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A CASE FOR SAMPLE MARKET AND INTERIOR TERMINALS AND INSPECTION

On a recent visit to the Chief Grain Inspector's office at Winnipeg, Mr. Serle came in with a sample of stuff taken from a car which he said was from Saskatchewan, near Saskatoon. It was the worst mixture I think I ever saw shipped. It had been threshed a little too soon, was noticeably cold and tough. The test showed it contained 15 per cent. small seeds or 190 bushel out of the 1000 in the car. It contained further 23 per cent. of wild oats, or 230 bushels—420 bushels, or 42 per cent. waste. Asked as to how he would designate it Mr. Serle said it was 2 Nor. tough, rejected for wild oats, 19 per cent. dockage for seeds. Another car was shown, fairly clean but Tough 2 Nor., rejected for wild oats, containing 5 per cent. wild oats, from near Moose Jaw.

From these two cars there is two or three little sums in arithmetic which is an eye opener. It is estimated that it costs 15 cents per bushel to harvest and thresh grain, 25 cents per bushel on an average to deliver it to the shipping point in the interior, and 10 cents freight to Fort William. Thus, the farmer who shipped the first car paid 50 cents per bushel for delivery to Fort William, the 420 bushels—\$210.00.

But that was not the worst of it. Mr. Serle explained that after taking the seeds out, the two cars would be binned together and would be called 2 Nor. tough, rejected for wild oats. If two cars of this class of 1,000 bushels each were put in the terminal bin, the one car containing 23 per cent. and the other 5 per cent. of wild oats, the bin would then contain 86 per cent. wheat and 14 per cent. wild oats, and the price of the whole based on the output of the bin. If the wheat in this was worth \$1.00 per bushel the value of the grade would be 85 cents per bushel. Apply this to the cars in question and the Saskatoon man would, therefore, be getting 86 cents for his 77 per cent. wheat while the Moose Jaw man would be getting 86 cents per bushel for his 95 per cent. wheat. The one losing, the other gaining 9 cents per bushel. The one shipping the most wild oats getting a bonus of 9 cents at the expense of the other.

Further, if by any means in this transaction the Terminal Elevator man was unable to operate his cleaner properly in taking out the seeds referred to and left in 5 per cent. out of the 19, the bin might contain about 2 per cent. seeds and further reduce the value to 83 cents, and in putting out the amount called for by the warehouse receipts he would have 50 bushel 2 Nor. rejected for wild oats left in the bin. Another perquisite to the elevator man at the expense of the Moose Jaw man.

This is one reason why many desire a sample market and is a strong reason why Interior terminal houses should be erected and new inspection divisions laid out so that grain could be treated properly inland and not allowed to leave the inspection division until it is, so that only clean dry grain would be sent out.

F. W. G.

THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS

As we travel this country at this time of year we are reminded what a glorious country it is, what a flood of beauty seems to fill it; hills and dales, park, country and prairie. Millions of stooks, thousands of threshing machines and threshers. What a hum, what a dust, rumbling grain laden wagons, and popping elevators. As we take in the sweeping view our hearts swell with joy and gratitude. The chameleon-like ever-changing scene as the train rushes on. The highly colored foliage, cawing rooks, congregations of blackbirds, coveys of prairie chickens, lowing herds, white painted homes and their red barns. Here and there the naked stubble field with its shapeless straw pile or the smoking remains of it. Next to it the summerfallow, covered

Saskatchewan

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with wild young growth. Oh the weeds! the weeds! the weeds of life! How difficult they are to control and worse yet an old straw pile, a useless, wasteful nuisance.

Here a flock of sheep; and a fallow which was clean. Here a potato field with rows of sacks like granite pillars, and yonder a little cemetery with its sentinel-like stone fingers pointing upward glistening in the morning sun. The whole scene telling one of beauty, one of business, of rush and seeming contentment and yet the story that "Life is real, life is earnest," and throwing out the hope that the grave is not its goal. "Dust thou art, to dust returneth, was not spoken of the soul." Yes the soul, oh for an enlargement of soul.

A recent issue of Dun's Review states business and trade at Montreal, Toronto, Quebec, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Calgary are excellent. Railway earnings have increased 12 per cent. over same period of previous year and declares that the satisfactory crop now assured enables them to predict marked activity for every line of trade. Yes, it is the crops on which it all depends.

Recently a nobleman shot a couple of mountain sheep in Jasper Park, out West, and went proudly into camp exhibiting his game. A constable arrested the aristocrat. The stranger protested his innocence of the Park and law regarding it, or the game. The Park Commission-

1,000,000 bushels—500,000 bushels of which is street grain sold to dealers at a spread between street and track of 5 cents per bushel—\$25,000 per day. Five hundred thousand bushels through the elevators per day at 2 cents—\$10,000. One cent commission per bushel—\$10,000—\$10,000 per day to terminal elevators. 10 cents per bushel to railway men—\$100,000 with a few perquisites thrown in, such as 20,000 bushels of screenings and a donation of \$2,000 freight on the same, making a total paid to the little group called Winnipeg Grain Exchange of \$55,000 per day and \$100,000 per day to the railways. Does not this look like rather a lavish wage bill on the part of the farmers? Are they not paying their hired servants fairly well?

