

William is 24c. per 100. Fort William to Liverpool all rail via St. John, 25c., making 49c. Last season, lake and rail at times was as much as 10c. per 100 less. Published rates of freights contracted for for the last three months from Puget Sound and Oregon Ports to Europe show rates 11c. per cwt. higher than that given by Mr. Strong from Vancouver. While the western route is worthy of every consideration, developments so far need not cause the farmers to lose their heads.

GRAIN GROWERS BEFORE THE RAILWAY BOARD

The first complaint of the Grain Growers' that the board dealt with was in reference to car doors. The representatives of the Grain Growers' gave evidence that farmers frequently have to supply grain doors for cars and have great difficulty in getting repaid for the lumber used.

The Commission passed an order making a flat rate of \$1.00 for each lower door and 50c for the second doors, making in all \$3.00 for a set of doors. Railway agents to pay at time door is put in car.

Mr. W. E. Keefer on behalf of the Ashville Association asked for an order from the Board to compel the C.N.R. company to fence the right of way between Dauphin and Gilbert Plains. The chairman of the board after hearing his statement made the following remarks. "Unless called upon to do so I do not understand why a railway company did not, when a man's horse or cattle was killed, do something to adjust the claim. The man was frightened to go to the law and it was as the applicant had said,—'they submitted to the burden. There have been enough horses and cattle killed between Dauphin and Gilbert Plains to fence both sides of the track. These people will have to fence their right of way or pay for the stock they kill.

Mr. Clark, the solicitor for the C.N.R. stated: "If we have to pay for the stock we will fence the road."

An order was issued to have the right of way between Dauphin and Gilbert Plains fenced next season.

The Secretary of the Association appeared and asked for the reduction in freight on bulk headed cars from 1c to ½c. per 100 and \$1.50 elevator charges for each bulk head. The chairman ruled that the elevator charges only in so far as they dealt with elevators operated by the railway company came within the jurisdiction of the board and although he regarded the charge of \$3.00 as excessive, he could not issue an order as it would only affect the elevators operated by the railway companies.

Representatives of the railways made application to have the privilege of bulk heading withdrawn altogether. The board took the matter into consideration.

OUR ALBERTA COLLEAGUES

The questions now facing the farmers organizations in the West are serious ones, and will bear careful thought and consideration on the part of all.

To those who were present at the annual Convention of the United Farmers of Alberta it appeared that the subjects were deep and far-reaching. The question is often raised, Do the farmers try to tackle too much in their conventions? As one speaker said, farmers will try to do more in three days than a legislature would do in three years.

A glance at the report of the Convention of the United Farmers of Alberta shows this to be so. The variety of subjects was enormous and the consequent strain was great, although underlying all was the fundamental thought of Government ownership.

Many conventions would have been satisfied that enough work was done when the amalgamation was completed, but not so the farmers in Alberta. They talked

such questions as Government ownership, hail insurance, initiative referendum, pork packing and other matters, all of which will take their place in the front of questions before the public at different stages.

But to those who have been entrusted with the work of the Association, enough has been done for the first month in completing plans for organization, and suffice it to say that to-day the plans are now perfected. So that in a very short time the whole province will be covered and the membership will be more than doubled. The directors have concentrated their energies on the one point for the first month, but from now on the different economic questions will be taken up and arrangements made if possible so that a different subject will be up for discussion each month so that the views of the members can be secured on same.

The more impatient will think that the wheels are grinding very slowly, but we would point out that the work of welding the two old associations was great and could not be done in a day.

One other point of importance has come forward this month. That was the Grain Conference at Calgary. As is already known, the United Farmers of Alberta were invited by the Government to nominate delegates to represent the farmers' interests. This was done and a good strong and active delegation was present. The time at our disposal does not permit us to enter into these subjects at all fully now, but the Convention was an object lesson to all present, and on all sides it was admitted that the farmers acquitted themselves wonderfully. They were meeting with the keenest business minds in the West and showed both the tact and the requisite grasp of the different questions presented to make their interests clear. It is too soon to know just what the result of this convention will be, but in any event the mere holding of the Convention and allowing the different interests to get together and discuss matters was a good one, and no doubt as a result of the Convention the farmers and the financial and business interests will be drawn more closely together. Next month we shall deal fully with this question, showing just what these results should be.

IMPORTANT

A circular letter was recently sent to names on "The Guide's" mailing list asking for an immediate reply as to whether those names may be regarded as subscribers or not. Those circulars were issued early in January, but owing to pressure of work the addressing had not been completed until within the past few days. A number of subscribers would therefore receive them whose subscriptions had come to hand in the interval, and through an oversight in the Guide office, several who had paid through the office of the Grain Growers' Grain Co. These have been adjusted and there will be no difficulty hereafter with regard to paid subscribers or those who have promised to pay, but to all who have been receiving Sample Copies and who have not responded to "The Guide's" circular, this is to say that all names will be removed from the mailing list on 5th March next unless remittance or post card has been received at that date to say remittance will follow at a date convenient to the subscriber.

Owing to the several important Conferences which have been held in January, quite a number of valuable contributions of news items and other matter have necessarily been crowded out of the present issue at the last moment. Such of these as are not out of date are held over until next month. Some of them, had they been received earlier, would have found a place, but the editor takes this opportunity to remind correspondents that it is necessary to go to press with the first forms of the magazine at least a fortnight before advertised date of issue.

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