

Saskatchewan

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by Fred. V. Green, Secretary, Moose Jaw, Sask.

A REVELATION

The Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator company have just issued their first annual report and are now receiving their well earned congratulations for he success in construction and operation of their new line of elevators. Between this new company and the Grain Growers' Grain company the farmers' movement will have in operation approximately a line of 250 interior elevators with a terminal plant at the lake front. This is going some and yet some one will be asking: "What have the Grain Growers' associations done?" The company's report just issued showing their practical operations is the most clear-cut and convincing argument for the necessity for such system owned and operated by the men who grow the grain. A very casual examination of the profit and loss account in this report reveals something of the nature of the opportunities offered to the operations of the gigantic monopoly unto whose kindly considerations the farmers have hitherto had to trust their business. It must be remembered that this company only commenced at the tail end of the past season because their elevators were not completed early enough, and yet these greenhorn farmers in open competition with the most biting, skilful and powerful combination in the grain business in America cleaned up their handsome profit. It should be remembered there are over two thousand interior elevators west of Winnipeg, that one thousand of them are in Saskatchewan and that this young company had only some forty-three houses in active operation through which only 72,000 bushels per house was received, or a total of 3,261,000 bushels of grain. Of this amount the report shows 1,474,645 bushels was purchased by the company, presumably street grain. For this grain the company paid the sum of \$1,055,917.53. Out of this amount they sold an amount which netted the company \$1,064,148.75. They had left an amount of grain en route and in the houses valued at \$103,373.61. This shows a gain on this street grain of \$111,604.83, or approximately 8 1/2 cents per bushel on all grain bought. The statement further shows that 1,786,355 bushels of grain were received as special bin grain. The receipts from handling the same netted the company \$38,523.66. If the grain thus handled was received at 1 1/2c per bushel we have the sum of \$31,262.00 in round figures, which would leave approximately \$7,262.00 as secondary storage receipts, or about 2 1/2 cents per bushel for handling this special bin grain. Doubtless the company had other items of receipts but these two, namely, gain on purchased grain and storage and operating charges on the special bin grain netted the company \$150,128.49, or slightly over 4c per bushel on all the grain received through their system. If this young company could clear up this amount of money in their first year's operations against such fearful odds in the competitive race, it is reasonable to suppose that all other companies would make an equal amount on their street grain purchases and that the ratios would be approximately indicated by the operations of this company.

Recent returns show that for the year ending July 31, 208,362,000 bushels of grain of all kinds were inspected at Winnipeg and Western points. If half of this grain was purchased as street grain, which is quite a reasonable supposition, because this new farmers' company was better fitted for special binning than the line elevators and did not attempt to buy street grain except when practically compelled to do so, while others made street grain their business and rather tried to create a condition that compelled people to sell their grain as street grain. But if they only took the same proportions approximately one-half would be street grain, and consequently over 100,400,000 bushels was purchased as street grain, and if when the same spread prevailed, 8 1/2c per bushel, then the appalling sum of \$8,840,000.00 was paid for interior handling charges on one-half of the crop

marketed west of Winnipeg, which said sum was largely charged to the poorer farmers who from one cause or another were unable to ship by the car load.

If this young farmers' company, inaugurated as it was to save farmers from exactions of line elevators, operated as it was by the farmers themselves, without taking one pound as overage, could clear up this amount on the small amount they handled, what think you happened in all the other systems whose operators we have so long complained of re weights and grades? If this is a correct index of the interior elevator operations what may we expect to be at the bottom of the terminal operation storage? If one-half of this grain was from the province of Saskatchewan, and it was, our small farmers paid the enormous sum of over \$4,000,000.00 to Winnipeg grain men for handling the street grain of Saskatchewan. Was there ever a more clear-cut demonstration setting forth the absolute necessity for a universal system to be owned and operated by the men who produce the grain, or that the Dominion Government should own and operate all the terminal elevators on behalf of the people who grow the grain?

F. W. G.

Nip-a-Win or Win-a-Nip, Eh?

I have much pleasure in informing you that this branch is going ahead in fine style. This is our third fortnightly meeting, it being decided we should meet that often. We have enrolled twenty-one new members, for which please find enclosed \$10.50 Central fees. I am also instructed to order forty membership tickets and one dozen buttons, for which I enclose \$3.80, total \$14.30. We had a good turnout at our picnic August 26. It was a grand half day's sport of baseball games, races for the children and ladies, etc. Supper was served by the ladies of the district, to whom we are greatly indebted for their services, the provisions being supplied by the local association. After supper we had the pleasure of hearing an able paper read by Mr. Frank Inkster, of Nipawin, who later in the evening joined our association. Then we had a short address from Mr. Payment, a member of our local, which was highly appreciated. We heartily thank both gentlemen. We have at present thirty-five members, which I think is very good for a month old local. I must not forget to add that we held a dance in the school after the picnic and it put a glorious finish to the day. I should be much obliged if you would let me have a number of copies of the constitution, also a supply of the booklets, "The Association and Its Work," for distribution, also any other literature of interest that you may have.

ALBERT S. TAYLOR,
Sec'y Nipawin Assn.

Buttons Going Like Hot Cakes

Please find enclosed \$7.00, of which \$4.00 is membership dues from this association to date. For the \$3.00 please send me one dozen Grain Growers' buttons.

H. BARR,
Sec'y Bangor Assn.

Please find enclosed \$5.00 for ten paid up members of the newly formed branch of Parkdale Grain Growers' association.

W. S. GILBERT,
Sec'y Parkdale Branch.

W. S. Gilbert, Esq.,
Yours of the 19th inst., enclosing \$10.00 membership fees for the new association, to hand. We note your post office is Minnehaha, the beautiful Indian name for laughing water. We trust your members and the general characteristic of your association will be to develop the bright buoyancy the name suggests, and that your association will be generally as useful to the community as both laughter and water are in a general sense. We welcome you and trust our associated relationship will be one of mutual benefit.

F. W. G.



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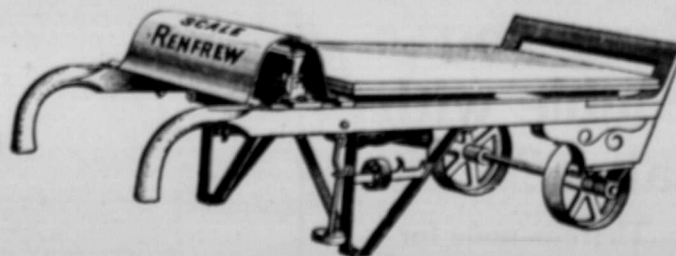
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