

FIXED WHEAT PRICES REQUESTED

Before the Board of Grain Supervisors, which commenced its sittings in Winnipeg last Friday, the Canadian Council of Agriculture on behalf of the farmer organizations presented a statement, in which they emphatically declared for a fixed price for grain to be established by the Board. They recommended, however, that so far as possible the existing channels and facilities for handling the grain be utilized. Speaking of the proposal that the commission take over country elevators during the war, Mr. Maharg declared that he did not believe that his company would be averse to having the commission take over its elevators if it were thought necessary, but he did not think it would be advisable. Roderick McKenzie stated that in his opinion there were too many men engaged in the grain trade. Some of these could be eliminated without lessening the efficiency of the grain business. He did not think, however, that anything could be gained by putting the whole trade under one organization. The cost would not be lessened and the efficiency might be impaired. If a change were to come it should be brought about gradually. Mr. McKenzie also stated that he believed a fixed price for grain would be better than a maximum and minimum. It would remove the bad element from the exchange and the legitimate traders would be in favor of it.

SUCCESSFUL FLOWING MATCH

The fifth annual plowing match of the Shadeland and Calf Mountain districts was held on June 14. Twenty-one contestants were entered. Mr. Alex Lumgair, with 924 points to his credit, was the highest scoring plowman in the field. While the judging was being done a number of addresses were given. A feature of the occasion was the auctioning of a young pig given to the Red Cross by J. K. Duncan, and which realized altogether \$101, being returned and resold several times.

OATS

Several Thousand
Bushels Wanted

We have a great demand for OATS at the present time and numerous avenues of disposition. For the right kind, we can as a rule pay big premiums. Consign what you have direct to—

LAING BROS.

WINNIPEG MANITOBA

Percheron Mares

Will sell a limited number from a bunch of fourteen. From weanlings to mares at foot. Prices from \$300 to \$800.

ALLEN REID R.R. 5 BRANDON, MAN.

TRY FALL RYE-

Write for Circular
Great seed-billing crop, yields 30 to 40 bush. per acre. Prices high. Ready to cut and of fall or first of August. The 14 bush. rate and 1 ton. Fall Rye per acre. Cut down for feed and leave for winter for silage.

HARRIS McFAYDEN COMPANY Farm Seed Specialists WINNIPEG

Got Gophers?

Kill-Em-Quick

With Kill-Em-Quick
Gopher Poison
At Your Dealers. GUARANTEED.



CASH FOR SCRAP IRON

At every loading platform in Western Canada farmers can load a car of scrap iron. Canada needs this iron. All kinds of old farm machinery bought for highest market prices. Write for quotation.

Brandon Machine and Implement Works :: Brandon, Man.

The Mail Bag

AN OPEN FORUM

This page is maintained to allow a free discussion of all questions vital to western farmers. Up to the limit of space letters will be published giving both sides of all such questions. It is not possible to publish all letters received, but an effort will be made to select those most fairly representing different views. Short letters will be given preference. All letters must be accompanied by name and address of writer, though not necessarily for publication. Unusual letters will be returned if accompanied by postage.

MAIL LIQUOR BUSINESS

Editor, Guide:—I am in continual receipt of bulky advertising matter from wine firms in Winnipeg containing price lists. The letters come here with a one cent stamp and often result in the sale of liquor in this locality where the bar has been rooted out by the majority of the electors. The action of these liquor firms practically makes the voice of the people and the legislation of the country of none-effect. Is there nothing that we can do to stop this or does the sentiment of the country and the work of the legislators count for nothing.

H. F. CROSSLEY.

Princeville, Sask.

None of the provinces of Canada have power to prohibit the importation of liquor. The Dominion parliament is the only body that can prevent the exportation and importation and up to the present time the Federal government has refused to grant the provinces this power.—Editor.

