

Grain Conference at Calgary

What was announced as the Alberta Provincial Seed Fair at Calgary on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of this month, proved to be largely a conference of farming and commercial interests with respect to the problem of shipping Alberta's grain west to Vancouver instead of east via Ft. William. The conference was decidedly representative of the interests concerned, transportation officials, farmers, bankers, officials of boards of trade, etc., were in attendance and all were unanimous that the outlet for Alberta's farm products would be westward. When the business interests had discussed the problems of enlarging markets and local transportation difficulties, the farmer delegates devoted considerable time to wrestling with the question of car distribution and elevator storage.

Alberta, last fall, had an experience, the nature of which is familiar to every farmer in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Grain kept pouring into the local markets, soon filled up the elevators and as cars were not forthcoming, there was a grain blockade at scores of points which tied up business and caused no end of inconvenience. Next year, conditions promise to be intensified, with the result that Alberta is confronted with a serious commercial problem, and railway companies will have to cope with a difficult situation. All the associated inconveniences of such a situation were threshed out at the convention and seed fair, culminating in resolutions suggesting remedies.

In connection with the shipping of Alberta wheat it was pointed out by L. P. Strong of Calgary, that the winter rate on shipments to Liverpool by the different routes was from Calgary via Fort William and rail to St. Johns, 50 cents per cwt. and ocean rate 6 cents or a total of 56 cents, from Calgary to Vancouver the rate is 22½ cents; from Vancouver to Liverpool either via the Suez Canal or the Horn, the rate is 22½ cents, making a total of 45 cents. The conference was unanimous in its opinion that Alberta's products would have to find a way to market via Vancouver, in order to reduce transportation charges against them. Some of the more important resolutions were as follows:—

That this conference endorses the idea of shipping grain to the markets of the world by the Pacific coast.

That this convention is of the opinion that it is very desirable and in the interests of the farmers and every resident in this province that the name Alberta should be identified with all oats and barley as well as Red Winter wheat.

That this meeting recommend to the government of the Dominion of Canada and the governments of the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia that there shall be appointed a grain inspector for the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, who has knowledge and experience in handling and grading the cereals produced in these provinces, and that he have charge of all deputy inspectors throughout these provinces.

That in order to facilitate the immediate erection of a terminal elevator at the Pacific coast, through which Alberta grain can be profitably exported to the markets of the world, this convention urge the erection of the terminal elevator at once by the Dominion government, operated and controlled by the government and this resolution shall be at once telegraphed to the government at Ottawa, asking a reply as soon as possible.

That, in case the Dominion government refuse to grant our request to build terminal elevators at the Pacific coast after reasonable delay, we would urge the Canadian Pacific Railway company to undertake the work in order that said elevators be ready for the crop of 1909.

That the Manitoba Grain act be so amended in its application to the Province of Alberta that any farmer or number of farmers wishing to put their grain through the elevators by sale or otherwise, be enabled to get cars in the same proportion as though they loaded from the platforms and that the railways be obliged to keep a book for the purpose of recording their requests for cars in accordance therewith, and in the event of this amendment being made, that the government prepare a draft agreement to be entered into by the parties interested, and that this draft agreement be attached to the act as schedule H.

To carry out the intent of the resolutions, the following committee was appointed:—George Harcourt, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; E. J. Fream, secretary United Farmers of America; C. W. Rowley, banker, Calgary; L. P. Strong, Alberta Pacific Elevators; J. F. Ellis, produce buyer; T. H. Woolford, farmer.

During the conference, the seed fair was held, the judges of wheat being Prof. Bolley of North Dakota, and W. H. Fairfield of Lethbridge, and of oats and barley, Frank Reid, Regina and Arch. Mitchell, Indian Head.

Prof. Bolley delivered two valuable and interesting addresses on the practical problems of grain growing, and other speakers contributed to the discussions of the production end of the grain business.

T. C. Martin, editor of *The Dundee Advertiser*, and a member of the commission which visited the Dominion in 1908, addressing the Farmers' Club of Dundee, said he thought the Scottish farmers on the commission had brought home from Canada the idea that they had not much to learn from the Canadian farmer. Cultivation was by no means perfect, and there was a good deal of slovenly work allowed. Weeds, for instance, were abundant. Another impression he had formed was that Canada was going to be a sober nation. He did not remember one banquet out of many they had, at which alcoholic liquors appeared. In Toronto, at a municipal banquet on the largest scale, there was nothing to drink but mineral waters and some concoction of ginger.

