

GRAIN ACT AMENDMENTS

The Canadian Council of Agriculture, at its annual meeting in Regina last month, prepared a number of amendments to the Canada Grain Act. These have been drafted in proper form and forwarded to the Minister of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa. It is understood that the grain act will be under consideration by parliament, and the organized grain growers urge that these amendments be made.

The most important amendment provides for the establishment of an appeal board to hear and decide appeals against the grading of the chief grain inspector. At present the only appeal is to a survey board which has long proven unsatisfactory. The appeal board system is the one which has been in operation in Minneapolis for many years. The Council of Agriculture are asking for an appeal board composed of three men, one member to be nominated by the Canadian Council of Agriculture, one by the grain exchanges, and the third by the three ministers of agriculture in the prairie provinces. The council requests that the headquarters of the board of appeal be in Winnipeg as the most logical place for their work. They also recommend that the board have power to fix the fees which it shall charge and also its own regulations subject to the approval of the government at Ottawa. The council also recommend that the board of appeal shall not in any way be under the jurisdiction or control of grain commissioners. They prefer that the appeal board should be an entirely independent body so as to become a real and proper check upon the work of the chief inspector and the inspection department. The council also favors the establishment of a duplicate sampling bureau as an additional means of checking the accuracy of the grading and inspection of cars; this duplicate sampling to be in charge of the appeal board.

Correct Standards

Another recommendation is that the word "Fife" be removed from the definition of the wheat grades. At present all wheat grading No. 3 Northern or higher, must be Red Fife. This regulation has been disregarded for many years by the chief grain inspector and the council recommends that the grades should be for "hard red wheat" and not of any special variety.

Another recommendation of the council is that another form of license for grain dealers be provided under the name "Dominion Primary Grain Dealers" to cover all persons who deal in grain in any way whatsoever but who do not come under any of the present licenses. The purpose of this amendment is to protect the farmer no matter with whom he may deal in selling his grain. At present it has been found that some grain dealers are transacting a business which does not come under any of the regular licenses, and farmers have sustained losses on this account.

The council further recommends that the description on the car order book should describe the land on which the grain was grown. Several other amendments are suggested to make the car order book more useful and more safe. One suggestion is that no elevator operator or employee of any elevator company be permitted to act as agent for a farmer in placing a name on the car order book. This is to remove a serious abuse against which the farmers have complained for many years. It is also urged that the railway agent shall be compelled to post a notice and keep such notices for 6 days, showing to whom all cars have been awarded. Another recommendation is that the penalty for tampering with the car order book should be very considerably increased.

The council also recommend that the board of appeal shall not in any way be under the jurisdiction or control of grain commissioners. They prefer that the appeal board should be an entirely independent body so as to become a real and proper check upon the work of the chief inspector and the inspection department. The council also favors the establishment of a duplicate sampling bureau as an additional means of checking the accuracy of the grading and inspection of cars; this duplicate sampling to be in charge of the appeal board.

Hybrid Ticket Echo

Another recommendation is that the act be amended to provide definitely that when grain is stored in an elevator it does not become a sale of that grain to the elevator company. This is to cover the big dispute between the organized farmers and the elevator companies over the famous "hybrid ticket" question two years ago.

A further amendment suggested is that no grain commission merchant shall be permitted to buy for their own account any grain consigned to them for sale at a commission.

Canada's First Farm Survey

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Table 2—Influence of Good Crops and Good Stock

