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# THERE'S A REASON

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## Wheat City Tannery

them. The price paid the farmers is not as much as it should be but our directors realize that they need to give at least as good service as the local buyer to make a success of it .- Wm. Halsall.

#### LOST MONEY, NOW SUCCESSFUL

During the winter of 1914 and 1915, we talked over at the monthly meeting of the Parkside Grain Growers' Association the pros and cons of a co-operative association and the amount of capital necessary to get one started and early in the spring of 1915 we issued our prospectus. We decided on an authorized capital of \$7,500 divided into 300 shares of \$25 per share payable in an-nual instalments of \$5 each. We sold 43 shares immediately and called up the board of directors held their first meeting in April, 1915, at which their plans for the future were laid down.

As a result of that meeting, a site was bought in Parkside, and a small

was bought in Parkside, and a small warehouse was built and a manager was appointed for the remainder of the year take charge of the business. already done some amateur trading as an unincorporated body and we con-tinued handling the same lines of busi-

#### Lost Money The First Year

The first year's trading was not a success from a financial point of view for our balance sheet for the first eight months showed a loss of \$46.50. The months showed a loss of \$46.50. The chief reason of this was that we bought a car of flour when flour was high and had to cut our prices as the price fell. We lost just over \$40 on this flour deal. At our general meeting, however, we de-cided that we had saved the community a good deal more than that, in addition to having gained some valuable ex-perience. And so we started hopefully on our second year's work.

Last year we made arrangements to sell flour on commission, so now we make a small profit on every sack we sell and run no risk. We built a corrugated iron warehouse to hold a carlot of flour and any other commodity which might get spoiled by mice, for we found that mice contributed to our loss in no small degree.

Our warehouse is open every Satur-day afternoon and during busy seasons, or when occasion demands it, our manager is on hand two or three afternoons during the week as well. But a farmer is sure of seeing him every Saturday. We keep on hand a stock of sugar,

salt, flour and cement; and we take orders for twine, apples, lumber, forma-lin, wire, etc., and all things that we can get in carlots or are in demand at special seasons.

Last year we sold a few more shares. We have, after paying up our first year's loss, a profit over and above our reserve fund and interest on shares, of about \$100. This will be divided among our patrons and those patrons who are not shareholders must according to our by-laws.pay a portion towards a share. Hence we can look forward to easily placing our 300 shares.

We have now a paid up capital of just over \$600, of which \$375 is sunk in real estate and buildings and the halance is used in keeping our stock on hand. Of course this amount is not enough to clear a carload of anything and as a matter of fact it is generally already spent in goods. So our directors whenever necessary personally borrow from the bank enough to clear a car and lend it to the association. This action on their part we consider a very meritor. ious one indeed.

#### Started Shipping Livestock

We tried hard, during the year 1913, to get a carload of livestock to ship for we were convinced it was a good thing to do but could not persuade enough farmers to try the experiment. In January, 1916, one of our leading members, Mr. Bichmond, started the ball rolling by putting all his hogs, 71 in number, into our first shipment and on January 15 we shipped our frat co-operative shipment from Parkside. I operative shipment from Paraside. I am glad to say we did not lose and Mr. Richmond says he made \$100 more than he would have had he sold them to the local buyer. Since then we have made eight more shipments this year or a total of eleven cars. I think we have

### Fur and Hide Directory



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