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FARM COMMENT

From week to week we expect to publish a series of articles on interesting agricultural subjects by prominent Saskatchewan farmers.

A number of Alberta societies have accepted the hail insurance resolution carried at the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' annual convention.

The big problem to be solved by the Saskatchewan farmers is the question of labor. This is a work that should be done at once. We are threatened with a labor famine this year.

The elevator bill in Manitoba leaves the control of the commission in the hands of the government. This was strenuously objected to by the Grain Growers' executive. The government has asked the executive to nominate members for the commission, which they have done.

PUBLIC ABATTOIRS.

The Manitoba government has appointed three commissioners to investigate conditions with a view to improving the live stock marketing system in the province. The government has provided \$50,000 as subsidy to a municipality that will provide a public abattoir. This subject is already under discussion by the city council of Winnipeg and an abattoir will likely be established in that city or in St. Boniface. This will lead to better marketing facilities for the stockraisers of the west, and will benefit not only Manitoba but the other prairie provinces.

It has been claimed that for years a beef combine has existed that has taken tremendous toll both from the stockraiser and the meat consumer. High prices in this necessary commodity have made living very expensive in the west. Anything that will reduce the cost of meat is a commendable movement.

In Alberta the Farmers' Society are agitating for the establishment of municipal abattoirs. They are meeting with great success in their efforts. What is Saskatchewan going to do in the matter?

A municipal abattoir in Regina would lead to considerable improvement in local conditions, as it would be impossible to conceive of any scheme that would increase the existing prices in this city.

POULTRY RAISING.

The Toronto Globe in a recent issue speaks of the attention which is being paid to poultry raising in the Canadian northwest, and predicts that this will become one of the great agricultural industries of the country. The high prices paid for poultry and eggs, the better transportation facilities will lead to great development in this line.

Farmers who are interested in this subject should endeavor to make themselves familiar with the few simple rules that are observed by every successful poultry-keeper. These rules may be briefly stated as follows: (1) Secure a few purebred birds of a hardy utility breed. (2) Keep only birds of pure breeding and do not allow the flock to inbreed. (3) Have a simple, inexpensively-constructed poultry house that is easy to keep clean and well ventilated. (4) Supply the fowls with plenty of wholesome nitrogenous food in winter; give them ample exercise and abundance of fresh air. (5) Separate the cocks from the hens except just previous to the breeding season. (6) Select only the best laying hens for mating with a vigorous pure-bred cock. (7) Give the fowls a good run during the spring, summer and autumn. (8) Provide green feed, meat scraps, buttermilk or skim-milk, broken oyster shell, bran and plenty of coarse grain for winter feeding. (9) Have the fowls moult early in the fall. (10) Keep pullets that will lay in the winter when eggs are high in price. (11) Classify the eggs as to size and color before marketing. (12) Market only eggs that can be guaranteed as strictly new laid.

PRICES FOR PRIZE BEEF

Dealers Were Anxious to Secure The Choice Carcasses — The Percentage of Dressed Meat to Live Animals.

Seven beef animals, five sheep and fourteen hogs were entered for competition in the block test at this year's Winter Fair. Though the number was not so large as last year the quality and finish of the animals showed decided improvement. Exhibitors are commencing to realize that a prize winner must be a choice animal well fattened by months of careful feeding. Some of the beef animals were of excellent type, but lacked the wealth of deep mellow flesh required to win a prize in the block test. The mutton carcasses were all of prime quality and finish, but some of the hogs were quite too thin.

At the auction sale of the carcasses the competition among the butchers and provision merchants was remarkably keen. All of the carcasses sold at high prices and the prize winners brought record prices. The average price for beef was 11 cents per pound with 11 1/2 cents per pound paid for prize carcasses. The second prize steer carcass brought a total of \$109.50. The average price for hogs was 11 1/2 cents per pound with 12 1/2 cents for the prize carcasses. \$21.55 was the price paid for one of the prize winning hogs. The mutton carcasses sold as high as 17 1/2 cents per pound, and the first prize carcass brought a total of \$16.55. The five mutton carcasses including one small lamb weighing only 45 pounds, brought an average of \$13.38 per carcass. This is one more argument in support of the effort now being made to induce our farmers to raise more sheep.

