

APPLES FOR GRAIN GROWERS

In every year the problem of supplying the farmers on the western plains with an adequate supply of winter apples at a moderate cost is something of a problem. Until the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association entered actively into the purchase of supplies for its locals this business was entirely in the hands of a large number of middlemen, and not only were the farmers of the West paying an outside figure for the apples which they secured, but very generally they secured only those grades of apples for which the dealer was not able to secure an outside price from cities or export trade. By the action of the Grain Growers' Association and its systematic handling of the apple business, the farmers of this province have learned to secure their supply of winter apples almost entirely through their own organization, not alone with many great savings to themselves, but by this means it has been possible also to secure at least the average of the apples produced in each year.

A Yield Below Average

During his recent visit to Ontario the writer had the opportunity of familiarizing himself very considerably with the conditions of the apple crop of that province, covering considerable areas of the best apple growing districts by auto and carefully inspecting a large number of orchards, he is able to speak authoritatively on the condition of the Ontario winter apple crop. It will not be news to the members to hear that the yield is considerably below an average yield, and that technically the quality of the crop is vastly inferior to that of an ordinary year. This does not mean, however, that the apples which are growing in Ontario will be unfit for human consumption, but it does mean that they will not have the clean and spotless appearance which the best grade of apples from Ontario usually have. It is quite possible that the flavor of these apples may be just as good as in other years, whereas in size they will not be quite up to the average, but the deficiency which will prevent the great bulk of the winter apples to be harvested in Ontario from meeting the requirements of the official No. 1 and No. 2 grades is one of appearance rather than quality.

On account of the large amount of rainfall at certain critical periods in the growth of the apples only a very small percentage of them will be entirely free from spots or scab. The government has decided not to lower the standard which has obtained heretofore, so that there will be but a very small quantity of apples offering which can properly be called grades No. 1 or No. 2.

Consumers' Brand

In consultation, therefore, with the co-operative apple growers' organizations of Ontario, it was decided that the apples from those orchards which have the spot on the bulk of their fruit shall be classed under a special brand to be known as "Consumers' Brand" for the Grain Growers' Association. This type will contain only good edible fruit, including such No. 1 as the orchard affords and containing no apples less than two and one-half inches in diameter, discarding wormy apples and any other seriously damaged fruit. This seems to be the most sensible way to put up this year's apples for consumption by the western farmer, and for actual use this type will be about equal to the goods which came forward last year, except that they may have not quite so good an appearance. Before this article reaches the eye of the reader prices will have been quoted to all local secretaries, but one feature of our quotations this year may be worthy of attention herein.

Arrange Fair Prices

It must be borne in mind that there is no fixed price for winter apples such as there is for wheat, there being no exchange for the sale of apples. In order, therefore, to secure a fixed price at this season of the year before the winter apple crop is fully matured, the grower is always inclined to ask an outside price which he considers will protect him against any advance in prices. So that in order to deal fairly with the organized growers, and to se-

cure to the Grain Growers in their work the full advantage of any possible deduction in prices, it has been agreed that the prices quoted shall be merely approximate, and that a meeting of a committee, of which your Central secretary is a member, shall finally decide what shall be the price after the crop has fully matured and been harvested, the agreement being that the price cannot fluctuate up or down by more than 25 cents per barrel from that which is quoted by the Central now. It is hoped that our members will fully recognize the reasonableness of this kind of agreement. It is a long step in co-operation between producers and is vastly superior to and fairer than the speculative method of purchasing at a fixed price at a time when only a speculative guess as to what the actual value of the apples will be can be made.

The co-operative growers of Ontario are greatly interested in the co-operative movements of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers, and it is one of the signs of the times that the agriculturists in Ontario are becoming interested in our western organizations and that they are anxious to co-operate with us so that by our mutual help we may eliminate all wastage between the organized apple grower and the organized western consumer.

CENTRAL SECRETARY

SUCCESSFUL PICNIC

The Kermaria Local held their first annual picnic on Monday. The weather was fine and there was a good turnout. The proceeds of the picnic, which amounted to fifty dollars, have been forwarded to the Red Cross Society. The members of the local wish to thank all those who patronized and helped to make the picnic such a great success.

PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY

I have much pleasure in being able to advise you that at last we have become registered under the Co-operative Associations Act. We are now known as The Sunshine Valley Grain Growers' Co-operative Association Limited. At our meeting, held on Saturday, the following directors were elected: P. Butt, J. Ritchie and R. B. Jones, for three years; S. L. Poulter, T. O. Everson and H. Anstrum for two years; T. Brierley, Wm. Marchant and N. Stewart for one year. A directors' meeting was held the same day. Fred Butt was appointed president; John Ritchie, vice-president, and S. L. Poulter, secretary-treasurer. It was moved and seconded that we take one share with the Central, and cash will follow in a few days.

We intend to go along the lines as followed by our old association until such times as the C.N.R. extend their Elrose extension, and then hope to move into the nearest town for our headquarters and go into business properly. If you could give us any information re this line it will certainly be very acceptable. We have got our petition in for a co-operative elevator there, but the company cannot give us anything satisfactory re laying of steel, etc. We understand that a townsite will be very near to Mantario post office. If so, that will be our town. I have cash on hand for Red Cross fund, membership fees and first payment on share, which I will forward you as soon as I can get into town.

S. L. POULTER,
Sec., Sunshine Valley G.G.A. Ltd.

INVESTIGATE LEGAL COSTS

Central Secretary:—I was interested in the resolution passed by the Horizon German G.G.A., and your remarks as printed in The Guide of July 19, and thought I would like to write to you on the subject.

The gist of the letter was to the effect that when a man's crop or chattels are seized by the sheriff on an execution judgment by turning all his proceeds of crop and from sale of stock not actually needed for his living and carrying on his farming operations, that

the sheriff would have power to distribute the proceeds amongst all the creditors on a percentage basis, as it seems to me very unfair that a creditor who, by putting heavy expense on a man can collect all his debt and leave any other creditors who are willing to wait and give a man a chance to get on his feet to go short for another twelve months or more.

The whole system of suing a man and also the extremely heavy expenses attached to pretty well all legal work should be a fitting study for our Central executive to undertake and try to get a more equitable system in force, as the present system makes many an honest man turn rogue in order to try and get only a miserable existence for his wife and family, let alone any necessary comfort and proper protection from cold. All over the prairie you will find four to seven people sleeping in one small room, whilst on the abandoned farms in the district there are hundreds of dollars of lumber rotting and waiting for some prairie fire to come along and destroy it.

ARTHUR O. STRATTON.

Clearfield, Sask.

Answer

Dear Sir:—I have your favor of the 3rd inst., dealing with my article in The Guide of July 19. There is very much that might be said on this subject, but it must be borne in mind that in distributing one's available assets amongst his creditors, it must be for the creditors, at least in measure, to state how much in the form of floating assets shall be reprieved by the debtor. Our Homesteads Exemptions Act already extends very great protection to the debtor, and it is doubtful in my mind that any scheme under which the debtor himself shall have the power to state just what proportion of his available assets he shall give up to his creditors is feasible. A more detailed suggestion in this connection by members of the association would be appreciated.

Fraternal yours,

J. R. MÜSSELMAN,
Central Secretary.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S VISIT

Central Secretary:—Our district director, P. L. Craigen, visited our local on August 12 and gave us a good lecture, touching upon a variety of subjects, such as short weights of coal as practiced by the yards of the old guard, the evil of the hybrid grain ticket, the difference in prices paid for grain where there is a co-operative elevator and where there is none, and a good many other subjects of interest and instruction to the farmer.

Those that took advantage of hearing the lecture, however, were altogether too few, but it is excusable in one way, as farmers are very much behind with their work on account of too wet weather, so that now when it is drying up people are working early and late to get their summer-fallow done and get ready for haying. Crops are making rapid headway, and I should judge that 7 per cent. of the wheat is headed out.

R. J. FRONTAD,
Sec., Kincaid Local

SOCIAL AT FLAXCOMBE

Central Secretary:—We had the pleasure of having Mr. Hall with us last evening. There was a union meeting between the Homemakers and Grain Growers. Miss Harrison, of Saskatoon, was here, also the Homemakers asked us to get a speaker and help make an interesting meeting, which we did, and everybody was well pleased. A collection was taken up in aid of the Red Cross work, which amounted to \$25. A short program of singing and instrumental music was given by the members.

W. H. CODE,
Secretary, Flaxcombe G.G.A.

Saskatchewan

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by J. R. Musselman, Secretary, Regina, Sask., to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

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