

The Grain Bill

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wheat in the Liverpool market, and as to whether or not maintaining a high standard of Manitoba wheat enables it to secure higher prices in Liverpool. Manitoba wheat is sold in Liverpool in three ways: First, on future delivery contracts, a copy of which contract I hereto attach; second, by parcels for future delivery; and third, spot cash, which is usually sold on sample on the Liverpool spot cash market. The spot cash market is where the millers usually secure their requirements. It will be noticed that on the future contract, American red wheat, either Manitoba or Northern United States, or soft winter wheat, hard winter wheat, Argentine wheat or Australian wheat are deliverable at the option of the seller. On the parcel market Manitoba wheat only is deliverable on contract, and it is very significant to note the difference in the price. The sales of parcels of Manitoba wheat are invariably made on the Dominion government certificate, which certificate is final, the importer having to accept any Manitoba wheat carrying the Manitoba certificate offered by the seller. That, gentlemen, clearly indicates to you the importance of having that wheat exactly what the certificate calls for, and there is where the diluting of our grain in transit, or the exporting of wheat containing weed seeds, tends to reduce the price paid by the British importer for our wheat. That does not apply to wheat sold on the future market. The Canadian certificate in that case carries no weight, the value of the grain tendered by the contract being fixed by the grading committee of the Liverpool Corn Trade association. The specification on which that grain is accepted is very significant. For Manitoba spring wheat the basis of weight is 60 pounds, United States northern wheat, basis of weight, 59 pounds; soft winter wheat, 61 pounds; hard winter wheat, 60½ pounds; Argentine wheats, Rosario, Santa-Fe type, 60½ pounds; Bahia Blanco type, 60½ pounds; Australian wheat, 61½ pounds. The specification continues as follows:

Specifications

"No wheat shall be graded which, in the opinion of the grading committee, has any defect which would render it unsuitable for general milling purposes.

"Subject always to this proviso, basis wheat may contain some heated, sprouted, frosted or smutted grains, and a proportionately increased quantity may be allowed if warranted by an improvement in weight or in other respects.

"No wheat weighing more than one pound per imperial bushel under the basis weight shall be graded.

"No wheat which complies with the weight requirements shall be rejected on account of the presence of heated, sprouted, frosted and/or smutted grains or other defects if, in the opinion of the grading committee, it is not more than one penny per cental inferior to basis quality.

"The allowances, if any, shall be in gradations of not less than one-half penny per cental.

"The basis of weight as hereinbefore provided is per imperial bushel at time of grading.

"Spring wheats must be reasonably hard of their respective types, and all descriptions of wheat must be reasonably clean of their respective types.

"American red wheat must be wheat grown east of the Rocky Mountains in the United States of North America and/or Canada, except where otherwise provided."

This rule of the Liverpool Corn Trade association to come effective March 21, 1910.

Manitoba Wheat in Liverpool

To illustrate the value of Manitoba wheat in these three different positions, I will quote you prices at Liverpool on February 14 last as reported by the Liverpool Corn Trade News.

Future sales, red graded wheat, March option, \$1.00 4-5 per bushel; parcel sales, c.i.f. Liverpool, No. 1 Nor. Manitoba, \$1.06½; February or March, No. 3 Nor., \$1.02; spot cash No. 1 Nor. Manitoba, \$1.11 per bushel, showing a difference between spot cash and future of 10½ cents, and between spot cash and parcel sales of 4½ cents. To further illustrate the situation on the spot market of the different wheats accepted on the future market, I quote you the



JOHN GARTON, the famous farm plant breeder, crossing clover to produce new hardy productive varieties.

Note—He is breeding only from plants that have proved their hardiness, all others having died during the six years since the plot was sown.

The breeding of hardy and productive Alfalfa, Clover and Grass has received the same careful attention given Garton's Wheat, Oats, Barley and Root Seeds bred specially for Western Canada and fully described in Garton's Book of the Farm, 1911, free on request.

