

though he has power to study and to express himself. He put forward more of himself. More trouble for

show the variety of its contents Toronto has small the dog-days.

ing remarkably resembling mic has appeared among the in Cobalt.

McBride is strangely unly the frantic appeals of the Opposition to come and pull of the hole.

Nolan, Esq., is becoming an the "magic that transpire of neck into a Saturday-moon out of sirloin."

is this "secession" move-just to remind the world that mines are not the only things in Northern Ontario.

eo. W. Woods has run coun- laws of the State of Min- operating a bucket shop. here have we heard that fore?

UP NORTH WELL AD- VANCED.

artin Subby, of Grand Forks, went up into the Peace country last fall with a party to make a report for the Realty Co., of that city, as agricultural resources of the district, returned to Ed- on Monday and is a guest at

ssica by the Bulletin, this Hr. Subby stated that he and the country all that could for farming purposes, and result of the report of his associates there was now on to Dunvegan a party of fifty farmers who proposed to Spirit River, which is fifty south of Dunvegan.

is a number of white set- tling the soil in it and so far have reaped ex- cellent, principally after, though 25th, when Mr. Subby started a fall wheat on the farms of Calkins, English, and Eskin well along to heading out, spring not having been so felt there as further south, all points were looking well, only at Prairie River and Spirit-districts.

ish of new comers is fairly fast this season and now that Capt. has his new steamer, the Nor- thland, running on Lesser Slave down the river as far as which cuts it in two, it is in the trip north, to say nothing the boon it confers in the mat- tering supplies in and out of the districts are bound to a fair share of the new comers.

The soil at Spirit River, by asserts, is the equal of any in the province and there is a great stretch of it, at least long by 30 miles in and out of prairie, although there are of timber on it that make it to be classed with the best. The residents there have the raising all kinds of garden but fruits do not thrive.

but at Dunvegan, in winter at Dunvegan, is an one. The snowfall was about and the coldest day, saw snow 53 below zero. The liquor laws are being very re- stricted in the north, and where are caught violating the laws a severe penalty is generally in- flicting it his future home.

spending a few days in Ed- Mr. Subby will return to his in Minnesota. He has the confidence in the Peace River, and when transported, the are somewhat improved, in- making it his future home.

LLOYDMINSTER.

In Correspondence.

dmister, July 16.—For some there has been more or discussion relating to the amation of Lloydminster, Al- and Lloydminster, Saskatche- The advantages of being incor- porated as one town and wholly taken into one province other, was pretty fully de- manded the ratepayers, and onths ago it was decided to representative from each side line to interview the govern- at Edmonton, Regina and Ok- arranging to have the matter one way or the other. The es were pleasantly received by government and told to have a taken of the ratepayers of minister, that the verdict vote would be respected, and shes of the people carried out- city fathers at once decided to poll on the first Monday after moon in July. Everything lovely and there were one or this made as a result, up till Saturday the 13th, there indication a poll would not ed. True, some of the strong ans started a petition setting that they preferred not to mnate, but it was not expected this would make any material move. Everyone was looking for- over the opening gun on Monday holes in a ten-foot ladder and ve all dropped from the top. A hastily called meeting of council was held at 7:30 this- ing, and it was decided not to the vote at present on account action taken by the petition- the Alberta side.

badly pointed, as it was expected the peace would be turned loose writing, but instead the Saska- nian partisans are shouting "You play in our yard," and the Al- reply "Go way back and sit

SUSPICIOUS REGULATION OF PRICES OF BACON

Witness Before beef Commission Disclaims any Connection With Combine, but Particularly His Prices are Maintained Just Below American Product

(From Tuesday's Bulletin.)

The Beef Commission opened this morning with Walter Vogel, of Strathcona, on the stand. Mr. Vogel is manager of the Vogel Pork Packing company, a company which he declared is strictly an independent concern, and is in no trust or combine. Last year his packing house utilized 6,000 hogs, the product of which is sold in the towns along the C. N. R. and C. and E. He obtains his supply exclusively in cars pulled by the C. N. R.