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A meeting of the inter-provincial council of the farmer's organizations is called to assemble after the convention of the Saskatchewan grain growers at Weyburn on the 17th and 18th inst.

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The management of the Winnipeg Exhibition has decided to add a class to their farm motor competition for engines ranging from 75 to 120 horse power. The keenest of interest is already being taken in the event.

MARKETS

Wheat, during the past week, has been more active than for some time. On Tuesday, all markets advanced, in Winnipeg only slightly, in American and European exchanges to a more considerable extent. The immediate cause of strength was the serious falling off in the visible supply of this continent, coupled with a decrease in shipments abroad. The Argentine and Australia are offering wheat in increasing volume, but the farsighted ones are watching the world's supply and not being misled by heavy shipments from the south at flood season.

Everything in the situation at the moment indicates higher wheat values. The crowd in Chicago that controls a long line of the May option remains firm, and the smaller fry hang on with them. Whether or not Patten makes good his boast to sell at a twenty-five cent profit, the few odd millions of May wheat he picked up around a hundred, things are shaping up very much as if he would, if not at \$1.25 at least, at quite an advance over present May quotations. There is going to be some splendid speculative opportunities offered between now and next July or else all the guessers are wrong. With the world closer to supply limits than it has been for years, there will be plenty of chance for green bugs and other natural and unnatural agents of destruction to do great service for the price manipulators. Up to the present, however, nothing sensational in nature has been published concerning the American winter wheat outlook, and that is the thread the situation will be swinging on in a very few weeks. The acreage sown to winter wheat last fall was lower than for years before. Dry weather injured it in some sections very seriously. How it is coming through the winter though, nobody seems to know. But we shall likely hear a good deal on the subject very soon.

Coarse grain shows no additional activity. Prices for the week were as follows:

	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
No. 1 North-ern.....	100½	100½	102	102½	102	102½
No. 2 North-ern.....	97½	97½	98½	99	97½	99½
No. 3 North-ern.....	95½	95½	96½	96½	96	97
No. 4.....	91	91	91½	92½	92	92½
No. 5.....	86	86	86½	87½	87	87½
No. 6.....	80½	79½	80	80	79½	80½
Feed.....	70	70	70	70	70	70
No. 1 Alber-ta Red ..	99½	99	100	100	100½	100½
Oats—						
No. 2 White	38½	38½	38½	38½	39	39½
No. 3 White	37½	38	37½	38	38	38½
Feed.....	37½	37½	37½	37½	38	38½
Feed 2.....	36½	36½	36½	36½	37	37½
Barley—						
No. 3.....	48	48	48	48	48	48
No. 4.....	45½	45½	45½	45½	45½	45½
Feed.....	40½	40½	40½	40½	40½	41
Flax—						
No. 1 N. W.	126	125	125½		126	126
No. 1 Man.	124	123	123½		124	124

OPTION MARKET

The following were the prices for futures at Winnipeg during the past week, with daily fluctuations:

	Monday—	Open	High	Low	Close
Feb.....	100	100½	100½	100½	100½
May.....	103½	103½	103½	103½	103½
July.....	103½	104½	104½	104½	104½
Tuesday—					
Feb.....	100½				100½
May.....	104½	104½	103½	103½	103½
July.....	104½	104½	104½	104½	104½

Wednesday—				
Feb.....	100½	101½	101	101½
May.....	103½	104½	103½	104½
July.....	104½	105½	104½	105½
Thursday—				
Feb.....	101½	102½	102	102
May.....	104½	105	104½	104½
July.....	105½	105½	105½	105½
Friday—				
Feb.....	102			101½
May.....	104½	104½	104	104½
July.....	105½	105½	105½	105
Saturday—				
Feb.....	101½	102½	102	102½
May.....	104½	105	104½	105½
July.....	105½	105½	105½	105½

PRODUCE AND MILL FEED.

