

ED 1866

Grain
a strictly
l and we
ake quick
mpt and

Y
ES

Bone
al

ills
s
ers

g for
your

CO., Ltd.

g. Man.

NTS

Greatest
ment of
weekly;

Toronto.

TH,

ks

D

lies

ishing.

NIPEG

in a day
Crown
ery neat
nickel
etime. It
ocket or
d in the
y head-
with one
an cures
a. Sore
Neu-
d Lung
w times
Pneu-
eals the
the dis-
re them
health.
d pene-
It tones
ack If
months'
any ad-
on ap-
O. R.
DEPT.
O. m

E.

it with-
ee FREE

o. Ont.

onge St.

ED AT

z's
Ltd.

who wish

PRMAN-
the latest

S,
NIPEG.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.*

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

VOL. XXXIX.

WINNIPEG, MAN., AND LONDON, ONT., JANUARY 27, 1904

No. 592

Editorial.

Lumbermen and the C. P. R.

The announcement made by Vice-President W. W. White, of the C.P.R., that unless the lumber manufacturers were prepared to supply their goods to the consumer at a more moderate price the C.P.R. company would establish large lumber-mills, has brought forth some scathing criticisms of the big railway concern by manufacturers on the Coast and elsewhere. The Vancouver Ledger, in taking up the subject, published an interview with one of the leading millmen in B. C., who said:

"I do not know anything about what profits the retail dealers have on their goods, and do not know that it is any particular business of mine, but I do know that the profits of saw-mills in B. C. have not been satisfactory up to the present time, and when Mr. Whyte, or any other official of the C.P.R., makes assertions such as he is alleged to have made in the interview, he is guilty of interference with our business which is entirely unwarranted, and the C. P. R. should be last of all to make such an attack.

"We have never presumed to interfere with the C.P.R. as to what they shall charge for freights, and have never found any fault with their recent sharp advances in west-bound freight rates, even although this will mean a good deal to us, but we do not think it fair that they should make us scapegoats and try to pull the wool over the eyes of the public in this manner. The C.P.R. are to-day getting more out of our business a great deal than we are," was the sharp reply. "As an instance, I might cite several recent shipments, one car containing about 16,000 feet, the net amount of the invoice is \$195.00, while the freight on this car is \$355.00; a second car containing over 11,000 feet nets us \$133.00, while their freight is \$250.00; so that it is apparent that while lumber seems high at the delivered end, the biggest portion of the price is the cost of freight."

Dealing with the same question, another manufacturer said:

"A shipment now being made brings up \$36.46 per thousand at point of delivery. Out of this the C. P. R.'s charges are precisely \$21.96 per thousand, leaving to us \$14.50 per thousand.

"Now for that \$14.50 per thousand, the lumber-mill has to maintain timber limits under heavy rentals and royalties. The timber has to be cut and put into the water, afterwards towed to the mills under risk of loss, which frequently occurs. The lumber has to be manufactured at the mills, and after orders are secured, the cars have to be loaded and shipped. Then the lumberman sits down and waits for his money till he gets it. All the C.P.R. does for its lion's share of the price, is to haul the car and deliver to the customer whom the mill has found, and the latter pays the freight charges and unloads the car himself. The whole transaction, so far as the C.P.R. is concerned, does not take over ten days."

While the controversy between these two gigantic corporations, the C. P. R. and the Lumber-dealers' Association, continues, and new light is being thrown on the trade, consumers are obliged to pay the same high price for lumber. A reasonable conclusion of the whole matter is that the freight rates are excessive, and the cost of manufacture and selling price in the Pacific Province are too high.

A Big Convention Expected.

Reports coming from all corners of the Province of Manitoba indicate that the Grain-growers' convention to be held in Brandon at 2 o'clock on Wednesday next will be one of the largest farmers' meetings on record. There are several questions of vital importance to be discussed, and the Provincial executive are desirous of having as large a representation as possible. Although only one year has elapsed since the movement assumed Provincial organization, it has already proven itself more than worthy of the support and commendation of every right-thinking farmer. In the Northwest Territories the need for such an association was at first, perhaps, more pronounced than in Manitoba, and to the enterprising farmers of Assiniboia must go the credit for first taking up the work, but the unanimity of opinion which has existed during the past year between the two central associations has been as much a matter of surprise to those who would not have it so, as it has been one of gratification to those who look forward to a future of unmistakable usefulness on the part of Grain-growers' Associations.