Mr. Vogel submitted a schedule of prices paid by his firm during 1906 as follows:

May 1st to 18th, 6 1-4.
May 18th to Oct. 23rd, 6 1-2.
Oct. 23rd to Nov. 16, 6 1-4.
Nov. 16 to Nov. 28, 6 1-2.
Nov. 28 to Dec. 23, 5 3-4 and 5 1-2.

These prices were for choice hogs. Rough and lower quality hogs were quoted below these prices.

The Why of These Quotations.

Mr. Nolan wished to obtain from Mr. Vogel his reasons and the causes that led to the American quotation being made at various times, and the reasons why they were made at the particular dates specified in the schedule.

Mr. Vogel's reply was that it was due to supply and demand in this district, Winnipeg or Chicago quotations had no effect here. To a further question the witness stated that three-quarters of the hogs he purchased were choice quality and brought the prices quoted above. He stated there was no shrinkage in hogs.

Sells to Trade Only.

The product of Mr. Vogel's packing house was sold to the trade only. The commission desired a comparison of his prices to the trade with those of the American products imported here. Mr. Vogel stated his was from one-half to a cent cheaper, although he further stated he did not know what the prices of the American article was.

Mr. Nolan wanted to know how he kept below the American bacon and hams by such a suspiciously narrow margin, and entered into a comparison of the cost of the two products. Mr. Vogel stated his was from one-half to a cent cheaper, although he further stated he did not know what the prices of the American article was.

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fair treatment is the whole thing," said Mr. Webb.

Mr. Webb stated that in buying hogs the price he could get for them was fixed. His method was to handle the hogs at 1-4c per lb. commission, and try to give the farmer the benefit of a narrow spread between the two prices. He attributed the sudden drop in pork this spring to the fact that the farmers were busy seeding at the time, and would not leave the place to market their hogs. There was also a small scarcity of fat hogs this spring, which was a factor. He stated that the 4-1/2 price named by Mr. Vogel was a starvation price for the farmer when he was forced to pay 20c for the same hogs when converted into bacon by Mr. Vogel.

Mr. Webb had no specific reply to suggest. He thought matters would gradually right themselves and expressed confidence in the new packing plant here, which he said would create a market and establish a regular price.

He submitted a calculation to the Commission to show that it was impossible to produce pork at a profit, but at actual cost.

He favored very strongly the erection and operation of canning and packing houses by the Government, to be run on a fixed basis of profit, like the Government creamery system, which does not aim to manufacture at a profit, but at actual cost.

Mr. Stevens wiggled out by saying that a private institution could be managed more economically than the government institution, and cited the case of the Government system of rearing money in competition with the banks.

"Do you know if that department of the Postoffice Commission is run at a profit?"

"I can't tell," Commissioner Campbell—"The analogy does not hold."

Adapted for Hog Raising.

Continuing, Mr. Stevens stated that Alberta was the best adapted province in Canada for hog raising, yet it was cheaper here than in any other province.

He submitted a table showing the result of an experiment tried by him, in which there was a loss of 10 per cent of hogs sold so low that he was unable to sell his stock. He killed them and sent them to the market, and found that the result was so satisfactory that he went out among the farmers and purchased hogs to slaughter and dress for meat. He paid 1-4c more per pound than the butchers in Edmonton or Strathcona.

He referred to the work of the A. F. A., and made the remark that it was the feeling among the farmers of the province that if the Government failed to get between the people and the hogs, they would be slaughtered and sent to the market, and that was being used now to get a winter of prices, said Mr. Vogel, in getting out of the corner. "Our wholesale prices are the same as the retail prices."

Prices Paid in 1907.

The rapid, sudden and suspicious appreciation of hogs last spring was brought up. Mr. Vogel's schedule showed prices of 7-1/4c to 7-1/2c. On April 27th the prices jumped from 7 to 7 1-4.

To a query as to what caused this, Mr. Vogel said "was due to a big demand for his bacon products and a rush of orders. He wanted the hogs and was prepared to pay to get them, and competition was so keen as to cause all this rise, otherwise he could not tell specifically. He denied any knowledge of an outside buyer from British Columbia as being the responsible factor.

