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February 20, 1907.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

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EDITORIAL

A Grain Growers' delegate said, "Some of the laws our legislators pass are illegal." What did he mean?

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The winter may have been severe, but if Bruin be any authority, its length is not to be excessive.

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Mr. Knowles says business acumen is an endowment of the mind that increases in proportion to the closeness of a person's contact with the heart or gall of the Grain Exchange.

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Manitoba grain growers are prone to consider a convention as a license to expatiate upon their grievances. It was not conduct of this kind that prompted the Minister of Finance to remark upon the intelligent presentation the farmers made before the Tariff Commission. Take a note, grain growers!

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Mr. Fred W. Green of Moose Jaw characterized the relationship of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Convention to the Manitoba organization's annual meeting as senatorial, but we believe the western convention will be able to give a more acceptable *raison d'être* than does our esteemed upper chamber.

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Wonder what has become of that commission that was going to disclose all the secrets of the meat trade and help to make it worth while raising cattle and hogs?

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There can surely be no object in the continual neglect of the Minister of Trade and Commerce to act upon the annual resolutions of the Grain Growers re the secretary of the Grain Survey Board.

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One could hardly have believed that there is so pronounced an attitude in favor of Government ownership of utilities until the question was put to a purely non-partisan vote. It at least shows that people are thinking seriously and have confidence in governments.

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The Manitoba Grain Growers believe that there is considerable hope for the culmination of their wishes when both political parties embody them in their platforms. Voting then resolves itself into marking a ballot for the man who is believed to possess the best business ability and most sincerity of purpose, so that his policy will be soonest carried out.

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Our Railway Commission is appointed by the Government with the object of regulating the railways and compelling the best possible service; yet can anyone believe that during the past six months the Government has had control of the railways or that the railways have been giving the best possible service? Unless our commission becomes more firm in its attitude and prompt in regulating obvious delinquencies, the Governmental regulation theory will have suffered a severe reverse.

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The accusation has been intimated against us that because we devote most of our space to assisting in the work of providing wealth we are lending assistance to capitalists to the detriment of the producer. To us this argument appears about as intenable as the theory of the manufacturers who claim that by high protection the home markets in towns are built up and thus farmers are more benefited than if they were able to buy their necessities unenhanced in price by protection. There is a process of the rizing that strongly resembles reasoning, but which lacks in breadth and sound logic.

The Widening Circle.

The striking thing about the recent convention in Brandon was the multiplicity of problems that presented themselves for solution. Early in the history of the organization it was the general impression that when the Association had secured some much needed amendments to the grain and inspection acts, had remedied the car distribution evil and had had a few minor resolutions endorsed by legislatures, a certain phase of its work would have been accomplished, and as farmers the members would be able to restrict the sphere of their operations to problems of more immediate moment. How different has been the actual situation! It would seem the farther the executive searches the larger are the abuses perpetrated upon the agricultural interests, so that the ultimate range of the influence of the Association can only be conjectured. Probably if, as one delegate remarked, "The laws the Government pass are illegal," the Grain Growers will have committees at the foot of the throne directing legislation and guarding farmers' interests, and as President McCuaig would say, "Why shouldn't they be there?"

The deliberations of the Grain Growers emphasized as nothing else could the extent of the ramifications of interests which directly affected the farmers and also the wide liberal view which farmers have of national, international, economic and political questions. Much that some contended for was summarily pronounced unattainable on the ground that it might work an injustice to others, and other equally broad reasons were given for not adopting certain lines of policy, the unselfishness of all being unheard of in conventions of any other class or profession.

Who Should Have the Cent?

