

# 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.

### OPEN SOUTHERN MARKET

Editor, Guide:—In your issue of Sept. 29 you deal with ocean freights and the agricultural commission. In this you have furnished some sound food for thought. According to the Hon. Mr. Meighen no relief can be looked for at an early date in ocean freight. We know by practical experience what to look for from a commission appointed by any party in power to report on the duties and work of the party in power and how long we will have to wait for same.

Now what we are entitled to is relief from oppression and I hear our Wise Men in the East say, "We are doing all that can be done." We, the farmers of the West, say, "No! You have not done so." We say, "Let down the bars to the South at once on all farm products and we know what the result would be." It would be a gain on wheat of not less than around 5 cents a bushel on contract grades, that is, 1, 2 and 3 Northern, and on lower grades it would reach 10 cents in many cases. Of course some of our Wise Men in the East will say such a statement cannot be justified by the facts. Well, here are just a few reasons to justify the above statements:—

1.—The weekly market report given in The Grain Growers' Guide, and we know this is correct by any amount of evidence, shows that for the last thirty days or more Minneapolis cash is around 5 cents above Winnipeg cash.

2.—We know that our contract grades contain easily 5 cents more of milling value than the Minneapolis contract grades contain. Our grading system explains this fact. Take Manitoba inspection, it demands that 1 Northern shall contain 60 per cent. of hard red fife wheat. Minneapolis inspection demands that 1 Northern shall contain not less than 60 per cent. hard wheat. Now, take a year like this, and our hard wheat has lost its color. The bran has become bleached, and under our system our inspectors are compelled to place such wheat into grades below that which it originally belonged to because it has become bleached; but in Minneapolis the inspectors find that bleached wheat is still hard wheat just the same and are able according to their inspection system to place it in the grades it originally belonged to. So we find that even if Winnipeg and Minneapolis cash were at a par today, our cousins to the South would get around 5 cents more than we would for the same wheat. But take it on grades below contract grades and the difference is just about double. Particularly is this so on smutty wheat, that is, it costs us around 7 cents; in Minneapolis it costs the farmer from 1½ cents to 2 cents, and we find it works similarly on rejected grades, rejected for foreign matter or rejected for excessive moisture.

It has been acknowledged for years by millers and others that a year like this is the harvest for the big millers. They will be able to pay 34 per cent. dividend on the dollar that is not a dollar. The man that grinds the wheat gets the farmer's loss and nobody else can. Of course some of our Wise Men would have us believe that all this does not cost the farmer anything, and judging by our action in the past we surely have believed this to be true. But the handwriting is on the wall that the time has come when the farmers must have justice, and justice we will not have in the question of the marketing of our grain until we are allowed to sell our grain wherever we can do best with it. What is the use of beating around the bush in this very important matter? Here we have last year our cousins to the South exporting to the same markets that we export to almost 300,000,000 bushels, and the greater part of the year the Minneapolis cash was around 5 cents above our cash. This year they will export probably 400,000,000 bushels to the same market and the difference is ranging now about the same. If we are to get immediate relief, the bars to the South must be let down. The offer of free exchange of wheat and wheat products still remains on the American

statute books. If the government will not accept this offer, then it is useless for them to claim they are doing all they can for us.

Now is the time for every Grain Growers' Association to pass resolutions and forward same to the first minister. Yes, and every business man. This is just as important to the business man as it is to the farmer, and even more so, for the farmer's success is the business man's success. And farmers who are not members of the Association should make themselves heard in no uncertain sound thru some other course that suits them best. But in any case let Western men stand solid for justice to the farmer in the selling of his grain. If this is not done it will force the Grain Growers as organized bodies and all others to send men to Parliament Hill who will fight for justice, for where justice does not prevail injustice does prevail and that we have in abundance.

In discussing the grain situation lately with one of our largest exporters on the American continent, he said that there was no sound argument that could be produced to show that Free Trade in wheat would not be a great benefit to the Western farmers. Some years, he said, when the Americans have, such as they have today, large amounts for export, the difference would not be so great; but while that is true today, they are not long on the first class quality of hard wheat, and our wheat would fetch several cents a bushel more on the Minneapolis market because the American millers are anxious for it at the present day. In a year when they are short in hard wheat the difference might reach 10 cents per bushel, and more particularly would this apply on our lower grades. If the farmers of the West are anxious to improve this condition it is all up to them to act. Without action we will get no result.

Yours truly,  
JOHN KENNEDY.

Winnipeg.

### WHAT PROHIBITION WOULD DO

Editor, Guide:—The following interesting paragraph appears in an English paper:

"The day has gone by when alcohol could be defended. No man who knows the truth about it now takes it for his health; science has proved beyond all doubt that alcohol has no good thing to give a man, a woman or a child. Even the moderate use of it dims the vision, impairs the judgment, reduces strength, hastens fatigue and weakens the body's power of resistance. We have allowed the evil thing to grow up in our midst not knowing half how evil a thing it was: we have allowed it to drug a great mass of our people so that all that is best in them is deadened and we cannot leave the fate of the nation in the hands of these people now. England must be ruled by those who love her most and not by those who love her least. And so the brave and noble and natural way is to treat this enemy of home as we treat the enemy in France and Belgium—we must drive it out."

It is said that prohibition would throw many people out of work, and it is true. It would throw out of work thousands of workhouse and prison and asylum officials and would make busier thousands of people who make bread and boots for little children, and shells for our brave troops. The truth is that trade would right itself in an amazingly short time without this poison for ever sapping its foundations. We must do, each one of us, what lies in our power. At least we can follow the King. Surely, then, we shall not bow down before it now when it has allied itself not with the allies of freedom, but with the enemies of the King. We will follow the King to the victory.

H. ARNOTT, M.B., M.C.P.S.

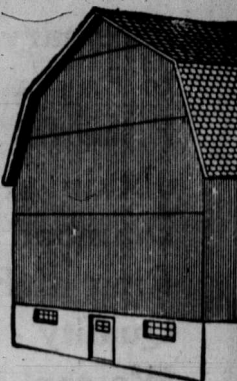
The people of Canada do not care what the government of Canada calls itself—Liberal, or Conservative, or Coalition.—Manitoba Free Press.

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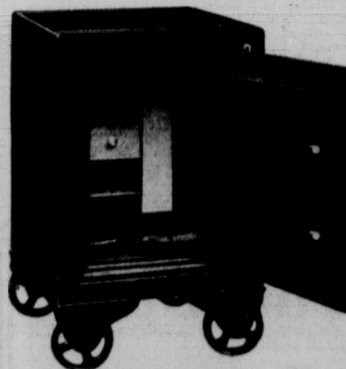
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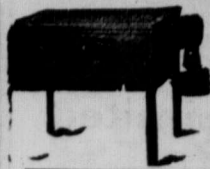
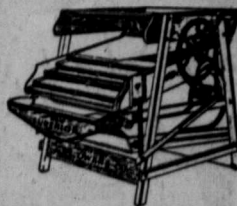
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