

samples were up to the average of the grade, while it may be noted that quite a number of them would not stand the grade at all. This bears out the testimony of the millers and exporters, as to the way the grain leaves the terminal elevators. Notwithstanding the fact that the inspectors had the result of the weighing in August indicating that manipulation was going on, during last year, they were not yet able to take effective measures to prevent this practice. The output of the elevators for the crop of 1909 is as unsatisfactory as any previous year.

A prominent exporter of Montreal recently characterized the manner in which the grain was received out of the privately-owned terminals as "rotten."

The Dominion government undertook to classify Manitoba wheat according to specifications defined by statutes. The officials charged with the duty of classifying the wheat according to grade deduct from farmers' shipments sufficient to clean the grain up to the requirements of the act, yet the same officials fail to compel the terminal elevators to separate this dirt from the grain as required by the Grain Act, and also fail in preventing the grain being diluted in transit. Is it not time the department changed their methods in dealing with those terminals?

STILL WE ARE WAITING

We regret that we are still unable to name the members of the Manitoba elevator commission, as the commissioners have not yet been appointed. What does this unseemly delay on the part of the Manitoba government mean? We confess that we cannot understand it. The farmers of Manitoba are eagerly awaiting the announcement of the commission because they know that it will take a great deal of time and labor to establish a line of government elevators in time for the coming grain season. We think that there is some explanation coming from the government, because there has been time, and to spare, in which the commission could be appointed. This is proven by the commendable promptness with which the live stock commission was appointed by the same government, a short time ago. It required but a few days' consideration on the part of the government to appoint the live stock commission and set them to work. Why should it take any more time to appoint the elevator commission?

Unless the government has better reasons than we are aware of, they are certainly not doing all they should in the interests of the farmers of Manitoba. We would suggest that our readers address a letter to the premier of the province, and ask him his intentions regarding the appointment of the elevator commission. This matter cannot be treated lightly for the farmers are determined that the elevator system must be improved. If the Manitoba elevator commission is not appointed by the first day of May and no explanation is forthcoming, then we will have good reason to claim that the Manitoba government is derelict in its duty.

THE PLEDGE IS NECESSARY

In the report of the commission appointed by the Dominion government to investigate the swine industry in Great Britain, Denmark and Ireland, there is some very valuable information for all Canadian farmers. One point that is worthy of careful consideration is that dealing with the co-operative bacon factories in Denmark. The commission, after studying the Denmark situation, decided that one of the chief reasons for its success was that the farmers pledged themselves to supply their entire output of hogs to their own factory and placed a penalty upon all farmers who did not abide by this contract. The commission also considered that the absence of this pledge and penalty clause was the reason that co-operative work did not succeed in Ontario.

This is something that should be carefully considered by the farmers of Alberta in dealing with their pork packing plant. The farmers of Alberta are very anxious to have a pork packing proposition that will give the best returns for their labor. They have the opportunity now before them. All that is needed is to pledge the 50,000 hogs required by the government and then the plant will be erected. The farmers intend to support the plant, therefore they should have no hesitation in signing the pledge. The entire control of the plant will be in the hands of the farmers who supply the hogs, and they should have sufficient confidence in its ultimate success to sign the pledge that is being circulated.