Jas. Boyle, of the Clayton Hotel, was one of the largest buyers of the prize carcasses and seemed determined to have only the best for his patrons. Other purchasers of prize carcasses were John Ferguson & Son, The Star Provision Co., Robert E. H. Mann, Christof Weiler, E. C. Landier, and Hugh Armour & Co.

The prizes were awarded as follows: Beef: Steer, purebred or grade — 1, P. M. Bredt & Sons, Edenwald; 2, R. M. Douglas, Tantallon; 3, Browne Bros., Ellsboro; 4, J. McArthur, Duck Lake; 5, Philip Lesch, Baring. Heifer, purebred or grade — 1, P. M. Bredt & Sons; 2, R. Johnston, Raddison. Mutton, purebred or grade — 1, W. Harkness, Hazelwood; 2, R. M. Douglas, Tantallon; 3 and 4, Wm. Harkness; 5, A. B. Potter, Langbank. Pork — 1, Peter Horn, Regina; 2, A. B. Potter, Langbank; 3, Peter Horn; 4, A. B. Potter; 5, A. J. Quigley, Sinta; 6, Peter Horn.

The percentage of dressed meat to live weight in the prize winners was as follows:

Table with columns: Prize, Live Weight, Dressed Weight, Percentage. Rows for Beef Steers (First to Fifth), Beef Heifers (First to Second), Mutton (First to Fifth), and Hogs (First to Sixth).

Went Rule Suspended. London, March 31.—The application of the new rule that emigrants landing in Canada must have twenty-five dollars cash is the subject of complaints in the press, and steamship companies have asked the Canadian government to suspend it until all emigrants booked to date have reached their destination in the Dominion. It is estimated that the number of those affected is from three to four hundred.

Farmers Loss. Stettler, Alta., March 31.—A farmer named Dickson, living four miles west of Stettler, came into town yesterday to meet his wife and family and during his absence his two storey house and contents were totally destroyed by fire. Neighbors saved the outbuildings. The origin of the fire is not known as Dickson left very little fire in the stove before leaving. The house was not insured.

PREPARING SEED GRAIN

Methods to be Used to Prevent Smut in Grain—Enormous Loss to Our Farmers From This Source.

The very best seed grain that can be secured is none too good. Quality in seed grain depends upon several things, and the quality of germination is scarcely more important than some others. Where there are such opportunities of securing maximum yields as there are in the West we can't afford to use any but the very best seed grain obtainable, we want the plump kernels and before sowing all the grain needs to be treated for smut. Two requisites to good seed are the fanning mill and formaldehyde or bluestone. Sometime before the seeding times comes on all the seed grain should be run through the fanning mill. There is plenty of time in the winter to do this. Give it a good strong wind, blow out the light kernels and screen out the small ones. Sack it up ready for smut treatment just before seeding. We take it that most farmers (at least those who have fanning mills) have already cleaned their seed grain. The smut treatment remains yet to be done.

If anybody wants to use bluestone instead of formaldehyde we have no objections but it has been fully demonstrated that the formaldehyde (sometimes called formalin, which is a trade name for a 40 per cent solution of formaldehyde) is equally as efficient a destroyer of smut spores as bluestone, and in addition it is more easily applied and less injurious to the germinating powers of the grain. As to the advisability of using some method of treating grain for smut there can be no question. Out of the first month's inspection of the 1908 wheat crop at Winnipeg, 1,516,190 bushels, or a little over 6 per cent, were rejected on this past season have not been so great, due no doubt largely to the greater use of bluestone and formaldehyde. We also have before us the United States statistics for 1906 and find in them a statement that the annual loss in that country on account of smutted wheat and oats is probably from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000. The ravages of this smut disease of grain constitute a loss which is felt by thousands of farmers all over the West. It is not enough to think that the grain is free from smut. Take no chances. If there was any smut in the field last year it is more than probable that there will be smut this year unless the grain is treated. It has been fully demonstrated that smut spores are destroyed by formaldehyde and seed thus affected rendered suitable for seeding purposes.

