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GRAIN COMMISSION PRESENT THEIR REPORT

Believe in Grading System But Think More Grades
Might be Added—Inspection System is Imperfect
—Advise Against a Sample Market in the West—
Cars for Farmers

The grain commission which held sittings at points of shipment in the west have made their report, and it has been laid before parliament. The commissioners were, John Millar, chairman; W. L. McNair and G. E. Goldie.

At the outset the commissioners refer to the general grading system as the foundation of the grain trade in Canada.

In enquiring carefully into the manner of doing business in this country, United States and Great Britain and considering the methods under which the grain imported from other countries is handled and sold on the British market, we have come to the conclusion that the grading system is the most suitable to our requirements.

"We think also that it would be very unwise to alter the grades established, but owing to the ever increasing production of certain types of grain in new provinces, we suggest some new grades."

In reference to the weighing at country elevators, the commissioners have come to the conclusion that any system of public or government weights would be impracticable. They cannot suggest any plan that would be just, as between elevator and farmer other than rights now given in the grain act and protection under the law as to weights and measures. They recommend, however, that where the warehouse commissioner has investigated a complaint under section 37 of the grain act and has found the complaint to be true, he should be given power to direct the owner of such elevator to make proper redress to the person injured and to order the discharge of the offending operator. Dealing with dockage the commission cannot suggest any further protection to the farmer in marketing his grain at the country elevator than he has in section 36 of the Manitoba grain act, but they recommend certain amendments which will lessen the percentage of grain rejected for dirt.

The disposition of screenings compels the commission to say that they found great carelessness in handling foul seeds, and they drew attention to the tremendous increase of the quantity of foul seeds being grown in the western provinces and the possibility of their spreading to Ontario.

"From Fort William and Port Arthur we find that screenings are largely made up of domestic grain screenings but containing a large quantity of foul seeds, are shipped to distant points in Ontario.

"The question of the disposition of these seeds is, of course, in the hands of the provincial governments and we presume therefore, that we are not in a position to recommend any regulations controlling the disposition of same, but we think it a matter that should be dealt with vigorously. Any legislation with regard to the handling or disposition of screenings should be in the direction of discouraging the growth of weeds upon the farm."

The commission could not accept the suggestion that the elevator owners should return to grain shippers the value for noxious weeds screening taken from their grain, but they recommend compensating the shipper for domestic grain screenings.

In regard to "special binning" which involved complaints of substitution and mixture of grain with that which was special binned, they recommended an amendment to the act to provide for the keeping of samples of such special binned grain.

The commissioners cannot accept suggestions that the government should build and operate large interior elevators; (1) it would entail extra expense of handling and the payment of stop-over charges to railways; (2) extra loss to grain in handling and re-handling; (3) when the time comes that railways are in a position to supply sufficient cars to carry a reasonable amount of each season's crop these interior elevators would be useless; (4) this grain would not be available for market requirement and would still have to be forwarded to the lakes at the opening of navigation, and (5) because of difficulty of persuading shippers to send their grain to these interior elevators.

The commissioners got a number of complaints that grain shipping points were not supplied with agents and suggests that all such places having over 50,000 bushels of grain are shipped the railway should be compelled to appoint agents from Sept. 15 to Jan. 15.

The commissioners devoted some

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space to the difference between track and street prices and find that the spread between the two is largely dependent on car supply. In this connection they quote an interesting report made to the governor-in-council in December 1906, in which they urged the railway companies being forced to supply cars and to overcome non-distribution of cars at various country points, suggests an amendment to the Manitoba grain act, giving the warehouse commissioner power to direct railways to make a more equitable distribution where he finds it necessary.

One very prominent cause for complaint by western grain growers and shippers has been the manipulation of orders for cars and the commissioners recommend the amendments to the act, which would guarantee that every order is bona fide, and also for the amendment to the act to provide for summary conviction of people guilty of placing fictitious names on the order books.

With regard to the grain shipped to St. John and the complaint as to leakage in transit, the commissioners recommend that no grain shall leave the Manitoba inspection division without being officially weighed and cleaned.

Several technical objections are suggested to the Manitoba grain act with a view to preventing dealing in bills of lading and storage receipts and that the elevator company shall not dispose of any bill of lading without the consent of the owner of the grain.

An interesting suggestion is that the warehouse commissioner shall be given power to order cars to elevators which are in danger of collapse, or where the grain in them is heating.