The mere examination of a sample of grass or clover seeds by the naked eye or even with the aid of a microscope will denote its purity, but will not give the slightest idea as to the producing power of the plants subsequently raised. The only method by which this can be ascertained is by first selecting the plants showing the hardest habit and greatest forage-yielding power and raising seed from these, afterwards testing by actually weighing the produce of each plot, as is done at the Garton Plant Breeding Farms.

PEDIGREED ALFALFA WILL PAY YOU

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 6th, 1911

I have a most beautiful stand of your New Alfalfa on ten acres. I think every seed germinated. I am so impressed with it that I shall put in a further 20 to 30 acres next season, for which you will receive my order in due course.—CHAS. C. CASTLE.

The day of free Hay is rapidly passing. Prepare to grow your own Hay and pasture and ensure satisfaction by sowing seed with breeding; seed of proved productiveness; seed, back of which is our guarantee of purity and germination. Samples and prices (with guarantee of purity and germination), of hardy Alfalfa, Red Clover, Alsike, Timothy and Western Rye, will be mailed on application.

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WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

following prices at Liverpool on the same date: Australian, \$1.09 1-5 per bushel. No. 1 Nor. Manitoba, \$1.11; No. 2 red winter ; Argentine, 99 3-5; Russian, 88 4-5 to \$1.04; Azima, old, \$1.15 1-5; Ulka, old, \$1.08.

Clearly then the object of the Canadian people should be to place their hard wheat as a spot wheat at Liverpool, so as to get the price that the British miller is willing to pay for it, and one of the essentials in attaining that end is to retain the high standard placed upon their wheat by the government inspector at the initial point.

Value of Wheat Reduced

Mr. Proctor, the senior member of Proctor & Sons, one of the largest grain importing firms in Liverpool, while on a tour of inspection of Canadian grain conditions last fall told me that if Canadians could deliver their grain from the vessel in Liverpool to the miller, of the standard that it leaves the farmers, they could secure from four to five cents more per bushel than they now receive on account of its high value for blending purposes. The Western people recognize this situation, and as I have already stated, have not hesitated to incur huge liabilities that the grain may be properly handled in the interior, and they do look with confidence to the Dominion parliament to remedy the existing evil

at the terminals at Fort William and Port Arthur, through which their grain must necessarily pass.

Two charges have been made and reiterated against the terminal elevator operators: First, that they lower the grade of wheat by mixing higher grades with inferior, and that their lowering in grade by mixing lowers the export price and consequently lowers the price to the farmer; second, that they do not clean the grain as the inspection requires, but ship it out dirty.

Mr. Castle's Report

As to the first charge we are willing to leave that case to the report made by Mr. Castle, the warehouse commissioner, to the department of trade and commerce as the result of his investigation at the terminals at the close of navigation in 1910. As to the second charge, the Royal Grain Commission, appointed by the government to investigate grain conditions in 1907, found that grain shipped out of the terminals was not cleaned to inspection requirements. That charge is reiterated continuously by Ontario millers who have to use wheat out of these terminals in their mills. The Grain Growers' Associations are investigating on their own account as to the truth of these charges. They made an honest effort to secure samples of grain as it arrived at English ports,

and I have given the committee the result of that effort in tabulated form with regard to 40 samples secured at intervals from steamships arriving with cargoes at Liverpool, covering a period of three months. The Grain Growers' Associations are not doing a detective business, their only purpose being to satisfy themselves as to the manner in which Manitoba wheat reaches its ultimate market. We believe, and the general public will believe, that these samples illustrate clearly that Manitoba grain does not reach Liverpool as clean as it ought to be, notwithstanding the fact that criticism has been directed by some members of the committee as to the authenticity of those samples, and even the late chief inspector has suggested that the samples were not taken honestly. I might easily retort by saying that that exact criticism is made of those who sample and inspect the grain going out of the terminals at Fort William and Port Arthur, but the ex-chief inspector would not suggest that any such thing happens. I would submit that while it may be conceived possible that grain might be diluted in transit through the transfer elevators by the admixture of grain of a lower quality it is not possible to mix weed seeds with the grain in the transfer elevators, because they do not carry any such stock, so it may be taken for granted