

the government it would prove much more satisfactory than has been the case in the States, under monopolistic control. The working out of the chilled meat industry in any other way than under the federal government would hardly be satisfactory, and when backed by federal finances there will be much better opportunity for investigating and opening up the market to the east and to the west. The Department of Trade and Commerce employs trade commissioners throughout the world investigating markets for Canadian goods. If the government decides to take hold of and encourage this branch of the agricultural industry in Canada, there should be no difficulty in finding markets abroad for all the produce that Canada has to export. There is a question as to the advisability of continuing the live stock export from Western Canada. Many men, conversant with conditions, maintain that it is not desirable that any cattle should be shipped from Western Canada to England on the hoof. Owing to the embargo on Canadian cattle, and also to the stringency with which quarantines are enforced, even though it may be without provocation, there is always a much greater risk in exporting live stock than in the chilled meat trade. This matter, of course, will require a great deal of attention, and will have to be studied from all its various phases before any decision can be arrived at. The tastes and desires of the Englishman must be taken into consideration as well as the conditions of the English market. What we want is that which is best for the Canadian producer, and will place the live stock industry upon a sure and a paying basis. The Pork Packing Plant scheme which has been arranged between the government of Alberta and the United Farmers of Alberta will, undoubtedly, one day, become a part of a great system under the Dominion government. The fact that this will be the future, need not deter the provincial government from going ahead. It will cause no difficulty to amalgamate the pork packing plant which the government will establish, with the great system which the Dominion government will eventually organize.

CO-OPERATING WITH GOVERNMENT

The Manitoba Grain Growers' Elevator Committee was called into consultation with the members of the government last week to further consider the proposition of the establishment of a publicly-owned system of elevators. The government is working hand in hand with the Grain Growers and is now preparing a bill for submission to the legislature. The bill will first be submitted to the Grain Growers' committee for their approval. The main point in the creation of the system is that of securing proper and impartial control. The government and the grain growers are equally desirous of having this matter placed upon a right basis at the outset, and the co-operation of the two will undoubtedly make the working of the new elevator system as near perfect as possible. The government realizes the advisability of having the commission properly constituted and its authority adequately secured. The legislature will meet in the course of a few weeks and the joint findings of the government and the Grain Growers will be crystallized into law at that time. Co-operation between government and farmers is the surest method for safe-guarding the agricultural industries of the country. In the working out of this new system, no one feature would augur so well for its success as would the fact that the control of the commission should be such that the farmers of the province would have absolute confidence in its action. The farmers are working towards this end, and with the co-operation of the government it will be secured beyond a doubt.

JUST THE SAME IN CANADA

In giving evidence before the committee of Congress for investigating food-stuff prices, Secretary Wilson, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, says that American products are sold more cheaply abroad than in the United States. He lays the blame for this upon the trusts, which he also declares is the cause of the present high cost of living. As a remedy for conditions he suggests more farmers, and more intelligent farming. We have the same conditions in Canada that are described by Secretary Wilson in his own country. The flour made from Manitoba wheat sells cheaper in England than in Manitoba. The same applies to Canadian-made agricultural implements and the same to a certain extent to Canadian beef. Secretary Wilson does not seem to attach any importance to the American tariff as a factor for creating the present objectionable conditions. There should be free trade in farming implements. We believe the Canadian farmers would secure considerable benefit thereby. If the Dominion government took hold of the Chilled Meat Industry in the west and placed it upon a proper foundation, we believe that the Canadian citizens would not pay more for second-rate beef-steak than the Englishman does for the choicest products of the Canadian ranges. If marketing conditions in wheat were right and the milling companies compelled to face keen competition, the prevailing situation would soon change. What are we going to do about it? The American government seems determined to investigate the operation of the National Packing Co., which is known as the Beef Trust. If what is anticipated occurs, there should be a change and greatly for the better, in the price of beef. The Beef Trust says there are no cattle on the ranges, while the government say there are more than there have been for many years. If the American government means business in this great work it has undertaken, then we say, more power to its arm.

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE

At last the great scheme of amalgamating the various farmers' organizations of Canada into one, for the purpose of dealing with questions of federal importance, has been practically completed. The draft constitution which was prepared by the Dominion Grange and endorsed at the Brandon convention was also unanimously passed at the Edmonton convention. Three great provincial organizations have thus accepted it, which was all that was necessary to bring the Dominion organization into existence. There is no doubt but that the Saskatchewan Grain Growers will endorse the same, when at the Prince Albert convention. History is making rapidly in these days.

NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT

Sir Wilfrid Laurier says that he is in favor of the construction of the Georgian Bay Canal and the deepening of the Welland Canal, and the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway. He points out that very shortly there will be 600,000,000 bushels of wheat for export from Canada, which will tax every possible outlet. Sir Wilfrid said nothing about the western route, but it also must be developed. Canada is rapidly forging to the place of the first wheat exporting country in the world. The transportation of this wheat will require a vast expenditure and any government that is wise will certainly keep looking ahead to the future.

Through an error in THE GUIDE of December 20th, H. W. Johnston was named as the seconder of the resolution equalizing railway fares at the Brandon convention. The seconder was O. Wright, as stated in the minutes published in the issue of December 22nd.

It is not only humorous, but it is also significant to note that now-a-days it is becoming fashionable to be "born on a farm." At the Edmonton convention this was particularly noticeable. Among all the public men who came to address the convention every one of them took care to explain in his preliminary remarks that the farmer was "the backbone of the country," and that the speaker himself was in perfect sympathy with the farmer because he likewise was "born on the farm." Before the end of the convention this grew to be a huge joke, and a leading educationalist, not understanding the joke, was somewhat surprised when the statement that he was "born on a farm" provoked a roar of laughter at his expense. However, it is encouraging to the farmers to know that the farm isn't so bad after all.

Direct legislation has been endorsed by another provincial farmers' organization and was enthusiastically received at the Edmonton convention. It seems very probable that this system will be upon the statute books of the Dominion of Canada at no very distant future. It is a scheme towards which no government can legitimately take any objection. Its aim is entirely for good, and its weak features are not apparent.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is the only railway company owning and operating terminal elevators at the lake front. The company has asked us to mention in this connection with the editorial statement in our issue of January 12th to publish this information. This fact, of course, makes it clear that there could be no inducement for the operators under such circumstances to take part in grain manipulations.

The tremendous death list following the C.P.R. train wreck at Spanish River last week is another dark blot in Canada's history. More than two score human beings were hurled to sudden death. Whose was the blame? Investigations may tell. If the reputation for safety of passengers on the C.P.R. east is of any importance to that company, then there is hope for improvement.

Free trade in farming implements is beginning to appeal to the farmers of Western Canada. The United Farmers of Alberta feel that they would be better off and that the country would be just as prosperous, if they were able to buy their farm implements at a lower rate. This is a subject for the consideration of the Canadian Council of Agriculture at its first session.

The government of Canada that would suggest holding general elections on the instalment plan, as is the case in England, would not last very long. By holding the election in one day the agony is shortened and the triumph more pronounced. There are also other arguments in favor of the one day election.

The announcement is made that the Western Canada Flour Mills Company will add to the elevator capacity of their St. Boniface and Goderich, Ont., mills by over 1,000,000 bushels. It looks as though the milling business was not all loss.

These farmers' conventions are landmarks in the progress of the west. The "powers that be" are certainly sitting up and taking notice. They realize that the present scheme of organization is not one outlined just for a day.

The only way in which a farmer can be assured of success is to know all about the subject before him and then persistently work for the results needed.