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COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture was held in Regina on March 13-15, and was attended by a large representation of the various organizations comprising the council. A photograph of all the delegates was published in last week's Guide.

The most important matter taken up at the council meeting was the offer of the Canadian Government to take over the entire wheat crop at $1.30 per bushel. Full details of this were published in last week's Guide. The Canadian Council on behalf of the Grain Growers of the west proposed to the government to fix a minimum price of $1.50 with a maximum of $1.90, or if the government preferred a fixed price the council recommended $1.70 per bushel.

Another important subject was that respecting the farmers' platform. The decision arrived at on this question was also published in last week's Guide.

Grain Act Ammendments

The council decided to recommend to the Dominion Government a number of amendment to the Canada Grain Act. One amendment in connection with the car order book provides that no employee of an elevator company or any person licensed under the act shall be permitted to act as an agent and take proxies for placing names on the car order book. It has been found in many cases that the car order book has been plugged with fictitious names for the benefit of the elevator men to the prejudice of individual farmers. This amendment is recommended to reduce this evil.

Another amendment to make the car order book more useful provides that the agent shall post daily the name of each applicant to whom he has awarded cars for loading grain. One copy of this is kept on file by the agent and the other posted in a conspicuous place in the waiting room or in the place of business of the person in charge of the car order book. It is also provided that the agent's file shall be always open to the public and that the other notices shall be kept posted for 60 days. It has been found that a great many cars are allotted out of their turn and this is to prevent it as far as possible. The council also decided to make an effort to arrange for more efficient inspection of country scales in elevators or other scales at country points used for weighing grain, as the present system is not satisfactory.

The council will also ask for an amendment to make heavier the penalties for selling or transferring the right to a car allotted to a shipper or violating the regulations of the car order book.

The question of sample markets and mixing elevators received considerable attention by the delegates at the council and owing to the present conditions the council decided not to recommend any change and passed a resolution asking the government to make no change from present conditions in regard to the establishment of sample markets and the status of hospital or mixing elevators until after the close of the war.

The council passed a resolution of regret at the death of the Duchess of Connaught and sympathy with the Duke and his family and cabled the message at once to the Duke.

Board of Appeal

The council unanimously decided to ask for an amendment to the Grain Act to provide for a permanent board of appeal of three members to hear appeals from decisions of the chief grain inspector and to take over the duties now performed by the standards and survey board as well as to make tests of "out of condition" grades and milling tests of various types of wheat. It was recommended that one member to the new board be appointed by the Ministers of Agriculture of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The council decided to urge upon the Dominion Government an amendment to the Railway Act in regard to stock killed or injured on railways. At the present time the Railway Act places all the onus of proof on the farmer whose stock is killed. The purpose of the amendment is to place the onus of proof upon the railway company. The amendment was drafted by the late Judge Mabee, chairman of the Railway Commission.

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