

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, January 13th, 1915

## SEED GRAIN RATE GRANTED

As a result of the representations of the Grain Growers' Associations and the United Farmers of Alberta, the railway companies have again agreed to make a special reduced freight rate on seed grain effective from January 15 to June 15. In Manitoba the rate will be, as on previous occasions, one-half the ordinary mileage rate. In Saskatchewan and Alberta the rate will be slightly lower than previously, being placed on the same level as in Manitoba. The railways were somewhat reluctant to grant the usual reduction on seed grain because in the past the concession has been greatly abused by dishonest farmers and grain dealers, who have shipped grain intended for feed and milling under the special seed grain rate, thus defrauding the railway company of considerable revenue. Eventually, however, the railway consented to give half rates as before provided the shipper obtained a certificate as to his bona fides from the secretary of the nearest local branch of the Grain Growers' Association or United Farmers of Alberta, this certificate to be afterwards countersigned by the central secretary of the provincial organization. The fact that the railways are depending upon the Grain Growers' Associations and the United Farmers of Alberta to protect them from abuses of the seed grain rate, is a generous acknowledgment on the part of the railway companies of the important place and high standing of the farmers' organizations. At the same time it places a serious responsibility upon the officers of the Associations, and particularly upon the local secretaries. The reputation of the organized farmers is now in the hands of the local secretaries. If they fulfill their duty in this matter without fear or favor, treating all alike and giving the certificate to every one entitled to it, but steadfastly refusing it to their best friend if he wishes to use it to deceive the railway company, the Grain Growers' Association will make a big advance in the estimation of the public and the business world. For any local secretary to permit the abuse of the concession granted by the railway companies would be a calamity to the organization. The secretary of the local Grain Growers' Association is usually the most public spirited and conscientious man in the district, and they will stand the test.

## LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

The following is a copy of a letter recently received from one of our subscribers and which speaks for itself:

A. N. Beiseker,  
First Mortgage Farm Lands  
and Commercial Investments  
Harvey, N.D.

Dec. 19, 1914.

Robt. W. Dalglish, Esq.,  
Heward, Sask., Canada.

Dear Sir: NW 90

You no doubt have heard of the clean cut decisions in my favor in the cases that have been tried in the courts of the province against the makers of the notes to the Farmers' Steel and Wire Company, that I hold in due course. The following courts have given me judgment with costs in all the cases tried before them:

His Honor Judge Ousley, of Moose Jaw  
His Honor Judge Hammon, of Regina  
His Honor Judge Wood, of Weyburn  
His Honor Judge Bell, of Wynyard  
His Honor Judge Smythe, of Swift Current

I have tried to get into court at Arcola by suing five or six of your neighbors at Heward, but they have settled rather than go to the trial. Now, in order to give those who are owing me on these notes a chance to settle without costs, I have had my representative at Moose Jaw, J. C. Parker, go to Heward on Monday, January 4, and remain there at the hotel most of that week, and you can meet him there if you are to make settlement. It would be well for you to call

sometime during the days of Tuesday or Wednesday, as Mr. Parker may not be able to remain in Heward the whole week.

I want the money if possible, but in the drought stricken districts further West I have been taking new notes due next year, with an additional signer and an increased rate of interest, therefore, making the new notes two name paper and bankable. If you care to do this you will have an opportunity; if not, I will continue to serve writs on all who fail to settle with Mr. Parker while at Heward.

If any of your friends or neighbors owe the said company notes which I hold, it would be well for you to advise them of this so that they can see Mr. Parker at Heward and avoid the expense of having a writ served on them.

Yours truly,  
ANB-P (Sgd.) A. N. BEISEKER.