The formaldehyde treatment will lower the germination percentage slightly, but not so much as with the bluestone. The department at Ottawa went into the matter very thoroughly two years ago. No. 1 Hard wheat treated with formaldehyde germinated 84 per cent, while a sample of the same grade treated with bluestone germinated only 54 per cent. With No. 1 Northern it was 75 per cent in the case of formaldehyde and 67 per cent when bluestone was used. Grades No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6 wheat gave similar results when treated with the different solutions. Formaldehyde was used one pound to 32 gallons of water and the bluestone one pound to 8 gallons of water. The wheat was immersed for 5 minutes in each case, care being taken to see that each kernel was completely moistened with the solution. It was then taken out and sown within 24 hours.

There are different methods for treating grain with formaldehyde. The formaldehyde is prepared and put on the market quite largely in one pint (one pound) bottles containing 40 per cent solution of formaldehyde gas and quite generally spoken of as formalin. One pound of this to 32 gallons of water is plenty strong enough. If there is little smut present a weaker solution of one pound to 40 gallons of water will give satisfactory results. The stronger the solution the greater the injury to the grain and a longer immersion in a weak solution is better than a short treatment in a strong solution. Sometimes small air bubbles will form in the crevices of the wheat kernels where smut spores may be lodged. A short treatment may not break these bubbles, and the spores lodged in the crevices will escape injury. Also, with oats and barley it is

necessary to give longer treatment than with wheat, because of the hulls covering the berry. The grain may either be immersed or sprinkled and stirred well and covered over with blankets or canvas when the fumes from the formaldehyde will do its work. This latter method is very effective if the smut is not bad. There are many kinds of patent picklers on the market so that grain may be treated that way nearly as fast as by sprinkling on the bar floor or in the wagon box. One thing always to remember is that the grain must be sown soon after treatment. The injurious effect of formaldehyde on the germination seems to increase as the period is prolonged between the time of treatment and the time of sowing. Grain picklers and the formaldehyde bottles contain instructions for use. These are supplied by the manufacturers and are very safe to follow as the manufacturers want to get the very best results in order to increase sales.—Nor. West Farmer.

Increased Revenue. Ottawa, Ont., March 31.—The total revenue of the Dominion for the fiscal year closed today has passed the hundred million mark, an increase of about four millions over the previous record year of 1907. This increase is about two and one-half millions over Fieldings estimate of revenue as made in the budget speech of December last, and should bring the surplus for the year up to the record figure of nineteen millions.

THE SASKATCHEWAN FARM RECORD AND REVIEW

AFTER THE ELEVATORS

Investigation Shows That Mixing Grades is Practised — Government Will Prosecute Guilty Parties.

Ottawa, March 30.—Sensational developments are expected as a result of prosecutions which are being instituted by the department of trade and commerce against owners and operators of numerous western elevators on charges of making fraudulent returns to the government as to the grading of grains passing through such elevators. When shown a report from Winnipeg that such action was contemplated, Deputy Minister O'Hara admitted that an investigation had been in progress and intimated that there would be prosecutions, but declined to give any details.

GRAIN RATES.

Montreal, April 1.—The Grand Trunk Railway has decided to meet competitive rates on the carriage of Canadian grain from the Great Lakes to the seaboard which have been quoted by the American railway companies.

The big cut by the American railway companies from six and a quarter cents, as quoted by the Canadian lines, to four cents per bushel, had caused consternation among Canadian carriers, but these latter are evidently determined not to allow the rate to be taken away to foreign channels.

The prompt dropping of the rate to five and three-quarter cents on the all-water route to Montreal by the inland freight association of Canada has been followed by the determination of the Grand Trunk to make a similar cut on the rail-and-water route, and the rate from Fort William via Georgian Bay and the Grand Trunk Railway to Montreal will be put on an equal basis to those quoted by the company's American rivals.

