

fall in readiness for sale and quick shipment to Europe when prices go higher."

The western millers and grain speculators by boosting the crop and selling parcels of Manitoba wheat cheap in July and August for October and November delivery succeeded in breaking the price at least 10 cents a bushel. Now the farmers are playing into their hands by tumbling over one another in their haste to get rid of their grain. No sooner will the bulk of the wheat pass out of the farmer's hands than the price will advance.

The Miller London, E. S. says:—"Once the rush is over the men who hold the wheat in the various elevators will pull themselves together and regulate the supply to suit their own pockets."

THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR

The outstanding feature of the communications that reach us from farmers from all over the West is the unanimity that prevails for government ownership of elevators. It is a surprise even for those who have taken the initiative in formulating the principles of placing the grain storage facilities under government ownership, how quickly public opinion is being crystalized and given expression to. Nothing has contributed so much towards that changed sentiment as the insatiable greed and arbitrary methods manifested by the trade in dealing with the farmers. The elevator owners, having gained control of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, directing and dominating its policy to such an extent that they can make prices of grain to suit themselves, send daily prices to buying agents, arranged pooling of receipts at country elevators which was equivalent to a distribution of profits among the owners of elevators.

The only fly in their pot of ointment is the privilege farmers have of shipping their own grain and they exercised all the ingenuity they could devise to deprive them of that one source of relief. The Manitoba Legislature at its last session endeavored to regulate their operations by placing restrictions on the powers they possessed under the charter granted the Grain Exchange. Now they free themselves from the obligations of that restricted charter by the simple device of changing the name under which they operate. The Dominion Parliament passed legislation intended to regulate the handling of grain at interior points and in transit. At every station in the West where grain is received there are several agents of the elevator combine buying grain under conditions and a code of instructions that reduces the probabilities of square dealing to a minimum. Added to that are the scores of travelling agents whose business it is to see that all the agents will buy, weigh and dock grain "right" and instruct the buyers in the secrets of evading the Grain Act.

In another column we point out how they "do up" the farmer at places where he has not yet fully availed himself of the advantages of co-operative selling. His loss in being "buncoed" by the elevator operators in a species of "confidence game" is often a good deal more than the loss he sustains by the difference between street and track prices. A farmer related to us a few days ago how he arranged for a special bin with a buyer of the Ogilvie Milling Company in which he placed about 760 bushels from the threshing machine. He objected to the operator grading and docking his wheat as it was special binned; also to giving light weight. But the saucy operator politely told him that it made no difference as his wheat all went into one bin and would be weighed after it came out and **THE FARMER TOOK HIS WORD FOR IT**. Altogether he was docked 25 bushels. He secured a car shipped to his own order. The inspector docked his wheat 1½ p. c. When he demanded a settlement he was just as politely told that his tickets were for stored wheat and he would have to accept what the tickets called for. Result—The wealthy Ogilvie Co., had

14 bush. in dockage and 12 bush. more by giving short weight of good 1 No. wheat which they did not pay for, and the farmer who largely had to depend on the proceeds of that small car of wheat to support and educate a family for a year, has that much less.

Such despicable tricks as the above are what are driving the grain growers to desperation and forcing them to the conclusion that the storage facilities must be removed from the control of the grain dealers.

The question that is agitating the producing class is not, "should we have government elevators?" but, "how are we going to persuade the government to provide elevators?" We want to repeat what we said in a former issue, that in our opinion the governments of the three Prairie Provinces will provide elevators as soon as there is an expression of public opinion sufficiently strong enough to warrant them in incurring the expenditure necessary in providing the storage required. We have no hesitation in asserting that in our opinion that sentiment is sufficiently strong to warrant them in doing so, but not being in the confidence of the political leaders, cannot say how they regard public opinion on the subject.

We are convinced that it is the duty of every farmer who sees things as we see them, to let the premier of his province have the benefit of his opinion at once so that action may be taken at the approaching session of the legislature. Grain growers cannot sit complacently by and throw the responsibility of action on the government. They must take the initiative and convince the government that the future prosperity of the agriculturalist depends on the grain trade being freed from the dominancy of the North West Grain Dealers Association.

As indicated by the letter of the Hon. Walter Scott to the Secretary of the M. G. G. A., printed on another page, the conference of the three Premiers and the Interprovincial Council of the Grain Growers Association will likely be held immediately after the election campaign is over. In the meantime, farmers should act on the suggestion made by Mr. J. G. Moffatt in his letter printed in this issue, and should it happen that the Premiers should refuse to commit themselves at that conference to proposing to submit the necessary legislation to provide elevators at the first session of the legislature, the Grain Growers Association is in duty bound to take measures to bring influence to bear on the legislature by circulating petitions for signatures, or some effective way that will induce them to take action.

CREATING POVERTY

Poverty is the curse of civilization. Until mothers and children are well fed, well clothed and well housed, we need not expect the human race to advance as it should, mentally or physically. This is true even of agricultural live stock, to say nothing of men and women. Every farmer who raises horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, knows that much of the natural laws of animal life. The farmers know too, that if their horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, were compelled to release each day to one of their number who does not work at all, two thirds of their grass, even horses, cattle, sheep and hogs would feel the "sting of poverty" and retrograde, till one would not know to what breed they belonged. The few, using the surplus without any exertion at all, would be called "Thoroughbreds," but the herd would deteriorate.

Is it not plain that a civilization which forces the men who feed clothe and house us, to give up two-thirds of the wealth they produce for the right to use the earth, will cause involuntary poverty?

A writer in the "Public" relates the following incident:—A little over a year ago, a man and wife with seven children, went on to 240 acres of land in Jackson township, Lyon county, Kansas, and agreed to give 12,000 dollars for the tract of land, including about \$2,000