This is the aftermath of the Farmers' Steel & Wire Company, with headquarters at Regina, which flourished two or three years ago. We are informed that the letter is not correct as to the judgments secured from the various judges mentioned. We have not definite information on this, but some of our readers have stated these judgments are imaginary. The chief lesson of this case is that it is dangerous to buy stock and give notes in payment, because in most cases the notes must be paid sooner or later. In this case they were evidently sold to a man in North Dakota and he is now collecting them. It is possible that he purchased them at a low price as a speculation. We understand that a number of farmers who gave these notes are determined to fight the case on the ground that the notes were secured from the farmers under false pretenses. We think it would be wise to make a test case. We accepted an advertisement from the Farmers' Steel & Wire Company in 1912, believing it to be a bona fide concern. In the course of a few months, however, we were led to believe that the company was not what it promised to be and we therefore published a repudiation of the advertisement. It is absolutely impossible to say at the outset whether a concern may or may not be reliable. The only safe way, if it be a stock selling proposition, is to leave it alone, because in 75 per cent. of the cases it means just so much money thrown away.

## THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

On another page in this issue there appears a letter received recently from the Dominion livestock commissioner in which the present condition of the livestock industry is very concisely reviewed. The situation is one which is worthy of careful consideration by farmers at the present time. The manner in which stock is being indiscriminately shipped off the farms is a matter for grave concern. Prices for feed are high certainly, but if the disposal of female stock goes on at the same rate for any length of time as it has been during the past three months, the country must face in the near future a very serious shortage of meat animals. In any event, the reduction of breeding stock has been so considerable that far-sighted men believe that livestock is bound to be a good price in the fall. Everyone knows that a very large quantity of wheat will be needed next fall to supply the world's markets, but there is a tendency, when advocating increasing the wheat acreage, to minimize the importance of the demand for meat on the same markets. What is required is that the farmers generally increase and improve production in the lines along which they have been progressing heretofore. Wheat production should not be increased at the expense of livestock production. These commodities are interdependent both on the farm and in the world's markets and the slogan of the farmer should be greater

efficiency in production as well as greater areas sown to wheat.

## FARM WOMEN'S CONVENTIONS

Since the farmers' organizations have begun to concern themselves with social problems many of them have realized that in developing this phase of their work to the full the co-operation of the women is essential. Accordingly, the Saskatchewan farm women were called together in convention at Saskatoon two years ago, and out of this meeting has grown the Women Grain Growers' Association with forty-seven branches. Last year, with financial and other assistance from the Grain Growers' Association, the Saskatchewan women arranged for their own convention, which was held in Moose Jaw and attended by about eighty farm women. This year the arrangements for this convention are entirely in the hands of the executive of the Women Grain Growers' Association, tho they have, of course, the hearty co-operation and support of the secretary and executive of the Grain Growers' Association. Thru their combined efforts a suitable hall has been found and a rousing program prepared for this third convention of Saskatchewan farm women and it only remains for the women themselves to do their part to make it a brilliant success.

The first Alberta convention was held in Lethbridge a year ago, but as the arrangements for it were made rather hurriedly there was not a very large attendance of farm women. This year a strong program has been planned for the convention at Edmonton, with brilliant addresses on matters of public interest and problems of the home. For the executive of the farmers' organizations to plan and arrange for a large convention of women is the best possible proof of their desire to enlist the support of the women in the great work of the organization. It is important that our women readers should realize that the success of these conventions does not depend so much upon the brilliant addresses that may be given as it does upon the interest and sympathy of those who attend them. It is to be hoped that a large number of the women will attend these conventions and assist to make their organization as great a success as the men's organization.

## C.N.R. AGAIN AFTER MONEY

After all the money Mackenzie and Mann and their railroad have been given from the Dominion treasury and all the worry they have caused the government, one would almost think they would be ashamed to look the finance minister in the face. The cast iron nerve that has carried them thru other difficult situations is still with them, however, and Sir William, accompanied by D. B. Hanna, has been to Ottawa again to beg that they be allowed to get just one more dip into the federal treasury. Altho C.N.R. bonds to the extent of \$45,000,000 were guaranteed by the government last spring, only a portion of them have been sold. The railroad needs the money, of course, and the government is being asked to provide it. The government has all it can do to finance its own business just now, but it is suggested that a portion of the money voted by the British Parliament for the loans to the overseas dominions might be applied to the worthy purpose of helping two noble knights out of the hole. It would be a whole lot cheaper to take over the C.N.R. and make Mackenzie and Mann kings of some of the islands in the Pacific which have been captured from the Germans. We can't afford such luxuries as millionaire mendicants while the war is on.