There is some uncertainty among the farmers as to the meaning of the word "red" in grade of spring wheat. The commission suggested a definition should be put in the act making this equal to red life. It would be an advantage to give the grain board power to set a grade for oats. Authority should be given to inspectors to hold cars in the yards at Winnipeg long enough for sampling. It is suggested that a new grade be made to cover the white winter wheat and white oats grown in Alberta. It would be inadvisable to disregard bleaching in grading wheat.

It is recommended that the grain standard board be not abolished in favor of a permanent salaried board; the survey board at Winnipeg is said to be satisfactory.

The commission does not favor a sample market at Winnipeg, which has been asked for, as it would create confusion. The advantage of a sample market at Minneapolis is due to the fact that the mills are right on the spot.

It would be well to compel commission merchants to make full reports to consignees. In regard to complaints as to the operation of the Winnipeg grain or produce exchange the commission reports that grain is bought and sold in public trading rooms and prices made in open competition and are beyond doubt full value of grain as based on the world markets.

The commission finds that it is wrong to control the manner in which a member of the exchange may engage and pay his agents, and recommends that members be allowed to pay agents at pleasure providing that they register them with the secretary of the grain exchange.

With regard to the North West Grain Dealers' association the commission cannot find anything in the bylaws compelling members to abide by prices decided upon or penalty for breaking such prices.

It is found that these prices are not adhered to in all cases though where a buyer persists in breaking prices he is brought into line by combined action of the other buyers. The main protection against prices being unduly depressed is right to ship grain to the central market and sell it on the track basis. This protection will not be complete until the supply of cars is sufficient. The system of the North West Dealers association is no doubt a trade restriction, but whether or not it constitutes an undue restriction is a matter now before the court.

It was found that a pooling agreement existed between certain elevator companies.

The commission thinks this places a restraint upon the operations of the elevator companies which constitutes a menace to those who sell grain to those elevators and tends to unduly limit competition. A provision should be put in the grain act prohibiting such pooling.

There has been complaints that the warehouse commissioner's department has been slack in prosecuting offenders. The commission thinks the real trouble lies in the act, and suggests amendments to assist the warehouse commissioner in conducting his department. It praises the work of Mr. Castle, the commissioner.

Regarding the terminal elevator the commission states it is clear that there is not sufficient supervision of

the cleaning of grain at Fort William. Complaints of too great percentage of foreign matter have been received from Ontario, mills and elevators from Great Britain. There should be a more complete supervision of the cleaning operations of these elevators and cleaning machines should be installed in greater capacity. It was not found that there had been six complaints of grades being materially reduced through mixing, but some samples were produced which led the commission to believe that there had been either manipulation or that strenuous mistakes had been made somewhere.

It was found, from the out-turns of vessels carrying grain from Fort William and Port Arthur, there had been some astonishing individual shortages and over rates. It would indicate that weighing is very irregular, and it seems advisable that a special weighing department should be created. The inspection department should be put in full control of cleaning or binning of all grain passing through the terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur. Weighing should be taken out of the hands of the inspection department, and a new department created with a chief weighmaster to weigh all grain when necessary at public elevators in the Manitoba inspection division. If the commissioners' recommendations are carried out, they see no reason why Port Arthur and Fort William elevators should be taken over by the government.

The system of inspection is imperfect, because there is no control east of Fort William of grain going forward under government inspection certificates. It is suggested that all public elevators east of Fort William which handle grain grown in the Manitoba inspection division, should be placed under restrictions similar to those of elevators in the Manitoba division. It is recommended that a weighmaster's department be established in the east for grain being shipped onwards. A serious fault in the present system, leaving an opening for the fraudulent use of grain certificates lies in the difficulty of identifying inspection certificates with the parcel of grain itself.

It is recommended that the chief inspector be given power to provide for proper identification of his inspection certificates with parcels of grain and bills of lading covering them. With regard to provision of a rate of one-quarter of one per cent for insurance, the commission finds that this gives an exorbitant profit over the actual cost of insurance. A reduction is recommended to one-eighth of one per cent. There is no evidence of the old rate of half a cent a bushel for storage being too low, as the elevator companies voluntarily assume the insurance of grain, the commission recommends an amendment to the act providing for such insurance.

