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Guide as a farmers' paper. Our readers may judge that for themselves as they have been judging it for years past.

In regard to the profits of the farmers' companies, it is quite true that all dividends are paid to shareholders and none to patrons who are not shareholders. The Guide has always supported the principle of a co-operative distribution of profits and we think that it would be the very best basis upon which the profits of these farmers' companies could be distributed. In expressing this opinion we are also expressing the opinion of the men who have been entrusted with the conduct and management of these companies. It has been a frequent subject of discussion as to how the co-operative dividend basis could be established. The profits of the farmers' companies have been large and they have become financially strong and are rendering undoubtedly very valuable service to the farmers of this country, service that they never received until the farmers' companies were organized. The very best minds in the farmers' companies have given attention to this matter of co-operative dividends to patrons and the leading co-operative authorities in Great Britain have been consulted as well as authorities in the United States, but as yet no basis has been arrived at upon which a co-operative dividend can be distributed in any degree of equity. The grain business is handled in so many different ways that it is almost impossible to decide the basis on which to distribute a patronage dividend. One farmer may store his grain in the elevator and sell it to another company or he may sell outright to the company either thru the elevator or on track. Again, he may sell on commission or he may store in the terminal and sell either to the farmers' company or to another company. It is difficult to decide the basis on which a patronage dividend should be paid on a car sold on track, for instance, as against a car sold on commission. The very best brains in the farmers' organizations have not yet been able to solve this problem and no person has yet come forward with an acceptable solution. If Mr. Mason has a solution he will be conferring a benefit upon the companies that he has attacked so vigorously.

We will not discuss Mr. Mason's personal attitude in the letter which he writes. He has explained himself so thoroughly that we could add nothing to it.—Editor.

POISONING COYOTES

Editor, Guide:—I have just been reading the article on "Poisoning Coyotes" in the December 20 issue of The Guide, and I must reply. It warms my blood to think of it. I judge it is written by either a drug company who wants to dispose of their stock of strychnine or by a raw fur dealer. There has been in the past a law to prohibit the poisoning of fur-bearing animals in Saskatchewan, and I believe this same law should be enforced to the extreme limit now. Four years ago this winter I had two hounds poisoned. One of them was a pure-bred Scotch deer hound, for which I paid \$50. The two I valued at \$75. It happened six miles south of Parkby, Sask. A fellow who did not set traps or shoot coyotes had scattered some pieces of pork loaded with strychnine about the carcass of a dead horse. I saw the dogs when they took the fatal morsel. I got the man all right, but all I could get out of him was a \$10 bill and a small coyote skin which had been dried by the fire. Now, Mr. Editor, don't you know that every fool in the country who sees a coyote will be throwing out poison? Many are prejudiced against hounds and they will willfully poison them if they think the law is on their side. I think it should be a penitentiary offence to put out poison for coyotes or any other animal, and the chap who does it should be impressed with a good horse whip before being sent to the pen. I say under no circumstances should poison be used. If a man hasn't life enough to chase, trap or shoot his furs, let him stay in with the women folks—if they will tolerate him. INTERESTED.

Note.—The following warning appeared in the article on "Poisoning Coyotes," to which the above letter refers: "One of the chief difficulties in the use of poison bait is the danger to domestic animals, and the greatest care should be exercised in its use on this account."—Editor.

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