

ALBERTA PORK PACKING INDUSTRY

Editor, GUIDE:—Another convention of the United Farmers of Alberta has come and gone and I wonder if we shall find ourselves in a better position with regard to marketing our produce in a year's time from today.

With regard to hog and live stock, the government pork packing proposition and the pledge for the farmers to sign regarding supply of hogs were passed without much discussion. Those responsible for its birth are very keen in pushing forward the proposition, regardless of consequences and relying entirely on the practical knowledge of the members of this commission (which must be very limited), and it is made more enticing by the vigorous waving of the banner of government ownership, and I am afraid many of our members are so blinded by a desire that the government should spend money on our behalf that they fail to see that if this money is put into an amateurist proposal it will only end by doing the industry and the farmers' cause irreparable injury.

The government has given us a pledge that if we supply the hogs they will build the plant. They are therefore, ready and willing to carry out their part of the contract. The pledge for us to sign has been approved of and accepted by the convention, which means we can either sign or refuse to sign it just as it stands. Now, I am asked to supply so many hogs a year certain for five years and to further guarantee that I will give the government plant all over and above this specified number which I may produce. On the other hand, the government does not contract to take all the hogs, and consequently do not agree to pay the patrons \$2 per hog on all they are unable to take and if they did it would be practically impossible to collect these claims any more that it would be difficult for the government to collect from the proposed patron who promises, but does not perform. Not to mention monopoly which would be formed if every farmer should sign this undertaking and stick to it, but I fear it will be the minority, not the majority, who will do this.

When the scheme was first brought up, it was hoped it would be run on the same basis as the creameries, but at that time the packing business, like the creameries, had no very serious opposition and the finished article was being brought in from the States at a high price, while the raw material (the hog) had very little sale here. Now, however, the packing business in our province has at least two establishments who possess unlimited wealth and who have the advantage of adding beef and mutton to their business, who are experts in all the branches and have business connections all the world over and who have already made themselves felt, to the disadvantage of the smaller concerns, though longer established here. Now, then, can we hope to start a small concern and compete at once with them?

Some years ago the Dominion government Department of Agriculture issued a bulletin on butter, pork, poultry and eggs, written by Professor Robertson, in which he dealt fully with the marketing of these products as a man who was an expert and a man who had had practical experience of same, and it appears to me it is a man of this character and reliable authority who has had practical experience and knowledge of packing plants in all its branches and the markets and how to reach them that is an absolute necessity before any progress can be made—not the so-called expert whose sole knowledge of the business is a trip to Chicago, the east and, perhaps, England and the continent of Europe, who try and run their limited views of the business down our throats. The way we develop pork packing experts must be exceedingly entertaining to men knowing anything at all about the business. We have got to look at this question in a bigger and broader way than seems possible for those who have fostered this scheme. They will have to take into their council men with a wider vision and more practical knowledge of the business before we do much first towards solving the hog and beef problems.

We were treated at the convention with a speech from our new minister of agriculture who told us that he was experienc-

ing, as a farmer, the necessity not only for better markets for our hogs, but also for our cattle, and that a system of chilled meat industry was a necessity for the country. Why, then, when we have the experience that the leading firms of the States who run these undertakings, find it is to their advantage to include with hogs, cattle and sheep to cure, chill and can, would it not be to the interest of the province and the farmers that the same should be included in this scheme, and I believe, Mr. Editor, we farmers would be perfectly safe in leaving the matter in the hands of our minister of agriculture to formulate such a scheme, with the aid of the Dominion government, and I believe if we give him a free hand in this matter we should invite and obtain the confidence of himself and his government in us farmers to such an extent that no binding bond would be required between us other than the mutual one for the farmers' own good and the good of the province of Alberta.

FRANCIS C. CLARE.

PROTECT THE COMPANY

Editor, GUIDE:—I have been wondering if it would be out of place, for me, at this time to throw out a few suggestions to the shareholders of the Grain Growers Grain Co., seven or eight thousand of which are scattered throughout the three provinces. We represent at present upwards of three hundred thousand dollars, being the largest commission firm in America, if not in the world. In four years' we have attained to a business with a turnover of \$19,000,000, handling already this year over 14,000,000 bushels of grain, of which 4,000,000 was exported to Europe.

