

MARKETING CANADA'S GRAIN

I.

Need of Drying Plants—Part of Past Year's Crop Graded Tough and Damp

Owing to climatic conditions a considerable proportion of the wheat crop of 1911-12 was graded as tough, damp and wet, according to the recently-issued report of the board of grain commissioners for that period. Much of the tough grain was marketed without being dried, and during the winter of 1911-12 the drying capacity of Port Arthur and Fort William was fairly equal to the demand. When the warm weather came, the damp and wet grain began to go out of condition. The board of grain commissioners watched closely to see whether the drying plants at Fort William and Port Arthur were able to dry all the grain that needed to be dried. It was not until the end of the first week of July that the quantity to be dried passed the drying capacity of the terminals. Owing to the multiplicity of grades, and owing also to the fact that in drying individual car lots were kept separate, the actual drying capacity of the terminals amounted to about 35,000 bushels per day, and on July 11th it was estimated that in the terminal elevators, and in cars in the yards, there was something over a million bushels of tough, damp and wet grain.

It was evident that much of this grain would become a total loss unless some way could be found to have it dried. Various alternative means of dealing with it were considered by the board. One was to have cars of grain diverted from the West to Duluth. Another was to have cargoes of grain shipped from Fort William to Duluth. Another was to order the terminal elevators to take in the grain and keep elevating it to prevent its becoming worse, until it should be dried. Another was to import a drying plant, if this were possible.

Drying Plant Imported.

Of these alternatives the last one was considered to be the best, if feasible, and immediately negotiations were opened with the Armour Grain Company, Chicago, which company had recently built a floating dryer. A representative of the company had visited Winnipeg and Fort William in the month of February with the object of ascertaining whether the company could get business for the floating dryer in Canada. At that time, however, the Canadian drying plants were equal to the demand. The company sent a representative to Fort William to meet the board of grain commissioners on July 11th. He stated that the dryer had a capacity of about 35,000 bushels per day, and that it could come from Buffalo as quickly as a freight steamer, and could elevate grain either into cars or elevators. He laid down three conditions to which the board of grain commissioners must agree before the company would send the dryer to Fort William:—

First, that if, after the boat came to Fort William, there took place any fire at an American elevator or grain port, or if there was any salvage work to be done the dryer would immediately leave Fort William. Second, that the company would not pay duty. Third, that the company would not accept the rates at which the Canadian plants dried grain; it must be permitted to charge higher rates. The board allowed the company to charge higher rates, but the filed rates for the Canadian drying plants were not changed. If, therefore, owners of grain needing to be dried were willing to pay the higher rates to the Armour Grain Company they could do so, whereas, if they preferred waiting their turn at the local dryers they could do so at the Canadian rates. This arrangement was submitted to the trade at Winnipeg and unanimously approved. It was also published widely in the public press so that producers should be informed of the conditions.

All Grain was Saved.

The company intimated that their rates would run from three to seven cents per bushel, according to the condition of the grain. The board also decided to recommend the government to remit the duty upon the floating dryer. The government agreed on condition that the rates charged were satisfactory to the commissioners, and also on condition that the dryer should be exported at a date mentioned. The dryer began work on July 19th and continued operating until September 16th.

The dryer operated forty-four days, charged on the average 4.85 cents per bushel, and earned \$107,348.60. On the other hand, most of the grain was heating, or hot, and would have been utterly lost had not this foreign plant been available. It was all saved—all reports to the contrary notwithstanding.

It is to be regretted that Canada was so ill-prepared to meet an emergency, which, though hitherto rare, yet being climatic might occur at any time. Drying plants were not

attractive to private capital at the rates current in Canada, and so the country lost heavily. This is not the only illustration which the last six months have afforded of the general inadequacy of existing facilities for handling western grain.

The government elevator will be equipped with a large drier, but as it cannot be in operation until September, 1913, the commissioners considered it necessary to endeavor to increase immediately the drying capacity of the terminals.

The Empire Elevator Company offered to install a drier immediately in the Empire Elevator, and if necessary another in the Thunder Bay Elevator on condition that a four (4) cent rate was sanctioned for treating damp and wet grain. This was considered expedient, and the drier has been installed in the Empire Elevator.

PERSONAL NOTES

Mr. G. A. Wintemute, treasurer of Essex county, Ont., died at his home at Sandwich on Wednesday.

Mr. A. M. Nanton, Winnipeg, has been elected a director of Ogilvie Flour Mills Company to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Sir Edward Clouston, Bart.

Messrs. Edwards, Morgan & Company, of Toronto, have opened an office in Winnipeg at 702 Electric Railway Building. Mr. T. Cresswell Parkin, F.C.A. (Eng., has been appointed local manager).

Messrs. J. N. Norcross, Toronto, and J. P. Steedman, Hamilton, have been elected as directors of the Richelieu organization, E. Bristol, M.P., and Mr. Grant Morden retiring in their favor.

Mr. Emile Lacas has opened an office as financial broker at 322 Transportation Building, Montreal, the partnership of Messrs. du Pont and Lacas, financial brokers, of Ottawa, Ont., having terminated.

Mr. John A. Reid, late deputy provincial treasurer of Saskatchewan, and now financial commissioner for Regina, has been appointed agent for Alberta in connection with the provincial offices recently opened in London.

Messrs. Macintosh & Hyde, chartered accountants, of Montreal and Winnipeg, have opened branch offices at No. 85 Bay Street, Toronto. These offices will be under the management of Mr. Charles R. Trobridge, A.C.A.

Mr. M. J. Patton, assistant secretary of the commission of conservation and editor of "Conservation," is severing his connection with that organization to become treasurer of the Publishers' Association of Canada, Limited, of Toronto. He will also become a director of the company.

Mr. A. Norman Young, C.A., of Messrs. Mitchell & Young, chartered accountants, 210 Union Street, Aberdeen, has received an important appointment with Messrs. Marwick, Mitchell, Peat & Company, chartered accountants, New York. Mr. Young, after a short stay in New York, is to proceed to Montreal to take charge of one of the company's branches there.

CANADIAN ANNUAL REVIEW OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The latest volume, the twelfth, of the Canadian Annual Review of Public Affairs contains a record of the progress made throughout the Dominion during 1912. Its various sections deal with matters of importance in imperial, federal, provincial and municipal spheres in an authoritative manner, indeed every phase of Canadian history is covered in the usual thorough style of this well-known annual. Canadian Annual Review of Public Affairs, J. Castell Hopkins, F.S.S. Annual Review Publishing Company, Toronto.

A resolution advocating the formation of a British Columbia Manufacturer's Association with headquarters at Vancouver, was carried at a recent meeting of interested manufacturers. An organization committee, composed of Messrs. Morrison, McMaster, Cope Tattersall, Morrow, Thurston and Baynes, was appointed.

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The index to Volume 50 of *The Monetary Times*, January to June, 1913, is ready and copies may be had on application to the head office, 62 Church Street, Toronto.