

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

No. 10

WINNIPEG, APRIL, 1909

VOL. 1

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



Published under the auspices and employed as the Official Organ of The Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and the United Farmers of Alberta.

Designed to give publicity to the views of Western Farmers generally and to become the official mouthpiece of as many Farmers' Organizations throughout the "Three Prairie Provinces" as may apply for space therein.

Subscription price \$1.00 per year in advance.

Advertising rates on application.

Change of copy and new matter must be received not later than the 10th of each month.

Address all communications to

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, Winnipeg, Manitoba

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THE CHILLED MEAT INDUSTRY

Elsewhere in this issue we publish a synopsis of the commission appointed by the Dominion Department of Agriculture to investigate into the possibility of developing a chilled meat industry in Canada. By a chilled meat industry is meant the killing of live stock at points convenient to the districts where they are raised and the transportation of the frozen or chilled product by a proper system of cold storage to the point of consumption.

It is a fact now generally conceded that the live stock branch of western agriculture is slowly but steadily moving backward instead of forward. This is without question due to the present system of marketing our live stock, a system which places the producer practically at the mercy of the dealer. While up to the present time grain growing has been the chief branch of agriculture developed in the west, it is quite apparent to thoughtful men that this cannot continue and that a system of mixed farming must by force of circumstances come about, in order that the fertility of the soil may be retained.

The report given as the result of the labor of the commission is well worth the close study of every intelligent farmer. The trade in chilled meats is no new thing. It has already been developed and is carried on successfully by notably the Argentine Republic in South America and Australia and New Zealand. The latter two countries are double the distance that we are from Great Britain, which is their chief market as well as ours.

The meat sent in this way thousands of miles and crossing the hottest portion of the world's surface, reaches its destination in such good condition that it can scarcely be distinguished from the freshly killed home article and brings to the New Zealand and Australian stock raiser a price which brings him a good margin of profit. The scheme outlined in the report is a comprehensive one, embracing the chief stock-producing provinces of the Dominion.

While the committee were not in a position to outline a method of actual operation as clearly as might be desired, they have shown that the only way it could be successfully commenced and carried on is under government assistance and control. The whole subject is a splendid one for the different Grain Growers' and stockmen's associations to take up and it is to be hoped that they will do so. No country to-day offers better facilities in every respect than Canada does for the development of this industry, and as the report points out we are in a position to take advantage of the experience of other countries where it has proved eminently successful. The commission deserve the thanks of every good Canadian farmer.

FINANCING THE FARM

No feature of the economic system current in the prairie provinces contributes so much towards reducing the prices received for farm products as the practice that obtains in all business circles of having our liabilities all fall due in November. The interests that control the avenues through which our products obtain access to the consuming markets easily take advantage of the fact that farmers, in order to meet their obligations falling due immediately after harvest, have to rush their crops to market, and in this way reduce the prices paid and secure the largest portion of it in the first three months of the crop year at a much less value than would be paid if marketed as the demand would absorb it.

The practice applies to all farm products as well as to grain and reduces enormously the amount of money available each year for liquidating the liabilities not only of the farmers but all businesses in the country.

This feature of farm economics should engage the serious consideration of not only our farmers but of our business men as well, when arranging for another season's operations, and an effort should be made to extend payment over several months. "When we thresh" is not the best time to "promise to pay," but "When we can sell to the best advantage under right conditions and at right prices."

Expenses incident to raising a crop, such as hired

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