	Livestock Below Average		Livestock Above Average	
	No. Farms		No. Farms	
Crops	26		21	
Below	Average size	108	Average size	112
Average	Labor Income	\$ 508	Labor Income	\$ 1047
	Labor Inc. per acre	\$ 4.70	Labor Inc. per acre	\$ 9.35
Crops	14		21	
Above	Average size	127	Average size	120
Average	Labor Income	\$ 977	Labor Income	\$ 1530
	Labor Inc. per acre	\$ 7.70	Labor Inc. per acre	\$ 12.75

lowering the net profits. The cost of the final returns is more than the sale price. The amount of feed which may be fed profitably will, of course, depend upon the quality of the stock. With the average of Caledon Township stock, approximately \$50 worth of feed may be fed profitably. It will be seen that the receipts per livestock unit in the last three groups are practically the same. The increase in feed did not increase the returns. Hence, the profit was lowered, with the direct effect of lowering the labor income. In the group which was fed most heavily, each livestock unit yielded a loss of \$4.21 on feed alone. The labor expended on this stock was also lost. As the average size of farm varies somewhat in the different groups here also, the "labor income per acre" has been calculated. It is highest in the second group, where the average

feed consumed amounted to \$45.90 per livestock unit.

Summary

Briefly then, the findings of the survey thus far may be summed up as:

1. The size of the business on the small farm engaged in general mixed farming, is too small to pay all expenses and leave more than a very small labor income for the operator.

2. High profits from livestock have a greater influence on the labor income than have high crop yields.

3. The quality of the livestock determines the amount of feed which may be fed profitably. If easy feeding to stock of low quality means a loss rather than a gain. In order that the crops grown may be fed upon the farm to keep up the soil fertility, and at the same time yield a profit, the quality of the stock on a great many farms must be improved.

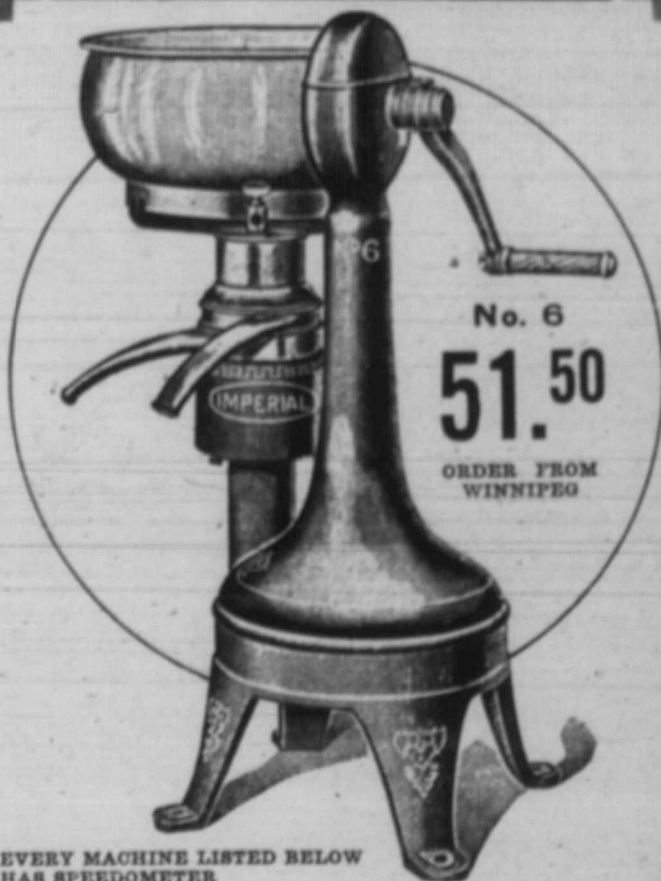
Table 3—To What Extent Does Good Feeding Pay?

Feed fed, per L.S.U.	Under				Over
	\$43	\$43-50	\$50-60	\$60-70	\$70
Average cost per L.S.U.	\$36.46	\$45.90	\$54.21	\$63.74	\$82.82
Receipts per L.S.U.	67.91	70.56	78.74	77.09	78.41
No. Farms	16	14	19	16	17
Average Size	108	129	129	116	96
Labor Income	\$991	\$1241	\$1104	\$907	\$722
Labor Income per acre	\$9.2	\$9.6	\$8.6	\$7.8	\$7.5

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741NA5	6	8 to 20	650	51.50
741NA6	9	Large herds	900	56.50

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