IMPROVE CONDITIONS

We hear a great deal nowadays about keeping the boy on the farm, and we see and hear all kinds of suggestions as to how this may be done. Some of these suggestions are good, but a great many are wide of the mark. In order to induce boys to remain on the farm, the farm must be made attractive to them. As a farmer progresses and acquires property, he can easily keep his boys at home, if he provides conditions that have a greater attraction than city life. The proper life on the farm is far ahead of the life in the city. Too many boys are lured to the city by the stories of the success of some city men. They forget to consider that for every one of the men who have made a big success in the cities there are scores who are working hard to make even a living. This same proportion does not exist on the farm. The farmer who owns his farm and is playing his proper part in his community is making a success. It is a great error to suppose that every man who is making millions is a successful man. There are a great many men in the cities of this country who are making money, but are of little use to the cities or country. On the other hand the man on the farm, who is farming successfully and doing his duty in his community, is a great success. The agricultural life in Canada has improved by leaps and bounds during the last generation, and it rests with the farmers to see that this improvement continues. The records of history show us that in the olden days the farmer, or, as he was called, the peasant, was about the lowest class in many of the older countries. He simply existed for the purpose of working for the nobility and paying taxes. Step by step the condition of the farmer was improved, until the situation has entirely changed. There are no peasant farmers in Canada. Everyone is an independent man and is not compelled to doff his hat or bow his knee to any over-lord. But the work is still not half done. The farmer does not yet begin to get half his due. It is the farmer who produces and thus supports the majority of the other classes. The farmer is the most important class, therefore the interest of the farmer should be paramount. As this work goes forward and the farmers become better educated and better able to take care of themselves in the battle of life, the farmers' homes will also improve. There will be no exodus from the farms and we will not see our farmers retiring and going to the cities to live. When a farmer retires there is no place where he can enjoy life so much as on his own farm with comforts surrounding him. The farmer is independent on his own farm and may be one of the leaders in his own community, but when he retires and goes to the city to live for the rest of his days he takes a small place in the vast machinery of our great cities.

The anti-combine bill plans to prevent combines without removing the cause. It is rather like placing a nice tempting bone before a dog and then training him not to touch it under pain of severe punishment. Trouble would be avoided by removing the bone.

FILTHY DOLLAR BILLS

A Toronto scientist in analysing the dirt on a dollar bill found 2,067,000 microbes. An American scientist found 3,000,000 on a similar bill. These microbes are of many different characters and come from the filthy condition in which the Canadian bills are allowed to get. Did you ever consider where the filthy dollar bill in your pocket has been? Do you know that it has probably been through houses where many of the most dangerous diseases have been prevalent? Do you know that many a filthy dollar bill carries enough disease in it to carry off an army if it were properly used? There can be no doubt but that disease is often carried and spread by means of our filthy money, yet no effort is made to remedy this great evil. The banks say it costs two and one-half cents to get a new bill and they can't afford it. Nevertheless the bank of England never gives out anything but fresh, new and clean bank notes. A man may draw a bank note and deposit it five minutes later. That note is never put into circulation again. Yet our banks can't afford it. Naturally if they can't make a few hundred thousand dollars a year by circulating disease they will not worry about the health of the country so long as their dividends are right.

The Australian government has gone down to defeat and the Labor party has now control. In Australia there is a general election every three years, but there have been a great many changes in the government since the Commonwealth was organized. The leading plank of the Australian Labor party is, "The securing of the full results of their industry by the collective ownership of monopolies, and the extension of the industrial and economic functions of the state and municipality."

In the new House of Representatives in Australia there are seventy-five members, of which the Labor party has forty-five. Australia has a population of over 4,000,000. Canada has over 7,000,000. In Australia the House of Representatives have seventy-five members and the Senate thirty-one members. In Canada the membership of the two houses is nearly three times as great. The new government is pledged to some very advanced legislation.

If the tariff was reduced on the products of the Canadian combines there would be little need for Hon. McKenzie King's anti-combine bill.

President Taft does not seem to be resting on a bed of roses. The farmers in the western states do not like his system of revising the tariff—upwards.

The price of hogs has climbed to a very great height. Do not sell your breeding stock just because the price is high. There are other days coming.

Puzzle: If the Dominion government calls its present rate of progress with the Hudson Bay road "immediate construction," what would be the proper description of "getting busy"?

The great farmers' convention to be held in St. Louis will help in the great work of raising the status of the farmers on this continent. President Taft has agreed to deliver an address, which shows that he regards the farmers as important.

A correspondent asks us if this little winter we have just had was also due to Halley's comet. We are not sure, but it is safe to blame it on the comet as he cannot get up and object.

Mark Twain is dead, but he will live for many generations with the people who have been entertained and instructed through his writings. He saw things as no other writer has seen them and his books were like good companions.