

"See what the jay brought!" said one, pointing to the glossy little nut.

"Why, a magic seed!" cried the other.

"What shall we do with it, Dick?" asked the younger.

"Why, put it where it will grow, for sure," answered his brother. "Can't you see, you silly, that this is the seed that grows the tree that bears the apples with the silver paper round them? These are the goodest kind, you know. Let us put it in this pot beside grandpa's pelargonium and when it is big we will put it in our corner of the orchard."

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When Professor Lonicera returned from his summer holidays he found most marvellous specimen of the *Polygonum* family growing side by side with a mottled-leaved pelargonium. He remembered at once the loss of the bind-weed seed, and marvelled by what manner of means it could have transported itself from the table to the flower-pot. The caretaker had seen it start to life and recognized it as a kind of weed, but knowing the professors' love for growing all kinds of botanical "wastrels" he had given it an equal chance with the rest. But a weed it was no longer. For, have we not the assurance of the great man himself that it was from this specimen that he first obtained the first few seeds with which he began the long series of experiments that ended in giving to the world the new variety of buckwheat, which is unrivalled in the market-place, and which goes by the name of the college he once adorned.

Government Packing Houses Wanted in Alberta

The Alberta Farmers' and the Central Alberta Stock Growers' Associations took advantage of the opportunity afforded them by the provincial seed fair at Edmonton to interview the Minister of Agriculture regarding the establishment by the Government of pork packing and beef canning plants, conducted along lines similar to those upon which the creameries are conducted.

A preliminary caucus of those interested was held; Mr. T. H. Woolford, vice-president of the A. F. A., was elected chairman of the meeting and spokesman of the delegation. A consensus of opinion was taken and a time arranged with the Minister at which he would meet them. On the 7th inst. the delegates met the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Findlay, in his office.

Mr. Woolford presented the views of the delegation as a whole and Mr. Bowers those of the stock growers in particular. After several others of the delegation had spoken to the question Mr. Findlay stated that his position as Minister of Agriculture imposed upon him the duty of safeguarding the interests of the farmers and stock growers, and he assured them that this duty would be fulfilled to the utmost of his ability. He reminded the delegation that the matter which they had come to present was an important one and would have to be undertaken with the greatest care and after careful deliberation.

He called attention to the fact that the province has but recently entered upon the second year of its existence; that during the first year it took over and enlarged the creamery system which had been previously conducted by the Dominion Government; that during the present year it was developing the poultry raising and fattening industry, and that if this worked out satisfactorily and the farmers gave the support they had pledged to it, the Department might see its way clear to undertake new enterprises in their interest.

Clover Bar.

W. F. STEVENS, SEC., A. F. A.

The Objects of the Society of Equity.

We take pleasure in publishing below the objects of the Society of Equity, a society now established in Alberta. Such are:

1. To obtain profitable prices for all products of the farm, garden and orchard. This is the first and main object.
2. To build and maintain elevators, warehouses and cold storage houses in principal market cities

or in all localities where necessary, so that the farm produce may be held for an advantageous price instead of passing into the hands of middlemen or trusts.

3. To secure equitable rates of transportation.
4. To secure legislation in the interest of agriculture.

5. To open up new markets and enlarge old ones.
6. To secure new seeds, grain, fruit, vegetables, etc., from foreign countries, with a view of improving present crops and giving a greater diversity.

7. To report crops in this and foreign countries, so that farmers may operate intelligently in planting and marketing.
8. To provide institutions of learning, so that farmers and their sons and daughters may be educated in scientific and intensive farming, and for the general advancement of agriculture.

9. To improve our highways.
10. To irrigate our lands.
11. To prevent adulteration of food and marketing of same.

12. To promote social intercourse.
13. To settle disputes without recourse to law.
14. To borrow and loan money and do a banking business.

15. To establish similar societies in foreign countries.

To the above no well wisher of the farming community can well take exception. Every such object attained will tend to improve the condition of the farmers and make for their well-being.

MARKETS

Grain shipments are increasing rapidly, the result of the milder weather, which has permitted the transportation companies to move more freight than for some time past. Reports of the actual losses of cattle are beginning to filter through and it would appear that while the half is not yet told, no person has as yet been able to give an accurate estimate of the losses. Suffice it to say that prices for beef are stiffening and the prospects seem good for farmers with good beeves to market this spring. Thompson, Sons and Co. refer to the grain market as follows:

