

AGRICULTURE

DO NOT EXPECT RATES CHANGE

There is little expectation at the Railway Board offices at Ottawa that there will be any change in the present level of railway freight and passenger rates until the end of the year at the earliest.

ALBERTA CATTLE FOR GUELPH FAIR.

For the first time in the history of the Guelph Winter Fair, which is to be held this year on December 3 to 9, Alberta cattle will be shown this year. A number of the prominent breeders in that province have placed their stock in the hands of the Alberta Agricultural College officials, who will bring the stock east and exhibit it.

FINE FALL HELPS AGRICULTURE.

From an agricultural viewpoint the wonderfully fine autumn weather which has prevailed during the past few weeks has been of the greatest benefit. This is the opinion of E. S. Archibald, director of the Dominion Experimental Farm, and is based on close observation of the effect of fall conditions on agricultural products, live stock, steers, both fruit and foliage, and plants.

TO DEHORN CATTLE.

That all the cattle in Alberta may soon belong to the hornless variety is a possibility disclosed during a recent quarterly meeting of the Edmonton Livestock Exchange. A campaign is shortly to be put on throughout the province to get all the farmers to dehorn their cattle. It is claimed that the animals feed, sell and ship better when dehorned. The practice has been extensively followed in the United States.

TOO MANY BREEDING EWES MARKETING.

Sheep receipts for late Summer and Fall show that there is a tendency on the part of Eastern farmers to market an excess of good light ewes many of which are suitable for either breeding or fattening purposes. At present the market for sheep is low and a few flocks of desirable breeding ewes could be selected at a very moderate cost. As a feeding proposition, a carload of well selected ewes at present prices would look like a safe buy. Ewes can be held longer than lambs, are not so difficult to feed and will make heavier gains on cheaper and rougher feed. During late fall and winter months, the market for finished sheep invariably recovers as is the case with lambs.

MARKETING OF MILK AND POTATOES.

For the first time in this country, so far as is known, a comprehensive effort is being made to secure detailed and accurate information on the costs of marketing. Hitherto investigations of this nature have either been very limited in scope or have contained such a large element of estimate as to make the figures secured practically valueless. But the Bureau of Markets, United States Department of Agriculture, in undertaking an investigation into the cost of marketing farm products, has approached the subject in a manner calculated to bring forth complete and authentic information upon which can be based intelligent reasoning as to what reforms or changes may be needed in the system of marketing.

Only two of the many farm products have been selected for study at this time—milk and potatoes. Dr. Lewis H. Haney, who is in immediate charge of the work, is basing his results on actual cost figures connected with the handling of potatoes and milk from the producer straight through to the ultimate consumer.

MILLING

STIFF DUTY ON WHEAT.

Congressman John W. Summers announced last week that he is framing a bill for a tariff on imported wheat, with particular reference to Canada, which he expects to introduce in the United States Congress at the opening day of the next session in December. He did not specify the tariff decided upon but said it would be a "good stiff duty."

WHEAT CONTROL UNLIKELY

Government control of the wheat market and the fixing of minimum price for that commodity, as has been advocated in parts of the West, is most unlikely, says an Ottawa despatch. The matter has been discussed by the Government and unless there is some sudden change in the disposition of the Ministers the wheat control proposition won't be touched.

To begin with, there is an evident division of opinion among the farmers themselves as to the advisability of control. Furthermore, it is stated that if a minimum price were fixed it would probably be so low as to be unsatisfactory to the farmers while if a higher one were adopted it would involve a risk which the Government is not disposed to assume.

FLOUR TRADE DULL.

The Northwestern Millers Weekly Review of the flour trade says: The past week has again been one of extreme dullness with little flour buying reported anywhere, even Canadian flours have ceased to sell readily. Wheat prices went up about fifteen cents late last week on talk of holding by the farmers and patent flours followed, advancing about one dollar per barrel, but little activity resulted and on Monday wheat again showed weakness on the prospect of the British coal strike cutting off the export demand. The mills continue to run at about half capacity. The Millers' National Federation last Friday appointed a special committee of 25 to handle the problem involved in the assured effort of the United States Shipping Board to stifle flour exports by discriminatory ocean rates.