Among grain brokers there is a very strong feeling that the cut made by the Inland Freight Association to five and three-quarter cents from Fort William delivered on the boats at Montreal will not be sufficient to retain the business in Canadian channels unless it is followed by a cut in the ocean rate from Montreal to London and Liverpool.

The shipping lines running to Montreal are quoting a rate of four and a half cents per bushel from Montreal to London, as against two decimal 63 cents quoted by the American lines from New York to London. Thus the total charge by the Canadian route from Fort William to London is ten and a quarter cents a bushel.

By the American route the rates quoted for May are two cents from Fort William to Buffalo, and four and nine-tenths of a cent from Buffalo delivered on the steamer at New York, making a total, with an ocean rate of less than three cents, of nine decimal 53 cents from Fort William to London, as compared with ten and a quarter cents by the Canadian route. The inland carriers now think that the steamship lines should do their share in bringing the total rate down to the American basis, but there is little probability of their doing this.

Twin Colts at Montreal.

Montreal, March 31.—The thoroughbred mare Stage Craft, imported by the breeding bureau last fall, owned by O. L. Hervey, Montreal, gave birth to twin foals today, one a colt, the other a filly. The Explaudes, son of St. Simon, are both eligible for the Quebec King's Plate. This is rather an unusual occurrence in the horse world. Both are bay in color, perfectly formed, the colt being the larger of the two. The only one authentic case on record where the twin foal gained prominence on the turf. They probably will be exhibited at the Montreal horse show.

Went Prohibitory Law.

Ottawa, March 31.—The Dominion executive of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, now in session at Ottawa, today decided to petition the Dominion Government to pass a law prohibiting a trainman from working longer than 14 hours per day. In the United States the maximum is 16 hours out of 24 in an emergency. The engineers also favored a law compelling all pedestrians and all vehicles to stop before crossing an unattended railway crossing to make sure that no trains are coming.

MAKES IT PERMANENT

The President Strongly Advocates the Life Membership Scheme—Secures Progress, Aggressiveness and Stability.

(President Gales in Ranch Review.)

The institution of life membership in the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association places that organization on a plane unattained hitherto by any farmers' association. It is now a permanent organization, which, by its provisions, cannot go out of existence, but must continue to exist for all time to work for the benefit of the farmers of this great province.

It means active aggressive propaganda, a progressive organization and a stability of purpose which cannot be undermined. It means more than this, for the knowledge of the unassailable strength of such an organization gives heart and courage to its members and has the attractive force which constantly and steadily adds to its members.

Though hardly understood at its first introduction by the general body of grain growers, the lucid and forceful exposition of its advantages and possibilities by its greatest and most enthusiastic exponent and advocate, F. W. Green, backed by all the officers of the association and the many who have already joined, has made it an attractive proposition and one which the grain growers of the province are taking hold of, and which is taking hold of them.

Life membership means unity, efficiency, power, education.

With a united, intelligent, progressive and aggressive farming population, the west need have but little to fear of transportation, elevator or industrial monopolies, because the methods of such monopolies cannot continue to be successful against a united people on the land. The artificial conditions created by selfishness and greed that operate against the success of agriculture must go and the problems of the country must be solved by intelligent and persistent effort.

The effectiveness of an organization is gauged to a very large extent by the numbers which it represents and by the active work it can accomplish in forcing attention to the questions and conditions which are inimical to the interests of its members, and in promoting reforms which will conduce to their prosperity. It is easy to see that the life membership plan, providing as it will, a sure, safe and steady income, always increasing, always on hand, to be used solely for promoting the interests of the farming community, will enable the organization to push, knowledge and general capacity, will rank as efficient in comparison with the officials of any organization or government.

With the growth of the association its detail work cannot be satisfactorily done by an executive composed of farmers scattered over the province and whose time is taken up by their own business. Their election annually, but permanent men must be hired and paid to do the technical work and the life membership fund will provide cash and warrant the executive in undertaking the work which they could not do unless assured of a settled income.

