

# BEEF COMMISSION AT LACOMBE

**MONDAY'S EVIDENCE.**  
 Lacombe, July 9.—The proceedings of the Beef Commission today promise to be more interesting and to reveal more of the root of the grievances that the farmers and ranchmen in Western Canada are laboring under than was brought out at the sittings yesterday.

The evidence of the local agent of P. Burns & Co., who, it is said, controls the prices at the beef and mutton of the Calgary cattle market, will be on the stand, and, under the incisive coaching and examination of Counsel Nolan the public is assured that all will be laid "nothing extenuate nor ought set down in malice."

The Commission opened yesterday morning. All the members were present and business began promptly. During the day some 50 witnesses were examined. The burden of the evidence was to the effect that there was absolutely no competition and that prices were controlled by P. Burns & Co., and that the farmer was at the mercy of this monopoly. Further, the farmers were not encouraged in the production of prime steel fed or grain fed beef, for the buyers did not pay as a rule, any higher for this quality than for hay fed beef. It was also submitted in evidence that if small shippers attempted to send their cattle to market the railway discriminated against them.

The Commission yesterday directed its attention chiefly to the grievances and condition of the small farmer, who does not produce so much as a car load. These were the men who were called. They stated that many farmers had ceased raising cattle for export and for the butchers because there was no square deal in it for them. The expressed great hope in the development of the pork packing industry along the C. & E. line.

It was also stated that many farmers were unable to invest money in pure bred stock to improve their herds of swine.

The action of the department of agriculture in taking hold of the butter industry and the poultry industry has created a small opinion in the minds of the farmers that something can be done along similar lines in the cattle industry to obviate the monopoly they are suffering from today.

**TUESDAY'S EVIDENCE.**  
 Lacombe, July 9.—The Beef Commission ended its work at Lacombe today and will open again at Erskine Thursday in the heart of the ranching country lying east of this place. During its sessions fifteen witnesses have been examined.

The problem before the commission here was that of the mixed farmer who has but a few cattle for sale each year. The district produced about \$100,000 worth of beef cattle last year, which represented a great many small numbers of farmers. The chief complaint of the mixed farmers is like that of the rancher—the want of capital to get the benefits of the market. The local market by the outside markets, and the only market they know is the one fixed by P. Burns & Co. or Gordon, Ironsides & Co.

The hog raisers complain of the unsteadiness of the local market, where there is no variation or decline in outside prices like Winnipeg, Montreal or Chicago. They claim that the price is put up to induce the farmer to get a large stock in supply and then cut down, enabling the big dealer to reap the benefit of the farmer's sacrifice. The farmers are sanguine of the development of the hog industry in Alberta once it reaches the market. They are also sanguine of the only solution is the establishment of pork packing houses under government supervision to regulate and act as a safety valve against the oppression of the monopolist. Granted a steady market, they say, there would be no limit to the number of hogs that can be produced. The district is admirably suited for production of grain and the farmers have learned to raise it more profitably to convert their grain into pork or beef than to sell it as it is. The price of a bushel of grain is \$1.50, and a car load of hogs is \$50.50.

To Commissioner Middleton Mr. Puffer said he would prefer to pay for the weight of the cattle weighed off cars at Calgary after giving them water, than to deduct the shrinkage at the shipping point here.

Commissioner Middleton—"Would you deduct shrinkage from cattle driven on 20 miles?"

"No, not as a rule."

Mr. Nolan—"What percentage of the cattle sold under district are supplied by you?"

"Oh, probably 60 per cent."

"What percentage do you purchase by the head?"

"About 40 per cent. I would please. People often insist to sell by the head and often it is not correct. The cattle are driven across country to a feeding station."

"Do many farmers in this district feed grain to their beef cattle?"

"Yes."

"Is it profitable?"

"Yes, sir, I have had myself."

"Asked if there were other buyers in the neighborhood, Mr. Puffer named the district once in a while, but no company kept an agent who was resident."

**Difficulties of Shipping.**  
 Mr. Puffer spoke of the difficulties of obtaining suitable stock cars for the district once in a while, but no company kept an agent who was resident.

**The Hog Industry.**  
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**Prices in 1906.**  
 "What was the price in 1906?"

"Well, the prices vary so much that I could not tell without an examination of my books."

"What was the highest?"

"\$75 per 100 pounds."

"Do you make any reduction for shrinkage when you buy?"

"Yes, we generally give an option of a 12 hour starve or a reduction of 5 per cent."

Mr. Puffer here explained that the seller of a head of cattle at a distance from the shipping point and to drive their cattle he gave them this option invariably. It meant that the price of the cattle and the price paid. In these cases the quotation would be high enough to cover the 5 per cent. shrinkage.

