

# The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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We extend our heartiest wishes  
for A Happy New Year to all  
our readers.

## THE NEW AND THE OLD

Since last week, 1909 has gone forever with its successes and its failures and we must not worry over its mistakes. We have 1910 with us and a clean sheet to begin upon. We have all the experiences of 1909 from which to profit and the future is bright with promise. Let us make but one resolve, viz: to make the record of 1910 better than that of 1909. This resolve will cover everything and we can begin at once. It gives a chance to every man and is an honorable and laudable incentive to lead us on. Let us cherish no ill-will to anyone but enter upon the New Year with a hearty wish for the welfare of all. Life is too short to harbor ill-will and we can accomplish so little good at our best that we cannot afford to be handicapped by anything narrow and selfish.

Let us then give every man a fair deal and if possible get a fair deal from every man. The farmers of the west can consider 1909 as the most successful year in their history. But its achievements are only the promise of a grand fulfillment which will be accomplished in 1910. The treasure basket of 1910 holds gifts for western farmers, the value of which cannot be estimated. Those gifts are for the earnest and industrious seekers and not for the slothful. The basket is full and Providence guards it, but bestows liberally upon the deserving. Farmers of the west continue upon the good work that has begun and the events of 1910 and its story of western progress will be writ more prominently upon the scroll of time than will the achievements of 1909.

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## SASKATCHEWAN ELEVATOR SITUATION

No word has yet been received as to the personnel of the Commission which the Saskatchewan Government will appoint to investigate the elevator situation. There is no particular need of haste in the matter as the ultimate success or failure of the whole question of government owned elevators rests largely upon the commission which is appointed to investigate and take charge

of the operation of the government elevators. It is no easy task to look through a province and pick out men who are qualified to take hold of a system of government elevators such as shortly will be established in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Such men will need to be of considerable experience in the business world and men whose integrity is their most prominent characteristic. It will be necessary to have on the Commission at least one man who has the knowledge of elevator construction work and operating of elevators. The system of accounting and keeping the records of such a vast system will entail a tremendous amount of work and it will be necessary to outline at the outset a permanent scheme for keeping such records. Again, in Saskatchewan, the commission appointed by the government is expected to secure the cost of the present elevators, and the amount of improvements that will be necessary in case they are taken over; and in fact, all other information relevant to the subject of a system of publicly owned elevators. These are a few of the problems which will confront the commission to be appointed by the Saskatchewan Government and by the Manitoba Government. When any fair minded man stops to think over the proposition, he will see that the appointment of the commission is the most important phase of the entire elevator question. The Commission will be the pivot upon which the whole system will revolve; if the pivot is not reliable, the system will never be a success.

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## NO DANGER OF HASTY LEGISLATION

The elevator committee, appointed by the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, meets with the Government of Manitoba this week and the principle upon which the system of government owned elevators in the province will be secured, will be taken up. That meeting between the committee and the cabinet ministers will be the most important one, from the farmer's standpoint, ever held in the province. Both parties at the conference will be in earnest and sincere in the determination to provide at once, and for all time, a grain storage system that will safeguard the Manitoba farmer.

There are a number of details to be worked out by the Government and the Grain Growers and it will require considerable time and labor. However, both parties have the best legal advice at their disposal, and should be able to have the matter in shape for presentation to the legislature, early next month. Care is needed in preparing the Bill, but when the Grain Growers feel that the moral responsibility will be laid upon their shoulders; and the members of the cabinet feel that they will be responsible to the legislature for the Bill, no person will doubt but that caution will be exercised. When the Bill is drawn up by the Grain Growers and is presented by the government to the legislature, it will there be discussed by all the members of the legislature and threshed out in committee. By the time this is done and the Bill has passed three readings and been signed by the Lieutenant-Governor, it would be strange if there should be weaknesses in it. The Bill will be the corner stone for the new agricultural industry of Manitoba. It will be a monument to the intelligence and enterprise of the farmers of the province. It will stand on the Statute Books of the province as a sign to farmers of all future generations that by united effort, and earnest integrity, and determined co-operation, they can remove the evils and obstacles which beset their pathway.

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## WILLIAM WHYTE ON SPECULATION

In a Montreal dispatch to the Winnipeg press under date of December 11, there is an interview with William Whyte, second vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway,

which reads as follows: "He states that many farmers are holding back their wheat in Manitoba, and blames the big grain speculating companies, who send out circulars for it. He also says that many of the western farmers are crazed with the idea of speculation, but thought they were making a mistake. In ten years, the man who marketed his wheat as soon as possible would be far richer than the man who held it each year on speculation."

This statement credited to Mr. Whyte is not at all clear and it would be unfair to discuss it without knowing just what Mr. Whyte said. It would be of interest to the farmers of the west to know just what companies Mr. Whyte was referring to and what his views are regarding the relation of holding wheat to speculation. Mr. Whyte is a man who knows conditions in western Canada probably as well as any man and it is unfortunate that his remarks should not have been given authoritatively.

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## MARCHING STRAIGHT AHEAD

The action of the Manitoba Grain Growers in endorsing the draft constitution for a Canadian Council of Agriculture as prepared by the Dominion Grange of Ontario is pleasing to the Ontario farmers. The official organ of the Grange says editorially:

The unanimous acceptance by the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association of the draft constitution of the proposed National Council of Agriculture, previously adopted by the Grange, marks one more step in advance in the movement looking to the formation of a Dominion-wide farmers' organization. The two central provinces of confederation are now in line and there is every reason to expect that Saskatchewan and Alberta will follow suit at the conventions representing those provinces to be held in January and February. The creation of provincial bodies in Quebec and the Maritime provinces, to be affiliated with the federal body, may reasonably be expected to come later. The day of weakness and division among farmers is passing; the day of union and strength is at hand.

Prospects certainly are growing brighter. The farmers of Canada are on the right road. When they are all alive to their own interests and are pulling together, shoulder to shoulder, they will accomplish results undreamed of a decade back. The foundation is being well laid. A properly organized and aggressive farmers' council representing every province, would be the most powerful engine that could be conceived in work for national progress. It will come in the near future.

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## UNITED FARMERS' CONVENTION

In two weeks, the delegates of the United Farmers of Alberta will meet for their Annual Convention in Edmonton. There are a great many subjects already outlined for discussion at that meeting. The farming interests of Alberta are varied and there are several phases upon which the Convention will have to take prompt action. The subject of Terminal Elevators on the Pacific Coast will undoubtedly provoke discussion in view of the negotiations recently in progress between the Alberta and British Columbia Governments. It does not appear that the two governments are liable to bonus a privately owned elevator system, and should they do so, they would not have the support of the organized farmers. If the Governments decide to aid in the erection of such elevators they should acquire complete and absolute control over those elevators for all time, and not leave them in private hands. The danger of private control has been seen and felt too often for the farmers to wish for any more of it. The Eastern Elevator System will no doubt have an effect upon the marketing of Alberta grain, and it will no doubt be the feeling of the Convention that governments should have full control of the terminal elevators, both East and West.

The Live Stock Marketing System, The Pork Packing Plant, and the Chilled Meat Industry in general, are subjects of vital