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THE LOGIC OF COMPARATIVE PRICES

These comparative prices are more eloquent than words illustrating the loss Western farmers sustained from being denied access to the markets of the United States for their grain. If, however, instead of making the comparison in terms of dollars and cents the comparison was made in terms of bushels, that is in the terms of the purchasing power of a bushel of grain, the loss would be even more striking. Had the reciprocity agreement been accepted many of the staple commodities that are used on the farm, such as cement, coal oil, lumber, farm implements, etc., which are cheaper in the United States than in Canada, could be secured at a lesser price. The Canadian farmer would also receive a higher price for his product, and farmers would necessarily have to exchange less grain to secure the required articles.

A farmer in Central Manitoba recently bought an American made gasoline traction engine, for which he paid \$2,700. A Dakota farmer a short distance south of him could secure the same engine for \$2,400, the difference being the duty. A neighbor of his bought at the same time a Canadian made engine of the same capacity and at the same price. The farmer who bought the American made machine put the extra \$300 into the Canadian revenue to help pay the cost of government. The farmer who bought the Canadian machine put the \$300 into the manufacturer's, and no one was benefited except the manufacturer.

As already stated in a previous article, the average difference in the market prices of wheat between Minneapolis and Fort William since the 1st of January:

No. 1 Nor.	10	cents per bushel
" 2 "	11	" " "
" 3 "	13 1/2	" " "
" 4 "	18	" " "

Taking the price as of the 1st of June, the Manitoba farmer would have to give 2,008 bushels of No. 1 Northern wheat in exchange for his engine, while the Dakota farmer could get his for 2,122 bushels, a difference of 486 bushels in favor of the Dakota farmer. Of No. 4 wheat the Manitoba farmer would have to give 3,176 bushels and the Dakota farmer 2,943 bushels, a difference of 933 bushels. Of No. 3 oats the Dakota farmer would have to give 4,752 bushels and the Manitoba farmer 6,750 bushels, a difference of 1,998 bushels. 2,085 bushels of barley would secure a machine in Dakota, while it took 4,150 bushels of No. 3 barley to secure the same machine in Manitoba. 2,085 bushels of barley would be equivalent to 4,150 bushels in Manitoba in the purchasing of a gasoline engine. That difference exists in almost everything the farmer buys for his home and his farm. The difference in the grades in the two markets would make up for the excess freight rates that the Canadian farmer would have to pay to get into the United States market. In wheat and oats the Manitoba grades are fully one grade higher than in Minneapolis, and what

FARMERS' FIGHTING FUND

The Manitoba Grain Growers' Endowment Fund received a big lift last week when Chas. Findlay, Secretary of the lively and energetic Shoal Lake Grain Growers' association forwarded \$50.00 contributed by the following members:

F. Simpson	\$7.50
W. McFaddyen	\$2.00
John Dandredge	\$5.00
George Smith	\$3.00
Charles Findlay	\$7.50
A. H. Stephenson	\$2.00
A. Glenn	\$2.00
S. Stephenson	\$2.00
John Slater	\$2.00
A. Cummings	\$2.00
J. M. Cameron	\$1.00
S. Hargraves	\$2.00
Charles Cuntz	\$5.00
Wm. Brydon	\$5.00
Thomas Badger	\$2.00
Total	\$50.00.

Manitoba

This Section of The Guide is conducted for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. C. Henders, President.

is a more marked difference in oats is the weight of the bushels. In the United States 32 pounds make a bushel of oats, while in Canada it takes 34 pounds.

While the United States are exporters of wheat they have not for some years exported any of the hard Northern spring wheat, and though the demand for hard spring wheat for blending with the softer varieties for milling purposes is increasing every year, the production is decreasing in the United States, the production of the hard spring wheat being confined to the State of Minnesota and Dakota and some parts of Montana.