"The nervous and erratic condition in the wheat markets, mentioned in our last weekly review, has continued to prevail during the past seven days. Prices have fluctuated up and down within the narrow range of 1c. per bus., and the market has been subjected to sudden advances and declines within that range, without any well defined reason for such changes other than the nervousness of speculative traders. The result on prices, of the week's trading, is seen in a decline of 1/4c. to 1/2c. in May and July wheat in the American speculative markets, except in the case of Chicago May which shows a decline of 1 1/4c. The September delivery in these markets shows a slight advance, but only a few trades are made in the September futures so early in the season. The market is probably a little disappointing to those who believe in the prospect of higher prices and who have been looking forward to them for some time. We have not any doubt as to the strong undertone to the market situation of the world, and that it will result in the not distant future, in higher prices than at present. In the meantime the development seems to progress slowly, but it will not be less surely. The large majority of speculative traders are constantly influenced in their trading by the changing reports of crop news and movement of grain which come before them during the market hours day after day. At the present time and in the last few weeks the ordinary speculative trader has had to work under the influence of reports of green bug ravages and water kill damage on the one hand, and large primary receipts, poor flour

trade, and increasing accumulation of visible stocks on the other, and the market has advanced or declined according to whichever influence was the stronger for the time being; and in the meantime we submit that the speculative market is, as it were, being permitted to make the price. One of the influences preventing advance in price at present is the large primary receipts at western terminal centers in Western America, and this movement is taking place now since the weather became milder and favorable for railway traffic, just because of the stoppage of traffic, in January and February. Then, while the grain is being brought from the country points to the terminal centers, it is being allowed to accumulate there for lack of motive power to carry it eastward where it is wanted. Stocks are increasing at such points as Minneapolis, Duluth, Fort William and Port Arthur, and in the meantime nothing is going forward for export, and millers in the Eastern States and in Ontario are almost out of hard spring wheat. So much is this the case that Manitoba wheat shipped down the lakes last fall and held in bond at Buffalo intended for export to Europe, has been recently shipped back to Canadian ports for the use of Canadian millers. The season is now so far advanced that it will be more advantageous to wait till opening of navigation to ship wheat eastward by lake rather than forward by all rail, even if the railways could take it. Lake navigation is not expected to open this season until around May 1st. at the earliest, but as showing the urgent demand to get the grain shipped eastward we may say that every Canadian vessel available has been chartered to load at Port William and Port Arthur at the opening; several of them are chartered for their second trip, and a few of them for their third trip; wheat will go quickly out of sight therefore as soon as navigation opens. The influence which from now on will have as much to do with fixing prices as the supplies from the old crop is the prospect of the new crop now growing or to be planted this spring. Usually damage to the winter crops becomes definitely determined between the middle of March and the middle of May; this season there is more than the usual uncertainty as to the condition of the winter wheat. There are reports of winter killing in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. In Europe the severest winter in years is drawing to a close and it is thought there will be considerable damage in Germany, Hungary, Spain and probably France. If extensive damage has occurred in these countries, it will mean a largely increased demand for export.

"Manitoba wheat in our Winnipeg market is firm. Prices are practically on export basis, but as it is impossible to get grain shipped east of Port William except for odd cars, till lake navigation opens, trade is not active. Closing prices to-day are 1 Hard 76 1/2c. 1 Nor. 74 1/2c., 2 Nor. 72 1/2c., 3 Nor. 69 1/2c., for spot wheat, cars en route are worth 1/4c over spot stuff."

LOWER GRADES AND COARSE GRAINS

No. 4.....	66 1/2
Rejected 1—1 Hard.....	71 1/2
Rejected 1—1 Northern.....	70 1/2
Rejected 1—2 Northern.....	68
Oats.....	35 1/2
Barley.....	43 1/2
Flax.....	1 25

MILLFEED—

Bran, per ton.....	17 50
Shorts, per ton.....	18 50
HAY (baled) on track, per ton.....	10 00 @ 11 00
Loose loads, per ton.....	8 00 @ 10 00

PRODUCE (WHOLESALE).

POTATOES (f.o.b.) Winnipeg, per bus.	75	@	80
CREAMERY BUTTER—			
Fancy, fresh made bricks	32		
Second grade bricks	25	@	27
Boxes	24	@	25
DAIRY BUTTER—			
Prints, fancy, in small lots.	17	@	20
Dairy, in tubs.	@	17
CHEESE—			
Manitoba	14½		
Ontario	15	@	15
Ontario, twin	15½	@	16
EGGS—			
Manitoba, fresh gathered	20	@	21
POULTRY (Cold storage stock)—			
Fowl.	12		
Young turkeys	18		
Geese	14		

LIVE STOCK AND BY-PRODUCTS.

Choice steers, 1,200 to 1,400 lbs	4	@	4
Choice cows, 1,000 and up.	3½	@	4
Common cows.	2½	@	3
Fat bulls.	2	@	6
Sheep.	5	@	6
Lambs.	6	@	6
Hogs.	6½	@	7
HIDES (salted), first class.	9	@	9
Frozen.	8		
Shedskins.	3½	@	4



A BEAUTIFUL BENCH OF LEVEL FRUIT LANDS AT POBSON IN THE KOOTENAY COUNTRY