

## The Mail Bag

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The seed is either bought or specially grown, but we will let this figure only in yield and not in increased price for pure seed grain.

Capital Acct.	
160 acres at \$30	\$4,800
Mares	1,500
Machinery	1,000

50 acres wheat, 45 bu. to the acre,	
2,250 at 85c.	\$1,912.50
15 acres of barley, 60 bu. to the	
acre, 900 at 50c.	450.00
10 acres oats, 100 bu. to the acre,	
1,000 at 25c.	250.00

Fixed Charges	
Int. 6%	\$438
Depreciation mach. 10%	100
Fire insurance	40
Taxes	20

Varying Charges	
Twine	\$ 70
Stooking	60
Extra price seed	40
Stacking, threshing	250

This method insures against extra drought and wet seasons as well.

But, Mr. Editor, let us consider further into these accounts and especially this latter one, which is the most misleading, for the price of grain is, after all, the pivotal matter in grain growing. The world's market fixes the price of the grain, which is subject to fluctuations, by reason of exorbitant charges of freight and marketing, etc.; but, after all, there is one factor which must equal a minimum price and that is the cost of production. Just as a living wage must, on the average, be paid to the worker, so also the grain grower must get a subsistence price for his wheat, or starve. But remember he will get no more. When the average man so farms his land, that 100 acres brings him a net return of \$686 and the amount represents the subsistence price; then the exceptional man may still beat the market in cost of production and make at the same price \$1,002.50 off 75 acres, but just as sure as he helps to raise the standard of farming to his pitch, his returns will dwindle to a subsistence wage, unless he can again beat his previous skill.

The only remedy can be found in the growth of unionism, so that the farmers in association absolutely control the wheat market and then by the careful study of the measure of values revolutionize the means of exchange of this system originated by the evil one and maintained by the usurers and speculators, till we arrive at a stage of co-operation which will assure to each worker the full social exchange value of the product of his (or her) labor.

DANIEL F. BOISSEvain.  
Munson, Alta.

## HOW TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS

Editor, Guide:—In your editorial of June the 4th edition appeared comment on a letter received by you from a business man, re "conditions which he believes should be established in this country in order to make it truly prosperous." Your correspondent also asks for the opinions of your readers as the best means to this desirable end. As one of your readers, and with your permission, I beg to submit my quota—as I see it.

Your correspondent's first query is, "a plan or 'system' whereby a farmer with moderate means can make a comfortable living from a quarter section of land." To secure such a desirable end it seems to me necessary to almost revolutionize existing conditions in this country. We should need state owned railways, managed by non-political, civil reformed officials, who would run these state-owned railways efficiently for the people at large. This I think would mean reduction of rates by about two-thirds of existing charges. The effect of this reduction would act in two ways. First, it would reduce the cost of living to all consumers and producers alike; and secondly, it would ensure more profit to the actual producer without increasing the cost to the consumer. The farmer particularly would greatly benefit by his being both a consumer and producer.

We should also need to completely

alter the source of revenue. In place of laying a heavy fine on consumers and producers for wanting the necessities of life and tools wherewith to earn their living, and particularly penalizing the family man, in direct ratio to the service rendered the country by the largeness of family, inasmuch as the more mouths he has to feed and bodies to provide for, the more taxes he has also to pay, if not to the country's treasury, yet to the protected interests by the criminal procedure of a protective tariff. We should have all revenue raised by land tax, and when I say land tax I do not mean taxes only on agricultural land and city or town lots, as I understand is done in Alberta and British Columbia for municipal purposes, but mines, or rather mineral lands, whether under development or not, forest, water power and any other natural resources and franchise value of public served corporations, leaving the trade untrammelled by restrictive duty. Setting aside the economic saving that such a system of taxation would mean to the country in its administration of collecting and its equity, the saving it would assure in curtailing expenses of living, and of tools and machinery, would go far towards helping the farmers to make a competent living.

I would also include a banking system, either governmental or municipal, under a central supervision, where money could be borrowed by farmers at a reasonable rate of interest. Loans extending over

periods of twenty and thirty years available for farm developing purposes only at not more than four per cent. interest, and short loans at say six per cent., and to the personnel of the administration of banks as well as all other public services, but two rules should apply—efficiency, and no politician need apply. Further, I would have a law prohibiting gambling in food produce by board of trade or stock exchange, and last, but not least, a thorough co-operative system, through farmers' co-operative exchange for marketing of all farm produce. But the co-operation need not be limited at that, but extend further, whereby the farmer could be his own miller, cold storage man, timber merchant and what not.

If we had all this, points two and three of your correspondent would I think follow as a consequence. As for point four, re agitation, I think this rather desirable at present to rouse dormant public interest to certify the injustices that the public suffer through its own apathy and consequent misrepresentation by their legislative members. Only through agitation has reform ever been accomplished. In fact, it is the only weapon the public have, betrayed as it is by both politician and most of the press. No doubt years hence, when the people have come into their rightful heritage, agitation will die its natural death. God speed the day!