It will be remembered that at Brandon one year ago various questions were discussed upon which a decision had been reached at the annual Territorial meeting some weeks previously, and where the conclusion of the Manitoba meeting differed the executive of the older association showed a disposition to, and did, incline toward their decision. This was as it should have been. "Farmers could do anything if they would only hang together, but they won't," has long been a familiar epitome, but if the grain-growers of this country are prepared to continue shoulder to shoulder, and as an organization pursue in moderation a course of unqualified usefulness, such as has characterized their actions during the year 1903, the time has fortunately come when it may be said that they cannot only do—but they will.

At the Territorial convention recently held in Regina, the principal features of the grain trade were pretty thoroughly gone into, and the conclusions arrived at by the association are commended to the moderate and intelligent consideration of those who meet in Brandon on Feb. 3rd. The Grain Inspection Act is one of the topics that deserves a thorough shaking up, and especially that section of it which permits of systematic blending and mixing. It is as unreasonable in its permission as it is unjust to the grain producer, and it now becomes the duty of Western farmers to test the influence of those Eastern factors that play upon the Governmental strings at Ottawa for its continuance. Let there be no uncertain sound from Manitoba and the Territories on this question, and the story of mixing and grinding east of Port Arthur will be past.

Of the other questions bearing upon the grain trade there will come up for discussion the necessity of a change in our system of grading; whether grain-growers should be represented on the Grain Standards Board; and various others.

In addition to these there are the problems arising from the coal and lumber combine, upon which an emphatic pronouncement should be delivered, and an ultimatum prepared.

The "Farmer's Advocate" bespeaks for the convention an interesting, intelligent and enjoyable meeting, and trusts that the same unanimity of thought and co-operation in spirit as characterized the meeting one year ago may predominate on Wednesday and Thursday next.

Wheat Breeding in Canada.

At the organization meeting of the American Plant and Animal Breeders' Association, held in St. Louis, Mo., on Dec. 29th and 30th, Dr. Wm. Saunders, Ottawa, is credited with showing that Preston, Stanley and other wheats bred by him have been widely distributed throughout the entire Dominion. The report goes on to say that Preston wheat has been tested as to its milling and baking qualities by leading experts in Britain and in Minneapolis, and found practically as good as Red Fife. It is also said to be in the lead in yield per acre in several experiment stations in Canada.

Whether Dr. Saunders has been correctly reported in the abstract press report sent out by the American Breeders' Association we are not in a position to say, neither do we wish to detract from the value of any good work which he may be doing at Ottawa for this country. We believe that plant breeding is, to the farmers of the West, one of the most important lines into which scientific research is being extended to-day, and when an investigator can by selecting and crossing varieties produce a wheat that will yield even one bushel per acre more than, and be of equal quality to, Red Fife, he has added to the financial advancement of agriculture beyond estimate.

In looking over the reports of the experimental farms at Brandon and Indian Head, it does not appear that up to the present time anything has been done through the efforts of plant breeders to produce a wheat that can be recommended to take the place of the one now generally grown. At Indian Head the report from the field plots in 1902 shows Stanley four and Preston nine bushels behind Red Fife, and at Brandon during the past two years neither of these varieties are seen high on the report of trial plots. At both these farms the superintendents are doing careful experimenting, but they are not supposed to carry on plant breeding, nor have they time nor facilities for so doing. Manitoba and the Territories constitute the great wheat-producing area of Canada, and it is only reasonable to suggest that a properly qualified botanist be commissioned to take up active work in plant breeding in Western Canada. The work that is being carried on at Ottawa along this line may have produced as good results for the West as if it had been carried on at either Brandon or Indian Head, but it never can be accepted with the same degree of confidence.

If there are any farmers who have grown Stanley or Preston wheats in any quantity during the last year, we would be glad to have their opinion, giving a comparison with Red Fife.

Learning to Grade Wheat.

Since grading of wheat is so important, there ought to be some practical means whereby farmers who wish to improve their knowledge on this subject could get the desired information. Why should there not be practical demonstrations given occasionally by those who are regarded as authorities in the work? Samples of the different grades would be interesting if exhibited at a farmers' meeting, and the reasons shown, not merely told, how one grade differs from another. Corn is the great crop of the Middle States, and they have corn-judging schools down there. Wheat is the great crop of this country; why should our young farmers, and older ones as well, not have some means of studying this all-important subject? Who can answer?