Further questioning revealed the fact that Mr. Vogel was not buying hogs now, and that there was a sudden over-supply, which was responsible for the drop from 7 1-2c. Two months ago to 6c. today. Mr. Nolan suggested there might be an understanding among the buyers to effect this. Mr. Vogel's strong protesting drew the remark from the counsel that it was possible to protest too much.

Mr. Vogel emphatically denied that P. Burns & Co. were able to fix the price. He had to pay the same as any other buyer who entered this district, or more if he wanted the hogs.

"Last year," said Mr. Vogel, "I fixed the price at 4-1/2c, and said I would not pay under that."

Mr. Nolan asked him if he thought the farmer could find a profit at that price, to which he replied that from his standpoint he thought he could. That was all he, himself, could afford to pay, in any event.

A Shipper Testifies.

M. F. Webb was next called. He stated he was engaged in handling and shipping live stock for the last six or seven years. His business was largely the shipping of hogs to Vancouver. Mr. Webb told of an experience in shipping two cars of cattle to Vancouver. He said he would never forget the treatment he received. In the first place he had great difficulty in getting cars at all. On the run he was held off at every station and made on an average nine miles an hour over the entire trip. At one place, near Wetaskiwin, he was held up for eight hours to load a gravel train.

Shrink Destroys Profit.

Mr. Webb stated that the bad run and accommodation afforded by the C. P. R. caused such an enormous shrinkage in the cattle that it practically wiped out any possibility of shipping at a profit. On the occasion "Good transportation facilities and

He submitted a number of resolutions which were received and put in evidence by the Commission.

The first deposition was a copy of a resolution that had been sent to the Department of Agriculture, and represented the petition of 130 farmers in the Tofield district asking, that in view of the small quantity of export cattle, the excess butcher cattle, and the assured purity and popularity of cured and canned meats in a government canning and packing house, the Government without delay take steps to establish and operate a packing and canning factory to utilize the cattle and hogs of the district.

A similar deposition was received from the Vermilion farmers, stating that the present high prices were only temporary, and the result of a combination to suppress competition, which they believed would be obtained by the establishment of abattoirs and packing houses.

Associations of Objects.

Mr. Stevens stated that the aims of the Alberta Farmers' Association, stating, in the first place, that the object of the association was to give publicity to the value of the meat trade solved the grain trade, too.

Four sessions were held in Ereskine and one in Stettler.

He looked like an understanding among the buyers to freeze him out, which they hoped would compel him to sacrifice his cattle at the last moment.

He further stated that prices had jumped this season because in his opinion, a buyer from British Columbia, had come into the district. Hitherto producers in the vicinity of Tees had to drive their cattle or hogs to Lacombe, a distance of nineteen miles. Mr. Burns shipped from the local point, which caused other dealers to follow suit.

Mr. Tees' remedy for the lack of competition was producing mutton and the establishment of packing and canning houses by private enterprise, with others by the government as a regulator and a competitor.

Competition That Cuts Both Ways.

Mr. Tees informed the commission of a form of competition which he had seen in 1905. Mr. Puffer and P. Burns & Co. cut the price of dressed meats from 6c to 5c to the construction of the C. P. R.

One Rancher Satisfied.

Harry Simpson, of Ewing, told the story of his sales, which he said were as follows:

He said he did not think it was unreasonable, but would not state ably, because he was a fair person, familiar with shipping and the conditions at the terminal markets in Winnipeg.

In 1906 he sold fifty head to Gordon & Ironsides for \$3.75 per cwt. Dafter Shaw offered him \$3.65 per cwt. for the same cattle without seeing them.

Mr. Simpson said things were getting better, and he was in the business, and submitted it as his opinion that cattle could be driven long distances without loss through the C. P. R.

C. P. R. and Pat Burns.

Edward Barnett, the oldest rancher in the Ereskine or Lacombe district, having lived here since 1862, was the first man to sell steers to P. Burns north of the Red Deer.