N. H. NATHORST.  
Summerview, Alta.

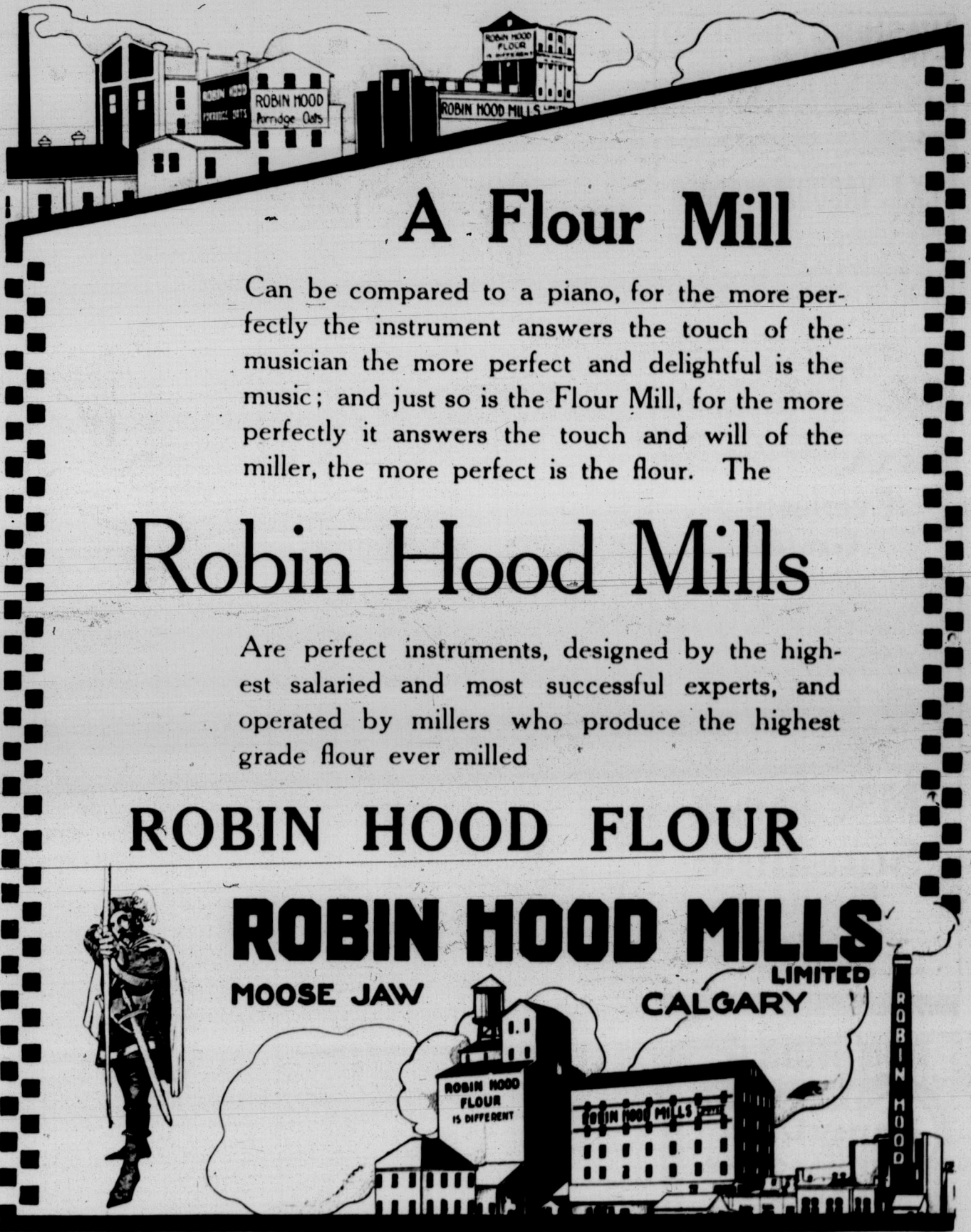
## FREIGHT CHARGES ON APPLES

Editor, Guide:—I have followed the editorials in your paper closely and it makes me disheartened to think and see the hardships and privations we have to go through with all the time to help fill the coffers of the privileged few. Enclosed is a card showing just one piece of their rotten work. A neighbor, the addresser of this card, and myself sent back to Ontario for two barrels of apples at \$1.00 per barrel. A barrel costs 40 cents. Railroad company said two barrels of apples weighed 380 lbs., and charged \$7.37 freight. That is where they beat us. Result—we did not send East for apples again, but bought of the merchants and paid just what they wanted us to do. Apples, 2d Northern Spys, cost \$6.50 to \$7.00 per barrel, and last year I priced them in town and they asked \$7.50 to \$8.50. Result—we did without apples and hundreds of barrels went to waste in Ontario, and we were just one family. Think of the hundreds of families that did the same. And then we help to give Mackenzie and Mann the handsome gift of \$15,000,000.

In closing will say I do hope your valued paper, The Grain Growers' Guide, will open the people's eyes so that they will use their united force to better the conditions of the farmer and his family.

Ethelwyn, Alta. M. E. JONES.

Men are made more unhappy by the ills they fear than by those they suffer.



## A Flour Mill

Can be compared to a piano, for the more perfectly the instrument answers the touch of the musician the more perfect and delightful is the music; and just so is the Flour Mill, for the more perfectly it answers the touch and will of the miller, the more perfect is the flour. The

# Robin Hood Mills

Are perfect instruments, designed by the highest salaried and most successful experts, and operated by millers who produce the highest grade flour ever milled

## ROBIN HOOD FLOUR

# ROBIN HOOD MILLS LIMITED

MOOSE JAW CALGARY