking up our case before the Railway Commission, and we wish also to thank them for paying the expense of same."



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