"Do you think a 5 per cent. shrinkage is too much?"

"I would say not. I have tried and have determined the shrinkage by weighing after a 12 hours starve. Cattle driven a long distance will not shrink 5 per cent., but those driven a short distance shrink fully more than 5 per cent., but neither covers the further shrinkage when weighed off the cars at Calgary."

Mr. Puffer gave an example of 33 head of cattle kept overnight in the corral at Erskine. These cattle were loaded at Erskine at 8 o'clock a.m. and shipped to Calgary where they were unloaded the next forenoon and weighed. The shrinkage was 114 pounds per head after taking off the 5 per cent. shrinkage before shipping. These had been turned in to feed and water before being loaded.

**Where Profit for Dealers Comes In.**  
 Col. John Gregory confirmed the observations of the former witnesses and called attention to the great discrepancy between the prices paid by the butchers and dealers for prime beef and the price they charged the consumers. He sold a beef cow weighing 1,400 pounds for \$2,900. Prices were no higher than they were eleven

a great many every year through the winter, but were unable to handle the quantities offered. Consequently they contracted with the farmer to do the feeding, paying him the current price at the time of delivery on a price stipulated in the contract. This mode of business enabled the farmer to finance his venture, he was sure of selling and the banks would advance money on the strength of these contracts.

"Who fixes the prices named in the contracts?"

"Burns & Co. give instructions as to what price to pay."

"By having these contracts do you prevent competition?"

"Possibly. As far as the cattle contracted for are concerned it does. It also allows the farmer to arrange for the delivery of his stock, and as a natural consequence, fix a higher and steadier price."

"Do you use any pressure to obtain contracts?"

"To this question Mr. Puffer gave an emphatic denial. He had never attempted to force a farmer to sign a contract with the intent that he would not take his cattle when they were ready. He frequently urged the farmer to carry them over and feed them. Further, he stated that he never forced a farmer to sign a contract. The contract was not designed as an instrument of tyranny, but a business-like and feasible arrangement to distribute the beef cattle supply over the stations of the year and prevent a glutting the market in the fall with a plethora of unfed and unfinished cattle. It was also a protection to Burns & Co. for the last six years. He took the cattle in the fall, and fed them over winter at so much a head. In 1906 he was paid \$7 a head, but as wages increased, he was allowed \$9. Last year he fed 174 head at \$12 per head in the same way."

**James L. Walters Heard.**  
 James L. Walters, of Haynes, said he lived in Alberta for fifteen years. He raised beef cattle for market. The last sale he made was last month at a public sale at Calgary. He delivered 20th at 4 1/4 cents, subject to a shrinkage of 5 per cent. Nothing was stated in the terms of sale of the shrinkage, but he knew that such an action was customary with the buyers.

November he sold fifteen beef cows to Mr. Puffer for \$30 ahead. He thought the settlers had very little to say in fixing the price, though he had been told by one buyer that if he knew who fixed the prices, he said he had no means of knowing except what the buyer told him.

Last year he sold seventy hogs for \$40, but didn't know who fixed the price. He inquired of Burns & Co. Mr. Nolan—"Why is pork so high this spring?"

"A buyer came in from British Columbia and it rose from \$5.65 to \$7.00."

Walters stated that since the British Columbia buyer had left the district, pork had dropped in price.

"Is growing pork profitable?"

"Yes, if we could get a price proportionate to that of the cured product sold here."

Mr. Walters explained that the dealers and packers in Winnipeg were able to step into our market, and sell at a profit after paying for a long haul and high freight to Chicago, which is my explanation for entrusting him with such an enterprise. The occurrence is a disgraceful nature, and moreover, I believe the "Alderman" to be quite capable of attempting to damage me in various ways, that I deem it essential to acquaint you with the actual facts of the case."

"What will the council do with this report?"

"Lay it on the table for a week," said Alderman Garstep, with ill-concealed disgust. This action was approved.

**MANY JAPANESE COMING.**  
 To British Columbia According to Cable Advices.

Vancouver, July 9.—A Japanese invasion of British Columbia is being planned, and the Kumeric, which left yesterday, is now being made to charter steamships, each of which will carry 2,000 Japanese from Honolulu to Victoria and Vancouver. The Japanese are charging their counterparts \$16 fare for the voyage to British Columbia. Several large steamers are on the way to Honolulu with coal from Newcastle, N.S.W., and it is likely that some of these vessels may be taken up for carriage of Japanese coolies to this province.