TAXING MAIL ORDER HOUSES

Editor, Guide:—In your issue of May 30 I noticed an article on the meeting of the retail merchants, held in Moose Jaw. One of the motions was, "that mail order houses should be taxed." These same gentlemen will have in their advertisements, published in the local papers, "Mail orders promptly filled." I think that the motion is unjustified. What would we do without mail order houses in this country? When we are unable to procure articles in our local towns it compels us to send away for them. Then again, if the local merchants kept a better stock, not so much of the shoddy kind, and were satisfied with a fair profit instead of asking exorbitant prices for very often a poorer quality the mail order houses would not hurt them as much as they appear to do now.

E. K. L.

Sask.

FAVORS DOMINION ELECTION

Editor, Guide:—Every right-thinking citizen of Canada should feel deeply humiliated and ashamed that their country was represented at the recent Imperial conference in England by a man of the type of Robert Rogers, against whom such a strong indictment has been made by Justice Galt of Manitoba. Why should Premier Borden have chosen such a man to be a prominent member of his cabinet and retain him in office after charges had been laid against him and hold him in such regard as to have him as his chief companion to attend the Imperial conference? Robert Rogers' company was certainly no credit to Sir Robert Borden or to the Dominion. The political scandals in Manitoba, British Columbia and New Brunswick, have been no credit to the Dominion.

These things ought to make every right loving citizen blush with shame. Before we boast of Canadian honor and Canadian freedom and urge the importance of military conscription to reinforce the overseas Canadian contingent in the fight for democracy against the atrocious, tyrannical Hun, we had better set our own house in order. Every lover of freedom and honest and honorable government administration in Canada should insist on an immediate general election. "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people."

WM. E. D'FOREST.

Springford, Ont.

CO-OPERATION v.s. COMPETITION

Editor, Guide:—Our country merchant does business in a thriving village of perhaps one hundred inhabitants, on the main line of the G.T.P. about one hundred miles from Edmonton. The country around has been settled for about ten years by a good class of farmers. Our town draws a trade of about twelve miles radius. Besides the merchant with whom we deal there are two other stores, but the one is only starting so it hardly counts. Our personal experience has been with the two only.

We first began to do business with the Farmers' Co-operative store, but which, so far as I can see, is really a joint stock company. We never bought shares in it, but just purchased goods there and paid the cash, as it does no credit business. We left a lot of money there, and then the war came and hit us pretty hard, stopping certain income. Unusual for us, we felt the need of credit, but had no place to get it, as our Farmers' Store did not do that sort of business, and certainly not the mail order houses.

So we spoke to the merchant across the way. He simply said, "Sure, help yourself. It'll be all right." We appreciated this, as he had seen us many a time taking cargoes of stuff from the cash store. We found his prices not one cent dearer in any particular and we got more courteous treatment. He had hustling salesmen who knew their business, and everything was under his personal supervision. The other store was looked after by a manager, with a commission on sales, and the help was mostly women and boys. The co-operative store gave back one dollar for every twenty dollars of cash register slips, and the credit man gave back five cents out of every dollar cash as he went along. He was supposed to charge five per cent. interest on book accounts, but has never done so to my knowledge.

The co-operative store keeps a general stock of groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, hardware, a few ready-made clothes, etc., but our credit man sells just groceries, hardware and such staple articles as overalls, working shirts, socks, mitts, slickers, harness and horse blankets; also has an agency for semi-ready clothing, threshing machines, etc. He seems to be making good money, is satisfied himself and everyone seems satisfied with him.

The Farmers' Co-operative store may be all right from the shareholders' point of view, and I wish that one of them would write to The Guide; but if they cannot sell cheaper than the credit man does and one store has to go to the wall, I know which one it will be. At any rate our country merchant is doing a business that the mail order houses cannot replace, and the mail order houses are doing a business that he does not pretend to compete with; in fact, a big mail order house is his family's emporium for clothes and notions.

Where Mail Order House Excels

Mail order houses have done a lot for the West. They have brought stylish clothes and pretty notions within the reach of all. Alas, if the days of hideous home-made clothes, made from cloth bought by the web in the country stores, should ever come again, when whole families sallied out in whatever color the storekeeper happened to have "in stock."

