

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE 4

# THE CRITERION & STYLE

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#### September 3, 1913

HANDICAPS OF CANADIAN FARMERS

FARMERS Toronto, Aug. 12.—In Canada the farmer gets a raw deal. At least this is the opinion of J. H. Haslam, of Re-gina, chairman of the commission to investigate agricultural credits, which has just returned from a tour of Europe. The Canadian farmer, he says, suffers under the greatest handicap in the world in the matter of facilities for borrowing money. He is obliged to pay anywhere money. He is obliged to pay anywhere from 8 to 50 per cent. on advances, while the European farmer, with less land and a smaller investment, can secure almost any amount he may ask for at from 2 to 6 per cent. It was recognizing this injustice to the Canadian agriculturist that the commission was appointed to investigate systems that are working out successfully in other countries and make recommendations to the Canadian government.

The commission has been struck very forcibly with the need for a credit or-ganization, said Mr. Haslam, and a report will soon be issued in which a suggestion for action will be made. The idea will be to make the farmer's interest paramount. At present the man on the soil gets no consideration along this line and he has unconsciously become the victim of a money system which is making a number extremely weathy, while he is restrained in all his farming operations and Canadian agriculture is severely crippled. Farmers in the West are paying \$200 for a binder, which costs \$54 to make, said Mr. Has'am. "In Canada the banks make the big thing out of the handling of money, in Europe the farmer is the great beneficiary. Here the banker, as a man, is a very prominent and important person; in the European countries he is a common-place citizen " place citizen.'

#### Gets Cheap Money

The Canadian farmer with difficulty uses any medium whatever to facilitate the buying of things he needs, and although he does not realize it, he is actually paying as much sometimes as 50 per cent. interest on the accommodation. This state of affairs affords a striking contrast to the manner in which the farmers' welfare and advancement is cared for in such countries as Germany, France or Italy. In France money is at the ready disposal of the farmer at a rate of interest ranging from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 per cent.; in Germany the farmer pays from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 per cent.; in Italy, from 4 to 6 per cent.; in Italy, from from 3/2 to 5 per cent.; in Italy, from 4 to 6 per cent.; in Belgium and Hol-land, from 3 to 4 per cent.; in Austria-Hungary, 4/2 per cent., and in Russia from 4/2 to 6 per cent. In nearly every country the farmer obtains money as cheaply as, or more so than the banks. The government of Austria-Hungary recently paid 61/2 per cent. on a loan of \$50,000,000 from the United States, and yet the farmers in that country can procure money without difficulty at 2 per cent. less.

#### FARMERS GET BENEFIT

As a result of the order of the Railway Commission extending the special express rates on cream to points between 300 and 400 miles from Winnipeg, the rate on eight gallon cans from Hubbard, Ituna and Kellher to Winnipeg will be 91 cents, instead of \$1 44, while from Punnichy, Quinton and Raymore the rate will be \$1.01 instead of \$1.54. rate will be \$1.01. instead of \$1.54. Dealers announce that after the new rates come into effect, on September 18, they will pay an increase of 2 cents per pound of butter fat on shipments from the stations affected. The Winnipeg Board of Trade was responsible for bring-ing the matter before the Railway Com-

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mission.

#### PRELUDE WHEAT MAKES RECORD

Dauphin, Man., Aug. 28 .- Perhaps a record is contained in quickness of raising from seeding to cutting in the performance of "Prelude," the new early wheat first distributed from the experimental farm last spring. Wm. Boughen sowed "Prelude" on May 24. Wm. and cut it on August 18. He says of this wheat that some heads, which are dry and hard, are clear amber and plump. It has the appearance of being easy to thresh, in fact, almost too easy. The heads are well filled and a sheaf has been gathered for exhibition purposes which is all eight rowed and a few heads ten rowed.