LARGE GRAIN RECEIPTS.

Receipts at Fort William of wheat from the west were even greater last week than in the week previous. Stocks are also much increased, now totalling 8,686,005 bushels as against 6,840,456 bushels a week ago and 3,833,674 bushels at this time last year. Receipts for the week were 4,790,676 bushels and shipments by lake 2,921,194 bushels and by rail 38,098 bushels.

Shipments of oats have increased very greatly for last week, and as shipments are small the stocks are growing. Stocks are now 1,499,567 bushels as against 885,939 bushels at this time last week and 2,054,629 bushels at this time last year. Receipts for the week were 754,007 bushels and shipments 55,754 bushels by lake and 85,015 bushels by rail.

Barley in store now amounts to 745,484 bushels as compared with 705,347 bushels a week ago and 752,283 bushels a year ago. Receipts for the week were 276,026 bushels, and shipments 211,251 bushels by lake and 25,220 bushels by rail.

The grades of grains coming in are high, almost eight million bushels of the wheat stocks figuring in the contract grades as follows: One Hard, 21,618 bushels; One Northern, 3,973,116 bushels; Two Northern, 2,048,954 bushels; Three Northern, 1,749,434 bushels. Less than a million bushels are contained in the other eight or ten grades. All other grains rank proportionately high.

RAILWAYS

GRAIN COMPANY SUES C. N. R.

The Reliance Grain Company has commenced action before Mr. Justice Galt against the Canadian National Railway Company for a claim involving \$11,000 arising out of a wreck on the C.N.R. line at Ardath, Sask., on March 24, 1918. Plaintiffs are claiming the sum for destruction of their elevator when the train jumped the track and smashed through it.

C. N. R. SUSPENSIONS.

Chief Tingley, of the C. N. R. police at Moncton, N.B., gives out a statement in regard to the reported suspension of the C. N. R. employes in Truro and vicinity. He states that these rumors which have been going the rounds for some time, are unfounded, but adds, "one and only one arrest has been made at Truro. The accused is named Jack Pearson, who was arrested on a charge of stealing a quantity of cigarettes from a box car in Truro. At the same time a quantity of jam was taken."

EXTENSION OF C.N.R.

Immediate extension of the Canadian National's Island line from Cowichan Lake into Alberni, Vancouver Island, was taken up by Premier Oliver with D. B. Hanna, chairman of the board of directors of the C.N.R.

The extension is being urged because of the timber properties between Cowichan Lake and the Alberni canal, notably in the Nitinat section, that are awaiting the railroad for development.

Premier Oliver told Mr. Hanna and his associates that powerful pulp and saw-mill interests in Minneapolis, which control enormous quantities of timber in that district, want to establish their mills at Alberni and are now only waiting on the railway.

RAILWAY BOARD SITTINGS.

The sitting of the Board of Railway Commissioners which was to have been held at Ottawa, last week to consider a number of cases, including an application of the manufacturers respecting the rates and classification of boots and shoes, has been postponed until November 16. The next formal sittings of the board will be held at Hamilton, November 4, and Toronto, November 5, when further evidence will be taken in connection with the application of the Bell Telephone Company for increased rates. These hearings are for the reception of local evidence. Matters of discussion of general principles, presentation of general statements bearing on the case, etc., will not be dealt with until the final hearing of the application in Ottawa, at a date yet to be fixed.

NEW C.P.R. APPOINTMENT.

Mr. D. R. Kennedy is appointed assistant district passenger agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway, with headquarters at Quebec during the summer season, and at St. John, N.B., during the winter season, with supervision over rail traffic ex Atlantic steamships. The announcement is made in a circular dated October 14th issued by Mr. W. H. Snell, general passenger agent, and approved by Mr. C. B. Foster, assistant passenger traffic manager.

Mr. Kennedy joined the C. P. R. service in 1904 as checker at Windsor street. In January, 1906, he resigned, but resumed service in January, 1909, as clerk in the general baggage agent's office, Montreal. In April, 1910, he became travelling baggage agent; in July, 1916, travelling passenger agent. From the latter mentioned position he takes his present appointment.