In the cities when women friends meet they go shopping together. Out on the wind-swept prairies, when the snowbanks tower high over the trails, a couple of neighbor women will blissfully drink tea and con over the various catalogs, picking out their season's outfit and calculating exactly how many pounds of butter, dozens of eggs or spring chickens will buy style No. so-and-so.

The country retail merchant, in the

lines of groceries, hardware and staple goods has a place that cannot be filled by the mail order houses. His expenses are not high, like in the great city stores. He is a part of the community. The mail order houses are one of the things that help to make the women and family satisfied and willing to stay on the land, and this is no small consideration.

WOLF WILLOW.
G.T.P., Central Alberta.

DUGALD INDEPENDENT

The farmers and their wives at Dugald and from other parts of the Springfield municipality have declared their political independence. They are going to put a candidate in the Federal constituency of Springfield who will stand on the farmers' platform and will not be tied to either party. The first shot in the campaign was fired on Thursday, June 21, at a big meeting held in Dugald, which was addressed by George P. Chipman, editor of The Grain Growers' Guide. The speaker outlined fully the various planks of the farmers' platform, explained how it was drafted, and what it represented, and went into the details of each of the various planks and showed the benefit that would come to the farmers and to the people of Canada generally if this platform became law. He also went into the general political situation in the West, and the prospects of democratic government if the western farmers did their duty in the election of independent candidates. The entire meeting was very enthusiastic in favor of independent action. A large number of women were present, and took a deep interest in the question under discussion. At the conclusion of the meeting a resolution was unanimously adopted in favor of an independent candidate and every voter present pledged moral and financial support of the candidate. No candidate is as yet in sight, but a dominating convention will be held shortly to place him in the field.

CURRENT EVENTS

The command of the Canadian troops in France has been given over to General Currie, who has had charge of the corps since the resignation of General Byng. General Currie went to France with the first contingent. Since September, 1915, he has commanded the first Canadian division. He is the first Canadian to command the overseas forces. General Currie is a Vancouver man and is president of the B.C. Rifle Association.

The control of the coal mines affected by the strike has been given over to W. H. Armstrong, of Vancouver, with instructions from the government to have operations resumed without delay. He will have power to direct the mines on the basis of allowing a fair margin of profit to the operators. The details of his authority have not been announced at time of writing.

The government has announced a set price for cheese this season. In this it has been working in conjunction with the British Board of Trade, which has set prices beyond which cheese must not be sold. This price has been fixed at 28 cents a pound wholesale and 32 cents retail. Based on these figures the price paid for the Canadian output at Montreal will be 21½ cents, f.o.b. steamer.

The Railway Commission is sitting at Winnipeg, taking evidence regarding the increase of 15 per cent. that the railways are asking. The railways are well represented. The case for the consumer is being argued by Isaac Pitblado, of Winnipeg, who has been selected for that duty by the Manitoba government.

The U.S. mission to Russia, headed by Elihu Root, has arrived at its destination and is advising with the provisional government as to the continuation of Russia's participation in the war.

Sir Thomas White has arranged to make a further advance of \$75,000,000 to the Imperial government, to be used for the purpose of purchasing munitions and supplies in Canada.

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Year ago
Flax
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June 24
June 25
Week ago
Year ago

WHEAT
No. 1 N
No. 1 S
No. 2 N
No. 2 S

LIVE

Choice steers
Best butch
Fair to good
Good to the
Medium to
Common to
Canners
Good to cho
Fair to good
Best case
Best butch
Common to
Fair to good
Fair to good
Best medium
(each)
Fair medium
(each)

Choice H
watered
Light hogs
Heavy sows
Pigs

Sheep
Choice
Best killing

COUNTRY

Butter
No. 1 dairy

Eggs
New laid

Pot
In sacks, per

MEATS
Sweet corn
Cranberries
Sugar 10. 5

LIVE
Feet (Yards)
Old Hens

May
No. 2 Upland
No. 2 Yellow
No. 2 Midland

Date	1"
June 19	248
20	241
21	241
22	244
23	244
24	242
Week ago	250
Year ago	130