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The Mail Bag

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2. Gophers may be caught in any way or shot.

3. Have the contest open on June 1 and close on the last day of July, both days inclusive.

4. Losing side is to provide an oyster supper for all the contestants.

A meeting should be held once a week and all the tails brought in should be counted and marked down beside the name of the individual who caught them. If this contest is properly carried out it affords great amusement to old and young. The girls will enjoy it as much as the boys, because the ladies can shoot as well as the gentlemen. I have known one young man to have 3,500 gopher tails recorded beside his name. Besides being an enjoyment, it is very beneficial to the district, to Saskatchewan and Canada, therefore to the Empire.

PRAIRIE FARMER.

Donglaxton, Sask.

ADVOCATES A SAMPLE MARKET

Editor, Guide:—Here are a few of my ideas as to the value that a Sample Market would be to farmers of the West.

We have been trying to dispose of our grain products thru a grading system only, and I make this statement—that it is not a true and honest system. Only in part does it treat fairly with the farmer who ships his own grain. To illustrate where the grading system does not meet all conditions, I will refer you to the strong car of grain that is very close to being placed in the grade higher, but because of some little defect that can be shown, per Grain Act, it justifies the inspector in issuing a grade certificate that draws a price for the farmer's car of grain all the way from one to five cents a bushel (and sometimes more) less than it is worth; and further, that same car is in turn sold, per certificate, to some grain firm for a less price than it is worth; thereby making two serious wrongs to exist in the disposing of that car of grain. Nearly every farmer in the West knows that the grade certificate does not allow him to get the true and honest value for his car of grain under such conditions. I claim that this grading system fails in many ways to deal fairly with the farmers who ship their own grain.

Another point I would like to draw the farmers' attention to, is, that when he gets his grade certificate, it just means a ten dollar bill minted for some commission firm, who will, as they say, handle his car of grain. Yet they hardly ever leave their office in disposing of the car of grain, because the grade certificate carries the value, and the commission man can do very little to help you no matter how he might desire. I feel sure that if the principle of sample market had been put in operation, along with the grading system, when the Manitoba Grain Act was first introduced, we would by this time have a grain handling system equal to our neighbors to the south of us, and the farmers of the West in turn would have enjoyed the privilege of disposing of their great grain products in the freest way possible. Any system of grain or produce handling that does not allow the producer the privilege of an opportunity to place his products before the buying public, fails to recognize a natural law.

I have no fault to find with the inspectors above referred to, but simply with the grading system when in operation without a sample market.

R. M. WILSON.

Marrington, Man.

E. T. Meredith, publisher and editor of "Successful Farming," has been nominated for Governor of Iowa, by the Democrats. It was in Mr. Meredith's widely read agricultural paper that Joseph Pels-article, "Single Tax and the Farmer," first appeared. "Successful Farming" is a consistent advocate of just taxation as well as justice in all other matters.

When a cow produces a half ton of butter per year, as some do, she has a right to be called a factory.

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