**PLEA OF INSANITY.**  
 New York, July 9.—That a plea of insanity may be the defense of Chester B. Runyan, the paying teller of the Windsor Trust Co., who is charged with defaulting with \$96,000 of the trust company's funds, was indicated by his counsel, when Runyan was arraigned in court today. On behalf of Runyan his counsel entered a plea of "not guilty" of the charge of grand larceny and asked for an adjournment until Monday.

**Death of William Frank.**  
 Brantford, Ont., July 8.—William Frank, former tax collector here, but for the past three years retired, died today.

# Butter Direct From Milk

The Ideal Butter Separator will take Butter direct from Sweet Milk in Seven Minutes. It will also take it from Sour Milk and Sweet and Sour Cream. It costs but \$24.00 for 7 gal. size; \$35.00 for 15 gal. size; and \$40.00 for 24 gal. size. If you are interested write for particulars. This Butter Separator does away with the Cream Separator and Churns of all kinds. It separates the butter direct from the Sweet Milk in less time than a Cream Separator separates the Cream from the Milk. Our Ideal Butter Separator combines both the working qualities of the Cream Separator and the Barrel Churn at a less cost than either one or the other.

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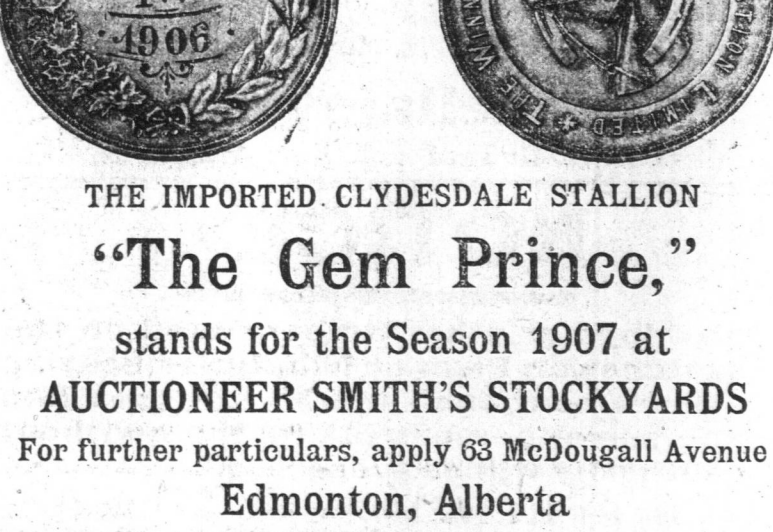
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# RESULTS HAVE BEEN WA

The Hague, July 7.—The delegation, which is seeking again to be ignored by the authorized delegations. Represented Richard Barthold, of Missouri, and the American group. The resolution adopted at the meeting of the Hague conference in London, July 1906. These resolutions call for the establishment of a permanent international tribunal for settling international disputes. The resolution also calls for the establishment of a permanent international tribunal for settling international disputes. The resolution also calls for the establishment of a permanent international tribunal for settling international disputes.

# HICKS' FORECAST.

St. Louis, July 7.—A prophetic celebration of the Fourth will be held here, it is prophesied. Mr. Hicks predicts from the second to the fourth of the month would prevail, as the rainfall at times was like of torrential character.

In his weather predictions, Mr. Hicks says that the first period, which he calls the first, would center on the second, third, and fourth of the month, adding that "there will be a heavy shower of rain on the fourth. He indicates that the weather will be a very hot and dry one, with a few showers of rain, but no rain of any consequence.

# See Blustering Storm

The second storm period, Mr. Hicks says, will be the eighth. A very warm wave across the country from the 11th, the storm will fall in readings, and the storm will reach active culminations on the 13th. The storm will be a very hot and dry one, with a few showers of rain, but no rain of any consequence.

# "Waterspout" Warning

The fourth storm period, Mr. Hicks says, will be the 21st. The storm will be a very hot and dry one, with a few showers of rain, but no rain of any consequence.

# PAYS DIVIDENDS BY BORN

Chicago, Ill., July 5.—A to the Tribune from Washington, says: Edward H. Harriman had a new attitude toward the state Commerce Commission. He observed toward that particular authority information reached here to the effect that the board had passed a resolution to prevent the passing of a bill which would have a \$100,000 to that line, to be improvements. It has been reported that the board had passed a resolution to prevent the passing of a bill which would have a \$100,000 to that line, to be improvements.

# Money for Repairs.

The last meeting of the board of directors of the Rock Island in New York, announced by representative Rock Island that the surplus year aggregated \$1,400,000, but that the board had decided to waive the dividend and money for additional equipment, etc. Harriman insisted that it was against the interest of the stockholders to waive the dividend and money for additional equipment, etc. Harriman insisted that it was against the interest of the stockholders to waive the dividend and money for additional equipment, etc.