No person knows better than one who has lived and travelled in the West that the charge of more than three cents per mile per passenger is simply a piece of extortion. This rate is usually charged on new branch lines in Saskatchewan and Alberta because the line has a monopoly of the traffic in the district and people pay the fare very much in the same spirit as they would deliver their valuables over to masked men. Imagine then the chairman of the Railway Commission, a Westerner at that, informing the Minister of Railways that after a careful study of the situation the commission could do nothing more than recommend that rates no higher than three and one half cents be charged on new western branch lines. This should disillusionize anyone who has imagined that the Commission was an institution free from human prejudices and frailties. We further surmise that the farmer's representative on the Commission, James Mills, L.L.D., has forgotten the aroma of the soil in the redolence of business associations. Railway managers and our Minister of Railways should also ponder over the relative effect of the three cent and two cent rate with which the Post Office Department experimented with such positive results. This in itself should be sufficient without opening up the discussion of the duties of our common carriers to those heroic men and women who are enduring the rigors of our climate, the thumb screws of our tariff, and the thousand and one hardships incident to pioneering, in order that the railways may have more freight to move and passengers to transport at profitable rates.

Raising the Average.

The practice of testing cows over a long period is one that is becoming quite general in the dairy districts of Eastern Canada, and in conjunction with this in competitions among herds. Those entering their herds in these competitions have the ambition to raise the average productiveness of their cows to 10,000 lbs. of milk per year. One of the competitors, whose herd won the prize in

the district, in giving his experience to the Western Ontario Dairymen's Convention, said that a few years ago he began using a pure-bred dairy sire, and by liberal feeding, testing his cows occasionally, and weeding out the poor ones, he has built up a splendid herd of eleven cows (including a couple of two-year-old heifers) which in nine months of the past year (the competition covered only seven) made an average yield of 7743 pounds of milk, the cash returns being \$76.08 per cow. He lays much stress on the importance of feeding the cows liberally when dry, on succulent feed, so as to build them up for a heavy season's performance. He also feeds his heifers liberally, developing them into milkers. He emphasizes regularity in time of feeding and milking. All the feed is produced on his 90-acre farm; till six weeks ago he had never bought a pound of feed. In the summer, as soon as the pasture began to dry up, he fed silage and meal. He has also used peas and oats; likewise Hungarian grass, which is excellent. His brother, who stood second in the contest, uses alfalfa as a soiling crop, and this the speaker considered probably the very best thing for the purpose.

To obtain results such as these is the object of the scheme which Prof. Carson of the Manitoba College inaugurated last season, and which is to be pushed the coming summer.

This is a work in which every dairyman and dairy farmer should be interested, and one in which self-help is more fruitful of results than in any other line of dairy work.

Poverty and Riches.

Anent the editorial which appeared a short time ago on "The Black Cloud at Cobalt," a reader asks why, if a certain class of investors should lose money down there should it affect the trade and industrial conditions out here? The reason that it should is not sound nor direct, but if industrial history repeats itself again as it has been doing with persistent regularity for ages, the result is inevitable. Canada now is enjoying a period of the greatest expansion she has ever known, and if sane counsels obtain there is no good reason why this period should not be the longest as well as the greatest she has ever had. Doubtless it will be longer than other similar periods carried forward by its own impetus, but it need not have the disastrous ending that other similar periods have had, if people are careful in the matter of purchases, investments and the giving of credits.

The cycle works something like this:—A period of depression limits purchases to necessities and immediate comforts, which in turn results in the accumulation of surplus money in the hands of the consuming public; this in turn demands an outlet, and the country at once begins to feel the magic touch of good times. Under these conditions values advance, profits are made with such regularity that purchasers become reckless and invest large sums in questionable ventures. Some of these fail and people begin to become more cautious; money begins to be called in; manufacturers find they are overstocked owing to the returning conservatism of consumers; and soon all society returns to a state of thrifty conservative living.

That humanity should continue to follow such an uneven course decade after decade is due simply to the fact that our vision and comprehension is limited. If we could but determine the safety line or the average point which our natural conditions would establish between conservative thrift and unwarranted investing, we should be able to avoid the extremes of depression and over inflation of values. Against such a condition it might be argued that existence would become too monotonous and that the averages between expenses of depression and inflation are steady enough, that the price of depression is cheap when bought with the profits of inflation. Such is the philosopher's view. It's a good thing to be a philosopher.