Mr. Barnett believed that the C. P. R. and the P. Burns were one, and said it was practically impossible for a small shipper to get fair treatment from the C. P. R.

He told the story of a buyer called Hempville, who came to the district in 1903 to buy cattle for the Klondike market, and purchased two hundred head, and loaded them at Lacombe. The C. P. R. reached his load in the Selkirk, and he was finally obliged to sacrifice them to P. Burns & Co., his competitor. He described the 5 per cent shrinkage as "regrettable," and thought it could be prevented if the ranchers refused to stand for it. He thought the government should see that the small shipper got justice in transit, and was confident that P. Burns & Co. and Gordon, Ironsides & Co. obtained rebates. Mr. Barnett went on to say that the C. P. R. and P. Burns were not complete with the "orphan twins" of the C. P. R., to which Mr. Nolan replied: "They must be very unfilial twins."

A Successful Shipper.

John Ewing and Benjamin J. Foxhall, of Ewing, gave evidence from the side of the small shipper who had sided the C. P. R. and the coercion of the cattle kings. Mr. Ewing stated that in 1906 he got \$3.65 per cwt., which was the highest price he ever received to that time. He thought the 5 per cent shrinkage was an imposition and unsparingly denounced the contract system. Conditions for the rancher were improving, and he did not think the ranchers would ever see the same unfavorable conditions again, as they had experienced in former years.

Didn't See Anything Crooked.

Two witnesses were called, A. M. Darragh, who was in charge of a camp near the Selkirk, a contractor. Mr. Darragh said he did sign some receipts of delivery of meat with the P. Burns & Co. name upon them, but he never found anything crooked. Mr. Morrish stated he never saw any of the Burns & Co. trucks in his dealings with Mr. Puffer.

Mr. Puffer, who was present, explained that P. Burns & Co. obtained an agreement with some of the contractors to supply them with meat though no contract was ever signed. The Burns Company found it did not pay to handle the meat, and as a consequence turned it over to Mr. Puffer. Mr. Puffer said it was true that some of the Burns delivery cheques were used by him when his were run out, but further than that there was no relation between his firm and that of P. Burns & Co.

It is difficult to see why the question was raised, and apparently made to impress the commission that the whole situation of the live stock and dressed meat trade is controlled and dominated by P. Burns & Co.

No Competition at Calgary Sale.

Witnesses, of Tees, related the sale of his cattle during the last few years. In 1905 he sold for 3 1-2 cents, and in 1906 he sold by the head 42 cattle for \$2,000.

This year Mr. Tees tried a new plan of selling his cattle. He fitted them with a tag, and the Calgary spring show. He was surprised to learn that the buyers apparently evaded him, though his cattle were prize winners. Before he went to Calgary, he wrote to different firms of his intention of going to Calgary. He looked like an understanding among the buyers to freeze him out, which they hoped would compel him to sacrifice his cattle at the last moment.

He further stated that prices had jumped this season because in his opinion, a buyer from British Columbia, had come into the district. Hitherto producers in the vicinity of Tees had to drive their cattle or hogs to Lacombe, a distance of nineteen miles. Mr. Burns shipped from the local point, which caused other dealers to follow suit.

Mr. Tees' remedy for the lack of competition was producing mutton and the establishment of packing and canning houses by private enterprise, with others by the government as a regulator and a competitor.

Co-operation the Remedy.

Wm. Trevenen, of Alix, stated that the grievances from which the ranchers were suffering might have been obviated in the early days if any measure of co-operation had been possible among the ranchers themselves. He approved of a cold storage business conducted under the supervision of the government to obviate a trust among the private companies in the same business. He approved the suggestion of the commissioners to have a government agent at the terminal shipping points to look after the interests of the small shippers who were not familiar with the methods and operations of buyers and professional traders, and to protect them from the imposition of the monstrous fictitious that were so often perpetrated upon the innocent uninitiated.

Mr. Trevenen, who manages a ranch for Mrs. Westhead near Stettler, further stated that a few years ago Mrs. Westhead sold her cattle to an outside buyer. The next year all the local buyers boycotted her so that she was unable to sell her cattle the next year.

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