There is no objection to hulls, seed and other adulterating material being mixed with bran, shorts and other feeds, but the commission thinks that such a mixture should not be offered for sale without adulteration being indicated. The commission thinks that there is a possibility of trade being developed with the orient. There are no facilities for handling grain westward, and transportation cost is too heavy to give farmers profit in marketing. The commission thinks the government would be justified in assisting the development of this trade.

Mr. Goldie, one of the commissioners, makes the special report in reference to car supply, and with the object of safeguarding the interests of small farmers, suggests that better provision should be made for the farmers who sell on the street. He would accomplish this by limiting the supply of cars to elevators to 40 per cent. of the total number available, leaving the remainder sixty per cent. for the farmer who sells on the street.

The commissioners submit the text of proposed amendments to the Manitoba grain act, and to the grain inspection act as well as a provision for weighing. These are largely technical and of no general public interest.

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His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface received on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany, from His Excellency Mgr. D. Sbarretti, papal delegate to Ottawa, two briefs.

The first contains a communication by which the vicariate of Saskatchewan is created a diocese (which in civil terms is equal to a territory being created a province). The name of the new diocese will be the Diocese of Prince Albert, having the same limits as the former vicariate. These include the northern half of the province, the southern boundary being the northern limit of the former territory of Assiniboia.

The second brief contains the appointment of His Lordship Albert Pascal, O.M.I., as first Bishop of Prince Albert. Ad multos et felices simos annos.

Indigestion

Stomach trouble is but a symptom of, and not itself a true disease. We think of dyspepsia, heartburn, and indigestion as real diseases, yet they are symptoms only of a certain specific nerve sickness—nothing else.

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Murdered for Money

Whittemouth, Man., Jan. 10.—That Alex. Swartz, a farmer living south of here, was done to death last night while returning home from Winnipeg by an unknown man, for the sake of the few dollars he had on him, is the general opinion here. He was last seen last night, in company with an unknown man, after No. 3 arrived from Winnipeg. They were both seen going towards the Swartz homestead. About noon today the body of the murdered man was found scantily hidden ten feet in the brush by the roadside. His pockets turned inside out were rifled. A new jacket he wore was loosened and his hat had been flung far into the scrub. Considerable blood was clotted at the back of the head, while an open wound between the mouth and nose pointed to a bullet plunging its way through the skull from behind. In the absence of the proper authorities, no examination was held. Swartz sold three cars of wood yesterday to a Mr. Kaetz of Higgins avenue. He had about \$150 on him when he got back here, and the suspicion is strong that the unknown man, shot him three-quarters of a mile south of here, rifled his pockets, hastened back and caught 97 going west. Swartz was a good natured man, with no enemies here. He leaves a wife and three children. The attorney general's department has been notified, and an investigation is being made.

When the stomach, heart or kidney nerves get weak, then these organs always fall. Don't drug the stomach nor stimulate the heart or kidneys. That is simply a makeshift. Get a prescription known to druggists everywhere as Dr. Shoop's Restorative. The Restorative is prepared expressly for these weak inside nerves. Strengthen these nerves, build them up with Dr. Shoop's Restorative—tablets or liquid—and see how quickly by help will come. Free sample test sent on request. Dr. Shoop, Regina, Wis. Your health is surely worth this sample test. The Regina Pharmacy Stores.

First Luncheon of Canadian Club

In response to notices sent out by H. C. Lawson, secretary of the board of trade, a large number of the business men of the city gathered at the King's Hotel on Thursday evening where the first luncheon of the Canadian Club was held. Justice Newlands presided, and Principal Hutton of University college occupied the seat of honor. The speech of the evening was given by that gentleman. He dealt with the peoples of Canada and showed in them the characteristics which Plato thought went to make up the ideal state. His argument was that of a Canadian competitor for the ideal citizen as against Plato's watchdog.

He showed how the different peoples from different places bringing their characteristics would blend into a people having many aggressive instincts for law, loyalty, enterprise, practicability, as well as the gentle virtues required to make the ideal state, community, family and individual.

Short addresses were also delivered by Messrs. Morang, of Toronto, Ford and Trant.

A vote of thanks moved by Hon. F. W. G. Haultain, seconded by Mayor Smith, was tendered to Principal Hutton.

During the evening Mr. A. F. Angus sang, as did also the Knox church quartette. Mr. Fisher presiding at the piano.

Before sitting down to lunch grace was said in Latin, by Rev. Mr. Sergeant of Qu'Appelle.

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