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The Western Farmer's Problems

Thinks of the Wheat Pool—Threshing Costs are High—Workers Quit After Ten Hours.

Written for The Financial Post by F. W. CRANDALL.

CALGARY.—From the Herald one would be led to assume the pool idea was a winning one. From any standpoint, and from discussion with many of the best farmers in Alberta, it never will function—or rather if it does it will be only to fail. The fact is, there is too much left out in the booming reports. This does not fool very many, as this is an age when men think and do not gobble up all that appears in the press, especially when there seems to be an ulterior motive in some of the papers to capitalize politically on this move. I would like to see a pool. I am a believer in co-operation in marketing any product. But I am not fooled by the belief that, with the world as a producer, we of two or three provinces can dominate the world's markets. The fact is, many more are withdrawing than you would be led to believe from Secretary Jackson's reports.

The fact that John I. McFarland will have nothing to do with this pool goes a long way with those who know this gentleman. He is one of the most level-headed men in all the west. The pool committee tried to use his name to get signers, and when he found he was being exploited for the benefit of the drive committee, he made a plain statement, and he stands on that to-day. As far as I can now understand, all this talk about the committee being able to finance is bunk. True, if they proceed in a proper way, there will be no trouble as to getting advances in the usual way on grain, but there is a sticker. There seems to be little in the statements now being made, as it all depends on proper arrangements being made as to manager, and the usual safeguards, all of which cannot be made till there is quite a different situation than at present exists.

The season for shipping and selling is on now, and will be at its best in a few weeks, and still there is not an elevator, nor any other place where farmers may deliver wheat to the pool, nor are there any arrangements where farmers may deliver to the pool and get their advances. This is making many of them sour, and I look for the thing to fall flat. Mind you, I am only voicing what I have learned from men who were a few days ago for the pool, and who to-day are not by any means with it.

Now as to yields. This is about as mixed a matter as I ever had to do with. In some instances the yields are abnormal, while crops nearby, which should ordinarily be just as good, are very disappointing. It is the big yields that are reported in the press. The writers never pay any attention to the averages. I want to say, when the season is over, you will find that on the whole, there are many failures and the totals will not be up to 1915 by any means. I have threshed quite an amount so far, and I thought I had a very good idea as to what I should get from some of the tracts I have already finished. I was doomed to disappointment. The straw is so heavy, it looks as though we should get much larger yields than is being reported by the machines. I took this matter up with a number of others, as I wanted to find if I was the only one who met this condition, and so far I have not had the same experience, where much threshing has been done. The grades of wheat are good—most No. 1, as we have not had any frost, or weather to affect it in a bad way. Pats will be very heavy in most instances as they were not too far along when the rains came in June.

In some localities there is a deadlock between the growers and the threshers. The latter have found the straw so heavy that it takes so much longer to thresh than it ordinarily should, and they, with the high costs, are finding they cannot break even and thresh at the rates agreed on. Wheat is being threshed at 13 cents, every thing furnished by the thresher, and oats at 8 cents, same conditions. Many are now holding for 15 cents as the least they can thresh for, and I

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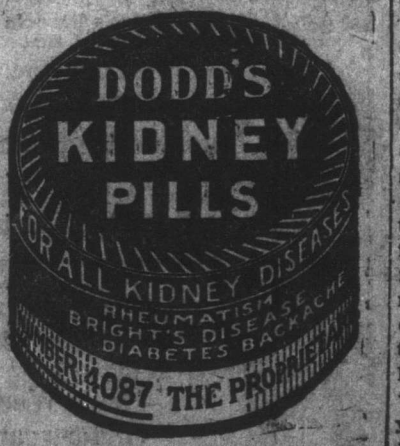
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believe it will come to this in many cases.

Help is high and inefficient, fuel high, and repairs out of the question. Everything that enters into the matter of handling a large threshing outfit is such that it is impossible to go on unless at a fair price. This is hard to arrange, as wheat and oats are so low, and the costs have been so great for the farmer to produce them that he feels that he cannot meet any higher prices for threshing.

Should the season remain dry, and threshing continue regularly, things may remain about as they are now, with some heavy crops taking a higher rate. I do not do any threshing but our own, and as we have a large machine, I know exactly what it costs to operate with the conditions as favorable, or much more so than when one is moving from place to place with all the incident charges added. Generally farmers are hauling direct to the station or elevators, and selling as fast as delivered.

I have never seen a more unsatisfactory labor situation than now exists. Men simply do not want to work, but they want the pay all the same. I have never seen a year when threshing was done on a ten-hour basis till now, and this adds greatly to the costs. Men will simply not work longer than ten hours, and when one takes into consideration the shortness of the season, and the great cost of a large threshing outfit, and the depreciation from year to year, is it any wonder that so many outfits go broke? I only wonder that more of them do not. As soon as all the stocking is done in all parts, and men are released, I am of the opinion that there will be a better class available for the threshing, and this is surely



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Household Notes.

Peanut stuffing is excellent for a roast goose. Serve with grapefruit sauce.
A dainty garnish for a chafing dish platter could be dried toast points. Very young chickens can be fried in deep fat. Dip them first in a thin batter.
A little orange or lemon flavoring should be added to any prune dessert. Stains caused by oleomargarine can be removed with denatured alcohol.
A basin of water placed in the bot-

tom of the oven will cool it if it is too hot.

Garnish tomato bouillon with whipped cream and serve with crisp crackers.
Sherbert glasses are attractive and quite correct for serving fruit cocktails.
Meerling should never be put on a fire while it is hot, as it will shrink and fall.
To devil almonds add a little cayenne and curry the salt used in salting them.
Garnish a fruit cocktail with a sliced strawberry, or cherry, or a sprig of mint.
Add a sprig of parsley, a slice of

onion and a little chopped pepper to tomato sauce.

CHAPPED HANDS

Minard's oases and heals them. Rub it on before you go out in the wind. A good preventive.

