

(Continued from page 5)

Butter.....18c (trade)	Butter.....30c-35c
Chickens.....No Sale	Chicken.....23c per lb.
Eggs.....18c (trade)	Eggs.....30 to 35c

Can anything be more conducive to poverty and better calculated to retard progress than the above showing? On the one hand the energies of the man who produces wealth by tilling the soil is paralyzed by not getting the due reward for his labor, and the producer of wealth by industrial labor is enervated by placing the price of his food supply out of proportion to his daily earnings. A nation cannot prosper that degrades and starves its wealth producing classes.

A recent writer, describing the present desolate state of the once fertile Jordan Valley, attributed the unfortunate change that came over that once densely populated region, to the insecurity of property. The man who sowed had no assurance that he would reap the benefit of his labor. The ultimate result on production is the same whether the producer is deprived of the reward properly due to honest toil, by a false and vicious system of political economy, predatory wealth or a marauding band of Bedouins.

The Dominion of Canada increased its export of butter from about 8 million dollars in the decade previous to 1896, to over 24 million in the following decade, simply by the Government providing a system of transportation that provides the producer of butter adequate returns for his labor. That 16 million dollars, together with the increased value of the butter used for domestic consumption was added to the wealth of Canada, not by increase of population nor at added cost for raw material, but simply taken out of the soil by the incentive to production caused by a price that remunerated the labor needed to produce it.

Much printers ink and flowing oratory have been wasted in endeavoring to coax the prairie farmers into a system of mixed farming. If writers and speakers on farm economics would devote the energy they are now wasting on unsympathetic ears, towards devising a system of distribution that would establish a proper relationship between the producer and consumer they would be more likely to accomplish a useful purpose. If a system of distribution could be devised which would allow half the difference in price indicated above to the producer, the necessity would not be laid on Winnipeg merchants to import those foods to the production of which our soil and climate are so admirably adapted.

Mixed farming has been held up to the prairie farmer as the panacea for all his ills, whether they be drought, wet, frost or weeds. The fact is that our average farmer is better informed on these questions than the larger number of his would-be advisers. Nineteen out of every twenty farmers do not farm as well as they know how, and eight out of every ten of those 19, because they have not sufficient capital. The "system" deprives them of the increment of profit of his labor and land, which he is entitled to, and consequently, his working capital.

The land speculator, who takes possession of a farmer's crop as soon as it is thrashed in order to satisfy interest and principal on deferred payments, leaving the man on the land enough to enable him to eke out a bare existence till he can produce another crop, cannot expect that land to be cultivated so as to continue to produce satisfactory results. The sentiments of the farming community can be gathered from the following extracts from answers to enquiries on the subject:

"At present the returns from products apart from grain are so uncertain and the market, altogether in the hands of manipulators that there is nothing but discouragement in producing these lines, although the West has never supplied the Western market for pork, and its products, chickens, turkeys, etc."

"I cannot produce pork for less than 5c. live weight and cannot always hit the market to make a profit, and

believe that on the average, pork and beef are produced at a loss."

"Am fully convinced that the time is coming when it will be necessary, for the lands' sake, to devote a portion of our efforts to clover, etc., which will be useless unless fed to stock, for which there is no profitable market."

"I have always, since the inception of the G.G.G. Co. had a vision of the enlargement of its operations to include the marketing of these products for which there is a market waiting in the large centers of population."

Mr. Henderson, a member of the Scottish Agricultural Commission that recently visited Canada as a guest of the Dominion Government, on his return from the trip through the West, said in part, to a Free Press reporter:—

"Never in the years to come would intelligent agriculturists be content to accept the conditions imposed as they do now. Going further into the question, Mr. Henderson pointed out that unless the conditions of life in the farming districts improved, men and women would not stay on the land. They would trend towards the civilized centres where they could find comforts and luxuries. If conditions did improve, the cost of living would increase and the cost of production would be increased.

He objected strongly to the spirit of speculation and characterized it as one of the most injurious elements in this country. He pointed out that the speculator lived on what the worker produced by the sweat of his brow."

STANDARD'S BOARD

A meeting of the Grain Standards' Board was held in Winnipeg, Wednesday, October the 7th, to look over samples of this season's grain crop collected from many points in the West by the inspection department. The result of their conclusion is that No. 1 and 2 Feed are made into one grade and the other grades of wheat remain as they are.

The change in the feed grades will probably inure to the advantage of the grain buyers and to the disadvantage of the unfortunate farmer who has frozen wheat. They will separate the best of the wheat out of their feed in the elevator and place it in the higher grade and the price of feed will hold the same relationship to the other grades as No. 2 Feed holds now.

It has leaked out that the representatives of the grain trade made a vigorous effort to cut out a number of grades on the pretense that the large number of grades interfere with the storage capacity of the terminal elevators and make it more difficult to handle the crop. In other words they were prepared to sacrifice the interest of the farmer for that of the terminal owners.

It is also stated that the farmers' representatives on the Board opposed any changes that would reduce the number of grades in wheat and the grain men managed to get only Feed 1 knocked out, by the Hon. Mr. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, voting with the representatives of the grain trade on the Board, as against the farmers' representatives.

Mr. Motherwell may have some difficulty in squaring himself on this point with many of the farmers in Saskatchewan, who unfortunately have frozen wheat to dispose of.

THE FOREIGN WHEAT MARKET.

Foreign wheat market has proved somewhat erratic, being apparently over sensitive to the fluctuations in value in America and the varying tones of cables from that quarter and Canada. A week ago a decided firmness set in with a more aggressive demand occasioned by the strength of American markets and the scarcer and stiffer c. i. f. offerings, helped by the very wet weather here and individual reports of disappointing results of the Canad-