The surplus of the grain grown in the Pacific Coast States goes for export, none being shipped across the Rockies on account of the heavy freight rates. The winter wheat districts of Texas, Nebraska and Kansas can reach the seaport at Galveston and other Gulf of Mexico ports, and can land their grain in European countries for lesser freight rates than they can in the Eastern States. With reciprocity in force the Western Canadian grain could be supplied to the mills tributary to Buffalo, by lake and rail at cheaper freight rates than the wheat grown in the South Western States, which has the long rail haul. That millers in the United States would pay more for hard spring wheat grown in Western Canada is clearly proved by the experience in Ontario, where mills pay as much as from 20 to 25 cents per bushel more for Manitoba hard wheat at their mills than for Ontario grown wheat, while at the same time Ontario grown wheat is being exported.

The following quantities of Canadian grown grain were entered for consumption in the Port of Pembina, North Dakota, between the 1st of October, 1911, and the 1st of May, 1912:

	Bushels	Duty	Total
Flax Seed	278,250	25 cts.	\$ 69,562.50
Barley	567,441	30 "	170,232.30
Wheat	164,578	25 "	41,094.50
Oats	79,578	15 "	11,936.70

\$292,826.00

This grain was nearly all hauled across the boundary by farmers living along the line and after paying nearly \$300,000 duty they made more money out of their grain than by selling it on the Canadian side. No one got the benefit of this large amount except the United States revenue.

Business men in southern Manitoba complain of shortage of money and that the farmers cannot meet their obligations. It can readily be seen that were the farmers relieved of the drain of customs taxation how much more money they could put into general business.

R. McKENZIE.

ORGANIZATION AT VIRDEN

The date set by the executive for their organization meeting in Virden was June 15. The handsome new court house was well filled. Josiah Nichol, vice-president, presided in the absence of President Bayne. The local speakers were: P. McDonald, G. Carefoot and J. W. Scallion. The latter suggested that not only should the reduction on cement be permanent, but should be entirely abolished. He reminded the meeting of the late ruling on rough lumber, that it made the difference between \$28.00 and \$35.00 per thousand. He urged that the original cost of the railways and expense of operating should be ascertained and rates should be regulated on that basis. Mr. Poole, reeve of Archie, was the next speaker, and is well known in his connection with the union of municipalities. He dwelt principally on organization. If this meant a pressure on any individual or industry he would withdraw from the organization, but he claimed it was necessary in self-defense. Along educational lines we were not to take lessons from the Winnipeg Telegram or the Free Press. W. H. English, of Harding, came next. He claimed that the farmer was a prey to every industry in Canada. At election times professional men were engaged to hoodwink them, aided by a hireling press. He maintained that the published prices of live stock in the newspapers was very misleading. R. McKenzie, secretary of the association was the last speaker.

Directors:

Peter Wright, Myrtle; R. M. Wilson, Marringhurst; D. D. McArthur, Lauder; Frank Simpson, Shoal Lake; W. H. Bewell, Rosser; R. J. Avison, Gilbert Plains.

would like Mr. Avison to attend your meetings, kindly let me know as soon as possible.

R. McKENZIE, Sec'y.

I am enclosing \$5.50, being dues for 11 new members at Boyne branch, which with two removals from another branch brings our membership up to 41 and we expect to reach the 50 mark before long. Could you send us 35 or 40 copies of the constitution soon, as we would like to give each member a copy.

LESLIE BODIE,

Sec'y Boyne Branch M.G.G.A. Homewood.

OAKVILLE BRANCH IS ACTIVE

An executive meeting of delegates from each of the nineteen branch associations, comprising the Portage la Prairie district association, was held in the Municipal Hall, Portage, on June 7. Several of the delegates had left their delayed seeding operations to attend and all showed a marked earnestness and determination to better their conditions. After several hours' hard work arrangements were completed for a strenuous campaign of education during the latter part of June, culminating in a big District Convention, to be held in Portage on the first day of the fair.

The feature of the campaign is that it is instituted and carried on by the farmers themselves. The speakers will be the actual men on the land and the autos and teams for conveyance will be furnished voluntarily by them. The farmers are determined to combat the impression that exists in certain quarters that the demand for reform does not come from the tillers of the soil themselves, but is the work of a few cranks.

COLIN H. BURNELL, Sec'y.

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