

The Mail Bag

AN OPEN FORUM

This page is maintained to allow free discussion of all questions vital to western farmers. Up to the limit of space letters will be published giving both sides of all such questions. It is not possible to publish all letters received, but an effort will be made to select those most fairly representing different views. Short letters will be given preference. All letters must be accompanied by name and address of writer, tho not necessarily for publication. Unused letters will be returned if accompanied by postage.

THE BANKERS' PATRIOTISM

Editor, Guide: I wish to bring under the notice of all whom it may concern, thru the columns of your publication, a matter relative to the banking business as it apparently obtains in the Province of Alberta at the present time.

Most people are doubtless aware that in this part of the province (Central Alberta) crops were almost a total failure and owing to conditions occasioned by the European war, the cost of living is higher accordingly than the advance in price paid to the producer should necessitate.

Now, sir, under these conditions, a farmer who wishes to borrow a little money will naturally seek the aid of his local bank, especially if he is reasonably certain that he will be in a position to meet his note when same falls due; but, alas! the doors of these institutions are closed against the needy.

I personally had occasion to interview the manager of the local branch of one of the largest chartered banks in Canada with a view to securing a loan of \$50 for sixty days in order to purchase some hay for my horses during spring work.

I explained my position fully, that I wished to obtain the hay before it advanced in price and that I had a bunch

is not far distant, in the Province of Alberta, when the farmer will no more think of doing business with the banks of today than he would of submitting to the dictates of the Kaiser.

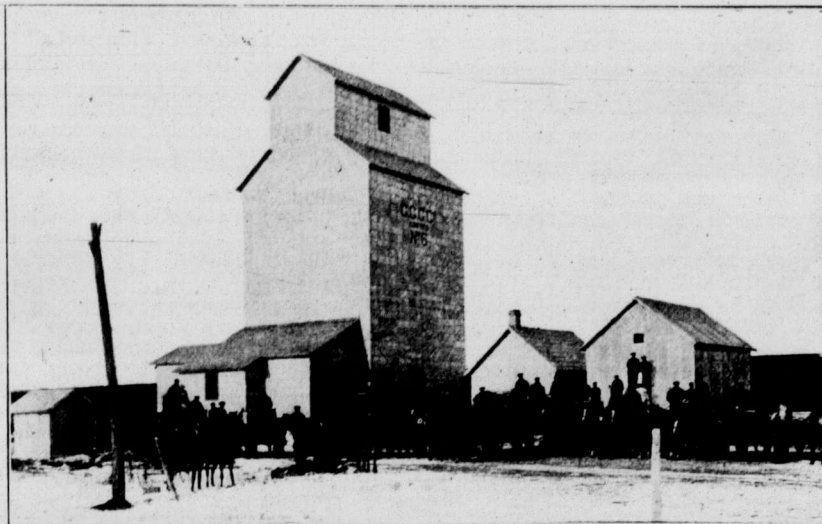
ALFRED ANDERSON,
Monitor, Alta.

CO-OPERATION AT WOODNORTH

J. Matthewson, secretary-treasurer of the Woodnorth branch of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, writes:

Your readers might be interested to know what we have accomplished thru organization.

Some years ago we formed a Grain Growers' Association at Woodnorth which has grown every year since. We have always had a splendid bunch of directors who helped on the organization to what it is today, amongst the biggest in Manitoba, having 75 members. Thru our organization we were able to get a stock-loading platform, then we got an agent, whom the railway company tried to take away the next year, but by applying to the railway commission we were able to hold him. Again last year they tried to take him away and bluff us it was thru the war and money stringency that they were doing so. Again we were able to put a spoke in their wheel, as



Grain Growers' Grain Co.'s elevator at Woodnorth, Man.

of hogs ready to ship at the first available market.

I had, however, been previously informed on good authority that it was almost impossible to get an advance from the bank unless one was in a position to deposit bankable security equal to the combined wealth of the Rothschilds and Carnegie, but as I merely desired a few dollars for a short period, I only offered the manager the title deed to 160 acres of land, 110 acres of which is under cultivation and otherwise extensively improved, and a lien on such other security as he considered would protect the bank on two cattle, worth at least \$75, and also on some hogs.

This, however, did not appear to him to be adequate security, as he flatly refused, remarking that he could not see his way to do anything.

Now, sir, does this appear to you to agree with the general feeling of good fellowship and patriotism prevalent in the Dominion of Canada in this, the greatest crisis the world has known, when the government of Canada and the people of the countries involved in war are imploring the farmers to increase their production and to hold their livestock towards increase for the purpose of offsetting as far as possible the decrease in the countries despoiled by the ravages of war? Is this, I ask you, the spirit of patriotism as it is being preached from the pulpit, taught to the children in the public schools, expounded in the courts of justice by the judge from the bench, and shown by the men of Canada who have volunteered for active service?

The time, Mr. Editor, is coming, an-

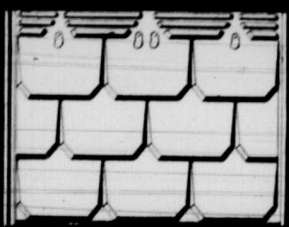
our receipts from here show some \$21,000 paid to the company for goods brought in and sent out. One of our greatest benefits was getting our own elevator, the G. G. Co. elevator, which was brought about by Mr. Moffat, brother of the secretary of The Grain Growers' Grain Company, and two of our directors going around canvassing, which they did to the tune of \$11,000. This elevator has been a most successful accomplishment, as the following figures will show. We have shipped 130,000 bushels wheat besides selling 1,500 bushels seed wheat, 3,500 bushels of seed oats and 500 bushels seed barley. We have also handled five cars flour and feed, three cars corn, one car of apples and one car of lumber. I may say we would never have done the big business we have done if it had not been for F. C. Thompson, our congenial elevator agent, who has the confidence and esteem of the whole settlement. Mr. Thompson is a thorough business man and does all he can for the public as well as the company.

J. MATTHEWSON,
Sec.-Treas. W. G. G. A.

INDEPENDENCE IN NORTH BATTLEFORD

Editor, Guide:—You kindly published my letter of two weeks ago and you are doing good work along lines similar. You agree with us that the two political parties are corrupt beyond hope. Now you propose that an Independent candidate should be run by the farmers.

The farmers have an organization, namely, the Grain Growers, and in



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