

GRAIN AND MILLING

WHEAT INSPECTION.

It is to be hoped that the proposal to have grain shipped for Fort William inspected at Winnipeg, will be agreed to by the government. The grain trade of Manitoba and the Territories centres in Winnipeg. The buying, selling, and all other business in connection with the handling of the crop is nearly all transacted here. It would greatly facilitate the trade to have the inspecting done here. It would not in the least disturb the existing system, and at the same time it would not inconvenience any one to make this desirable change. On the other hand it would be a great convenience to every one in the trade to have the inspection done here. Country dealers would find the proposed change as great a convenience as the city grain men, while farmers who ship their own grain would reap the same benefit. All the grain which goes to Fort William passes through Winnipeg, so that there would not be any difficulty in inspecting the grain as it passes through. At present, when a farmer or country dealer forwards a car of wheat to Fort William, they have to wait for a return from that place before they know what grade has been given the grain. If the inspecting were done at Winnipeg they would learn the grade of their shipments one to two weeks earlier. In the case of wheat grading "rejected" or "no grade," it is often desirable to sell the grain on sample, or possibly ship it on east for the Ontario milling trade. If the inspecting were done at Winnipeg, shippers would know at once the classification of their grain, and before it reached Fort William they would have a chance of selling it on grade, and they could also order it on to any other point east of Fort William, in case of sale while in transit. Of course shippers can have their grain inspected at Winnipeg under the present system; but the Winnipeg inspection is not recognized at Fort William, and any grain going into store there must be re-inspected, even if previously inspected at Winnipeg.

ENDORSED.

A special meeting of the Western Grain Standards Board was held in Winnipeg this week, to consider the changes in the inspection and handling of grain at public elevators, as recommended by the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. The result of the meeting was a general endorsement of the grain exchange resolutions, and the Dominion government will be asked to authorize the desired changes. The following resolutions were adopted by the standards board:

"Whereas we believe that by the present unsatisfactory system of inspection and handling of the grain

of this country, the commercial value and general reputation of our wheat has been injuriously affected both at home and abroad; be it resolved that in the opinion of this board steps should be taken and all legitimate means used to restore and maintain the high standard and character which rightfully belongs to the hard wheat grown in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

"Be it resolved that this board is convinced that the time has now arrived when it is absolutely necessary in the interest of the producer and the grain interests generally that all grain grown in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories passing Winnipeg to Fort William or south or east thereof, be inspected at Winnipeg and warehouses in Fort William or other eastern elevators on Winnipeg inspection."

"Whereas, the present system of paying officials, grain inspectors at Winnipeg and Fort William by fees is most undesirable. Therefore, be it resolved, that this board ask the minister of inland revenue to cause this fee system to be discontinued, and that instead thereof, inspectors and their assistants be paid salaries. We further would respectfully suggest that inspectors' salaries should be fully commensurate with the importance and responsibility of their position."

"Resolved, That this board heartily concurs in the resolution passed by the Winnipeg Grain and Produce exchange on the 15th of March, 1899, viz.: 'That the evils resulting from the mixing of Manitoba grain at Fort William and other terminal elevators are most injuriously affecting the reputation of Manitoba grain in the European markets, and further be it resolved that this board hereby expresses its positive conviction that no mixing of wheat should be permitted in a cargo shipment unless the inspection certificate issued therefor shall have written across its face a statement defining the various grades entering into its composition, and no mixed cargo shall carry a straight grade certificate.'"

"Resolved, that the term, 'public elevator,' shall be substituted for that of 'terminal elevator,' as referred to in the letter of the department, 24th March, 1899; that public elevators are those owned or operated by any persons or corporations who are not grain dealers, but who handle grain for storage purposes only as public warehouse men; that this board strongly recommends that all public elevators should be under government control and supervision."

"Resolved, that when inspectors are called upon to inspect grain shipped from what are called 'mixing elevators,' they shall be governed in their inspection of such grain by the general standard of grades in force at the 'public elevators,' and no grain will be allowed to pass inspection that is not fully up to the general average quality of the different grades coming out from the regular bins of the public elevators provided, that grain may be cleaned only (not mixed) under the supervision of an inspector or his deputy at any elevator without coming under the above regulations."

"Resolved, that the secretary wire the minister of inland revenue asking that the board be allowed to send three representatives to Ottawa to explain and discuss the recommendations made by the board to the minister and that the expenses be paid by the government."

The board adjourned at 6 o'clock.

The meeting proved most harmonious. As soon as the representatives of the different interests concerned in the questions considered came together it was found that their views were identical, and the resolutions submitted to the Dominion government were approved as to principle, so that the government will be urged by all parties concerned to make the changes in the inspection system advocated by the exchange.

WINNIPEG WHEAT INSPECTION.

Returns for last week reported 252 cars of wheat inspected—compared with 276 cars the previous week— which, graded as follows: 1 hard 72 cars; 2 hard 18; 3 hard 1; 1 northern 25; 2 northern 3; 3 northern 6; 1 spring 5; 1 Ladoga 1; rejected 1; no grade; 87 cars. There was an increase again this week in the quantity of damp wheat, compared with other grades. As the weather was quite mild at the close of the week, not a day should be lost in forwarding any tough or damp wheat still held.

MANITOBA WHEAT STOCKS.

There were 3,040,000 bushels of wheat in store at Fort William on April 3. Receipts were 316,000 bushels and shipments 175,000 bushels. Increase for the week 141,000 bushels. A year ago stocks at Fort William were 719,000 bushels. Two years ago stocks were 3,065,000 bushels; three years ago, 3,869,000 bushels; four years ago, 910,000 bushels, and 2,205,000 five years ago.

Stocks of wheat at Fort William, Port Arthur, Keewatin, Winnipeg and interior country points are estimated at approximately 9,250,000 bushels, compared with about 3,400,000 bushels a year ago, 6,125,000 bushels two years ago and 8,000,000 three years ago.

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It is expected that a grist mill will be built at Margaret, Man., this summer.

The Dominion Elevator Company's engine house at Portage la Prairie was damaged by fire on April 4.

An eastern dispatch states that it is the intention of the Dominion government to erect an elevator at Montreal in connection with the Intercolonial railway, the work to be commenced immediately. The capacity will be 1,000,000 bushels.

Dow & Currie, owners of the oatmeal mill at Pilot Mound, Man., have brought down from Edmonton a very fine sample of White Banner oats seed. These oats are retailed to the farmers at 45c per bushel. Dow & Currie have found great difficulty in securing a suitable supply of oats for their mills in the past two years, and are anxious to encourage the growing of a good clean crop. They are also promoting the growth of pure barley for the manufacture of pearl and pot barley, which is a branch of their business.

A dispatch from Chester, Vermont, says the maple sugar harvest in Vermont is believed to be a total failure this year, and if the worst fears of the sugar makers are realized, the industry will be crippled for many years to come. The injury to sugar orchards was done last summer by an army of caterpillars and this spring the trees are found to be sapless.