With such a fund the association will be a power in the land. In its present stage it is moving things and has only touched the fringe of its possibilities. Spend money in getting to the bottom of things, probe into the core questions affecting us, and then spend something in using the information acquired to correct abuses and build up a system of fair dealing between man and man.

Mr. Hopkins said at Grenfell: "The legislation we think necessary from time to time can be demanded from our representatives if we stand together."

Mr. Green says: "We men on the land unite on common ground in the G. C. A. In it we learn to understand each other. We learn from each other as in no other organization I know of. We men on the land with Canadian soil under our feet are one. In the G. C. A. we meet with a common aim, without division of race, creed, or politics."

"I put it to you men. Should we not form a permanent fund to provide an annual income for fighting our battles and solving our problems. If the 50,000 grain growers of Saskatchewan (there are 100,000 now) will put \$10 each into this fund, we have \$500,000 which, at 5 per cent, will give \$50,000 a year—a sum sufficient to do much of the important work crying out to be done."

F. W. Green, secretary, Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. Moose Jaw, will send a receipt to any one forwarding \$12 and a life membership certificate will follow.

Record Sales. Arcola, March 31.—W. H. Bryce, the famous Clydesdale breeder of Arcola, this week touched the high spot for sales in the same length of time. The total sales amounting to 14 head, and running to over \$10,000. The purchasers were Miller Bros., Lumsden, eight young fillies. It is understood this is the firm that offered Mr. Bryce \$3,500 for Revelant's Heir after he had captured the sweepstakes at Regina and Brandon; Mutch Bros., Lumsden, 2 two year old stallions; Richard Watson, Daleboro, 2 yearling stallions; Wilson Bros., Carlyle, 1 three year old stallion. These have all been bred here by Mr. Bryce and make a handsome string. They are all from Perpetual Motion and Baron of Arcola. The Board of Trade are arranging a splendid banquet for Mr. Bryce, "the man who made Arcola famous," in recognition of his wonderful success. Mr. Bryce leaves for Scotland in a few days to buy the best the heather offers.

Carrington as Governor. London, March 31.—Rumors are re-cited that Earl Carrington will be the next governor general of Canada, but they are authoritatively denied as Carrington cannot be spared from the board of agriculture.

TARIFF CHANGES.

The local branch of the Customs department is in receipt of the announcement of the official changes in the duties and customs to be attached on the specified classes of imports into Canada from the United States. All of the items that have undergone revision by the 2 1/2 per cent. reduction in the duty chargeable thereto are of late intermediate tariffs.

The general tariffs as stated last week remain the same, and only 13 of the intermediate tariffs have been affected by the reduction on the import duty. The reduction on the 13 items will constitute the entire intermediate tariff, whereas the other tariffs remain unchanged, both from the United States and the imports from foreign countries.

The items specified in the despatch from the headquarters of the department are as follows:

Table with columns: Number of Tariff Item, General description of imports effected in particular class item. Rows include Dates and Figs., Prunes and dried plums, Almonds, Walnuts and Shelled Peanuts, Nuts, of all kinds, Pictures, etc., Soap Powders, Perfumery, non-alcoholic, Tableware and China, Common colorless window glass, Watch actions and movements, Leather harnesses, Feathers and manufactures of feathers, Unenumerated - including all articles that are unclassified in the official customs tariff schedule.

Auto Campaign.

The Saskatchewan Grain Growers intend to carry out an active organization campaign this summer. Last year an automobile campaign was a great success. It is proposed to have a similar one this year and the secretary has submitted the following schedule for approval:

Table with columns: Name, Amount. Rows include Yellow Grass, Stoughton, Estevan, Carlyle, Orbow, Wawato, Moosomin, Rocanville, Esterhazy, Abernethy, Sinitulau, Grenfell, Windhorst, Francis, Grand Coulee, Northlatch, Central Butte, Ribow, Outlook, Harris, Perdue, Landis, Breslayor, North Battleford, Luxemburg, Rosheim, Melfort, Humboldt, Paawagin, Kamsack, Lunnigan, Nokomis, Bulyea, Craven, Fairville, Moose Jaw.

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