Bran.....		\$19.00
Shorts.....		20.00
Chopped Feeds—		
Barley and oats.....		24.00
Barley.....		22.00
Oats.....		26.00
Hav, per ton car on track,		
Winnipeg (prairie hay).....	\$6.00 @	7.00
Timothy.....	9.00 @	10.00
Baled straw.....	4.00 @	5.00

BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS

Fresh turned creamery bricks .	33	@	30
Storage bricks.....	27	@	27
Boxes, 26 to 14 lbs.....	26	@	27

DAIRY BUTTER—			
Exrta, fancy dairy prints.....	24	@	26
Dairy in tubs.....	21	@	23

EGGS—			
Manitoba, fresh.....	40		
Cold storage, candled.....	33		
Pickled.....	31		

POULTRY—			
Turkey, Manitoba.....	18	@	19
Turkey, fine Ontario (undrawn and case weights).....	18	@	19
Spring chicken, per lb.....	12½		
Boiling fowl, per lb.....	15		
Ducks, per lb.....	15		
Geese, per lb.....	14		

VEGETABLES—			
Potatoes, per bushel.....	70	@	75
Carrots, per cwt.....	\$1.00		
Beets, per cwt.....	1.00		
Turnips, per cwt.....	75		
Manitoba celery, per dozen.....	40	@	50
Cabbage, per cwt.....	1.50		
Onions, per cwt.....	1.50	@	1.75
Parsnips, per cwt.....	2.00		

HIDES—			
Frozen (subject to usual tare).....	7½	@	8
No. 1 tallow.....	5		
No. 2 tallow.....	4		
Sheepskins (late taken off).....	40	@	75
Lambskins, (late taken off).....	40	@	75
Wool (western unwashed).....	7	@	8

DRESSED MEATS—			
Beef carcasses, per lb.....	5	@	5½
Hind quarters.....	7½		
Front quarters.....	4½		
Dressed hogs.....	8		
Dressed lamb.....	14½		
Dressed mutton.....	12½		

SMOKED MEATS—			
Hams, medium.....	12½		
Hams, large.....	11½		
Bellies.....	13½	@	13½
Backs.....	12½	@	13½
Shoulders.....	7½		
Picnics.....	7½		
Long clear.....	10½		
D. S. backs.....	10½		
Mess pork, bbl.....	\$19.00		
Pigs feet, pickled in 15lb kits.....	\$1.00		

LIVE STOCK

Winnipeg offerings were extremely light: Butcher stock, quoted at from \$3.25 to \$3.75; lambs, \$6.00 to \$6.50; hogs, \$4.57 to \$5.75.

Arrangements for the establishment of the new stock yards are proceeding favorably. The railway officials, who were on a tour of inspection of the American and Eastern Canadian stock yards, have returned. Building operations will probably commence as soon as spring opens. It is estimated that during the present year at least \$250,000 will be expended in tracks and yards, exclusive of the purchase price of the land, the packing houses, abattoirs and other industries that are being vaguely spoken of. The yards are to be located across the river from Winnipeg and will be known as the St. Boniface Union Stock Yards.

TORONTO

Choice export steers, \$5.00 to \$5.50; medium, \$4.60 to \$5.00; butcher cattle, \$4.50 to \$5.00; bulls, \$3.00 to \$4.00; stockers, \$3.60 to \$4.00; sheep, \$4.00 to \$4.50; lambs, \$5.50 to \$6.25; hogs, \$6.65 to \$6.90.

CHICAGO

Beef cattle, \$4.00 to \$7.10; cows and heifers, \$1.85 to \$5.75; stockers and feeders, \$3.30 to \$5.60; sheep, \$3.50 to \$5.75; lambs, \$5.25 to \$7.60; hogs, mixed, \$5.95 to \$6.50; heavies, \$6.15 to \$6.55; bulk of sales \$6.10 to \$6.40.

People and the

The British Museum anniversary.

Admiral Alexieff, British firm, has been from the Russian sea.

S. C. Stephansson, landers in Canada settlements of his people and in Dakota and.

The post-mortem murderers guillotine the brains free from unusually well developed Brierre concludes that why these men sh regular, moral lives want to.

The Rhodes scholar, College, Windsor, N. arship this year to Rev. Henry T. Parle Aylesford, N.S. At King's college Mr. ford prize for the highest and in the following son scholarship.

To George M. Smith, tinction of being the Rhodes scholar re Saskatchewan and dent in the West a Smith is a fourth University of Toronto degree this coming next October.

Dr. Giles, professor University, has received a vehicle with a model dating from 900 years specifications that able to construct a is a kind of chariot, considerable precision beating of a drum and the ringing of a ten miles. A li is a mile.

The Minister of I. W. L. Mackenzie King the cotton mills at was a strike, and investigate conditions child labor laws we children under four The state of some of One did not know holiday. A great very ignorant, some ages. Mr. King record regard be enforced children at school un

Herr Brucker, a Germany, is described nor a tippler, yet too true a friend of to be imperishably which spouted mere indignation when he to take him seriously the others of the erected in the city