And now a commission to find out why there is a decline in beef production. Well, we suggest as a starter that the high price of land, building material, implements and money for such investments, then for an ordinary man to start in to raise a steer fit for market, an operation taking some three or four years, during which, he must wait for his wages and board himself, that is a pill a little too bitter for most city swells or "street and walker" men to swallow, and even farmers may be excused for refusing to indiscriminately rush in to such a business, especially when they know that if they happen to be caught with three or four steers on hand, that the prices would likely be beat down to such an extent that after the interest and de-



J. G. McNamee, Kuroki, Sask., one of the thousands of farmers who want Wider Markets and Reciprocity

er was wired, the gentleman's position and condition related. He was released and the whole thing was taken as a joke. This was doubtless right, we are glad no indignity was offered, but submit that this had been a prairie farmer so ignorant of place or law, he would likely have been sent down for six months.

Rev. R. M. Hamilton, of the Dominion Alliance, offers mixed farming as a cure for intemperance amongst farmers. Some other thoughtful brother tells us to feed our wheat to hens to relieve the car shortage and grain blockade. One is just as sensible as the other. Farmers had better send these fellows to Parliament to represent them. The car shortage and blockade is now in the hands of the Dominion Government and Grain Commission. The question of intemperance is in the hands of the Government who keep legalizing the traffic to pay the hotel bill of travellers, many of which ride on a pass. Would it not be a crime if farmers should try to take in hand the adjustment of these things?

Reports show a larger use of loading platforms this year than previously. Well, is there any operation on the farm at which the farmer can save money faster? A co-operative wagon scale, an economy cleaner on the threshing, weigh and put your own grain in the car, save useless expenditure. Oh yes, one thousand cars of grain per day inspected at Winnipeg—

preciation of the plant was paid, there would be nothing left for the labor.

F. W. G.

ANOTHER IDEA—NEWMAN—MEETING ON A LAKE

Enclosed you will find money order for \$5.50 being subscriptions for eleven members, of our newly formed branch of the G.G.A. I received your letter and the literature safely and at our meeting on the 25th we were able to get things into shape a bit. At our organization meeting we had no copies of rules or any literature and I am afraid we rather duplicated some of the offices. For instance, we elected four vice-presidents, one from each township in the school district, whereas the constitution or calls for one. We also elected a committee of seven. We had some discussion as to whether we should alter them in order to be in line with the constitution, but we eventually decided to leave them as they were for this year and I don't suppose two or three extra officers will make any difference. We have decided to hold our meetings once a month throughout the winter, commencing on October 25. The meetings will be held in Armadale school-house, on Friday, on or before full moon. Perhaps eleven members do not seem many to start with, but owing to repeated crop failures in this district, money is rather scarce. I am pleased

DIRECTORS:

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to say, however, that this year the crops are good and I shall doubtless be sending you more subscriptions after our next meeting as I have received about twenty names altogether. I will enclose the names of our officers.

WALTER NEWMAN,

Sec'y Meeting Lake and District G.G.A.

Sec. Meeting Lake G.G.A.,

Yours of the 10th inst to hand containing \$5.50 membership fees from Meeting Lake association. We thank you very much for this. We are glad that you have organized and trust you will be able to increase your membership largely. Also that you will arrange a program for your meetings, setting out what the main subject of the meeting will be (after the business has been transacted) and appointment beforehand of men to take the lead on these subjects and then throw the meeting open for discussion afterwards. Also bring your women and children. You have no idea what a general uplift this is to your district and what a splendid useful channel the Association may become in presenting matters concerning your district to the powers that be. Further, you are an immense assistance to the general Association. We trust you will be able to send delegates next winter to the big Convention at Saskatoon. We are enclosing you a copy of the constitution. We are short of them at present or would send more. I do not think it is a bad idea to have appointed a vice-president for each township. It is a new one and it will be well to note the results. Glad to hear you have a good crop this year. Shall be pleased to hear from you any time as to procedure of your meetings.

F. W. G.

Would you please send us some constitutions of The Grain Growers' association. We are having considerable trouble over cars here but the Grain Growers are going to make farmers and every one else live up to the requirements of the Act.

W. A. BAIRD,

Sec'y Sovereign G.G.A.

Yours of the 11th inst to hand asking for constitutions. We herewith enclose you one. We are sorry we have not a larger supply of these on hand or would send you more. We however, expect to have more shortly and if you desire a further supply later we shall be pleased to send you same on request. We also enclose you a new Grain Act for which you might remit us 25 cents. Nothing seems valuable unless it is paid for. If you get well acquainted with the provisions of the Act it will save you \$250.00. You say you are having lots of trouble with cars but that the Grain Growers' association are going to make farmers and everyone else live up to the Act. Good for you. Could we but have such a spirit in all our Grain Growers' associations we would both be respected and feared at home and abroad.

F. W. G.

Spectres of the Night

This 187 page book is described by Will Carleton, the famous poet, as "interestingly revolutionary." It is a Saskatchewan Grain Grower's startling view of some of the riddles of creation. He holds the earth to be a hollow sphere and the interior of the earth is the laboratory of life, where all life is originated and later spreads to the surface through the openings at the poles. If Cook and Peary had continued they would have reached a "Garden of Eden" beyond the frozen north.

50 CENTS POSTPAID

Address: J. E. PAYNTER, Tantalton, Sask.

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