Our individual interests are not very large—at the most \$100, looking at it from a dividend standpoint—yet we should have a much deeper interest than this, in the working out of the emancipation of farmers from the Grain Trust, and eventually all the other trusts which are now exploiting the farmer.

One of the great dangers of our company is in the method pursued in the past of electing its officers and in the passing of its bylaws. In the past the annual meeting has been composed of men deeply interested in this movement from unselfish motives—men who have used the proxies sent in from the other shareholders wisely and well. But we are apt to have men come to these meetings who are selfish and will use any proxies falling into their hands to their own interests. Imagine six or seven thousand proxies being used in this way.

To guard against this and make our annual meeting representative and to the best interest of the shareholders, it will be necessary to adopt new methods in the future. The Grain Growers' Grain Co. is closely allied with the Grain Growers' Association. I might say that 99 per cent. of the shareholders are members of the association and I would suggest that the shareholders in each association throughout the west hold a meeting and delegate one or more of their number to the annual meeting which is held in Winnipeg in July during the time of the Winnipeg fair, bringing in and representing all the proxies from that district. Or, if they cannot get a man to come, to talk the matter over and send their proxies to the director of the provincial association whom they can depend on to use to the best interests of the company. I would suggest that the directors of the company take this question up at their next meeting and have the proxies sent out early that this could be done. We have too much at stake in the company to lightly fritter away our vote. There may be other suggestions better than mine and if so, let us hear them.

Souris, Man.

J. G. MOFFAT.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS,

GRAIN GROWERS' GRAIN CO. LTD.
Naturally from our very great number of shareholders, in the efflux of time, a few are passing away.

We would request respectfully that the Secretary be advised soon after the death of any shareholder, so that steps can be taken to have transfer of his stock made. This is DOUBLY IMPORTANT, because the transfer of stock can be sanctioned only at the Annual Meeting held each July.

GRAIN GROWERS' GRAIN CO.

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This is the Earliest Oat in existence—75 days will do it. It is the Thinnest-skinned Oat. The Government Seed Dept., Ottawa, tested it against Banner and Abundance, and the Orloff showed about 4% less hull than the others.

It is the Hardest Oat. The leaves are very broad and numerous, enabling it to produce a crop in the driest seasons when other varieties fail.

It is a very Heavy Yielder. 110 bushels per acre at Brandon Experimental Farm 1909.

It makes the best Nurse Crop for Clovers and Grasses.

It matures same time as barley. Makes as good a cleaning crop and produces more grain.

The farmer who grows Orloff when a year of frost comes along will have good grain when others get caught. Then his foresight will reap a rich harvest. Every farmer should sow every year a portion of his Oat ground with the Orloff variety. Our stock weighs heavy. Write for special prices on quantity.

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describes varieties you should have, including Honey-Pod Bean and Western Beauty Pea (the only vegetable seeds bred and brought out in the West). Then you need Manitoba-grown Yellow Dutch Onion Sets—only obtainable from us, as we are the only house growing them in the West.

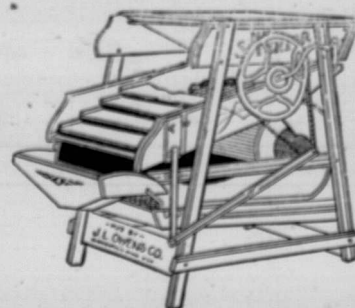
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Is the BEST of ALL Good Fanning Mills. Ask any of your neighbors who own one. Find out if we tell what is so when we say that the New Superior is the best built machine. The most thorough in its operation of any kind of grain and is the King of Wild Oat Separators.

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We want to send you our booklet on our IMPROVED Machine: OUR 1910 MODEL. We have improved our mill, increasing the capacity fully 35 per cent. Our New Wind Adjustments make it so you can separate by weight, which is the proper system you want in grading your seed oats. We have lots of other things we want to tell you about, which are to your interest. Write now! Be sure and see the Improved New Superior before buying any Fanning Mill and then judge for yourself.

We would also like to send you our book, Smut Facts, which treats on the different ways of purifying your wheat from the smut germ.

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