

when paid the price they charge for hauling this grain, further than that their interests should cease, and if paid for their services for transporting grain to any industry on their line they should be perfectly willing to perform that service, but to deprive the shipper or his agent of the right to control the shipments he pays them for hauling, and from obtaining samples of the grain here in this market, we believe is taking away privileges which are rightly his.

From our acquaintance with the farmers of this country we find they are turning over in their minds the question as to whether it is advisable to make Winnipeg an order point, because they are led to believe if this change was made mixing houses would promptly come in large numbers here and that their out-puts of mixed grains, placed on the market, would depreciate the value of grains and hurt the sale of their products. We are satisfied this is a very much mistaken idea. From our experience of twelve years of selling grain in sample markets on commission for farmers we know the mixing house is of great value to any market. It creates competition for the receipts of grain and tends to make prices uniform. It is a legitimate business. Take for instance some of this smutty wheat coming in here which is only slightly smutty, but which when pounded around the big elevators at Fort William would be changed in appearance to black smut and which must therefore be graded Rejected on account of it. Take this car in Winnipeg as it arrives from the farmer with the balls unbroken and give it to a mixer, who has built an elevator here with machinery to carefully handle such grain as this, and he could put this over his cleaner and blow the smut balls off, at a light expense, and load the car out and any one would be glad to give him the best grade and price for it. If it went to King's Elevator at Fort William it would have to be cut from seven to ten cents per bushel.

We claim that these mixing houses would reduce the wide discounts that have to be allowed on the off grades of grain on this market, and would in no way affect the high standards of the grades as shipped out of Fort William to Eastern markets.

As stated in the beginning, this subject is of vital importance to the farmer, the grain trade and the railroads, but is of the most vital importance to the farmer as he would obtain most by it, and therefore it is from this source we must look for pressure to come to bring about this necessary change.

RANDALL, GEE & MITCHELL.

An American Settler on Our System of Grading Wheat.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Something must be done in regard to our wheat grades. Why is our wheat worth 7 cents a bushel less than the wheat on the other side of the line? In the House a few days ago, the member for Killarney made this statement but offered no solution. The member from Swan River stated that the only reason he could give was, that the whole market is practically controlled by the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, "By their monopolizing by contract the whole available boat space across the Atlantic." This would seem a large contract. I think the reason for a 7 cent difference must be found in some cause, other than the members of the Grain Exchange monopolizing the whole available boat space across the Atlantic—to my mind, the reason why Canadian wheat at Fort William is worth 7 cents a bushel less than the American wheat at Duluth or Minneapolis is on account of the Canadian system of grading and the Canadian laws that restrict the handling of Canadian wheat and until these restrictions are removed the Canadian price will suffer in competition with the American wheat. When we raised a small amount of wheat and had to look to England for customers, the same as we do now, we were particularly anxious to keep up the quality of our wheat, and the laws were practically the same as they are now, prohibiting the mixing of wheat.

First, in regard to the Canadian system of grading. This matter is fully covered in the Farmer's Advocate of Jan. 24th and is detrimental to the farmers, and through them to the country in general, in having our grades as strict as they are at present. The proportion of No. 1 Hard wheat arriving in Winnipeg at present should be greater than it was last fall, whereas this proportion has steadily decreased. The Winnipeg inspections show that this is true to an alarming extent. In October there was a much larger proportion of No. 1 Hard inspected than at present. The millers and the foreign buyers are making the profit and the farmers losing the money. We are trying to do business in this country along the same lines as five and ten years ago with the same old-fashioned laws, while the actual conditions have changed and we are trying to handle a crop of eighty or ninety million bushels of wheat under the same laws as we handled thirty or forty million bushels, and the conditions for the farmers are getting steadily worse.

Second, in regard to the handling of wheat. As I understand it, the present laws state that no wheat if it has once been inspected shall be mixed with any wheat of any other grade. This law should be repealed. Every farmer knows that some of his wheat is choice wheat for the grade at which it is sold, and every farmer knows that some of his wheat is poor, not quite good enough for a certain grade but certainly not bad enough for the grade below, so that it is really on the line between one grade and the other,

but of course, it is put in the lower grade when inspected at Winnipeg.

With these old-fashioned laws repealed, prohibiting the mixing of wheat, this wheat would be shipped to Winnipeg and the two cars mixed together; they would both grade the higher grade. Part of this benefit would, necessarily, be retained by the elevator doing business, but with competition a large amount of this benefit would be reflected right back to the price the farmer got for his wheat. The same thing is being done in the States to-day with corn as well as wheat. The crop of corn in the States shows some good corn and some poor corn, the poor corn is sent to Chicago and run through dryers, it is then mixed with good corn and is exported and the foreigners are certainly not complaining on account of this mixing. Why should they complain on account of the mixing of Canadian wheat? All the wheat exported from the United States in mixed, so why should the English consumers complain on account of Canadian wheat being mixed?

It is quite natural that the English buyers and the Canadian millers should want the Canadian laws left as they are, as it is very plain to see who is benefited to the extent of some 7 cents a bushel but just as soon as the laws on grading and mixing of Canadian wheat are changed, the farmer will get this 7 cents.

The railroads running through Winnipeg make a charge of 1 cent per 100 lbs. if cars are stopped at Winnipeg for orders; this is unfair to the farmers and should be abolished. For as soon as it is done, there will, at once, spring up in Winnipeg, elevators which will buy this rejected wheat and thereafter it will be handled so that the last dollar will be made out of it, and instead of turning this profit over to the millers and the English buyers, it will work back into the price the farmer gets for his wheat. This is simply the working of one of the laws of competition and to my mind is the way to correct the difference of 7 cents a bushel between our price and the price in the United States, and this is something that should occupy the attention of the Grain Growers.

We all want broader markets and these markets can only be created by removing the restrictions on handling wheat; the more restrictions you place on a business, the narrower the business is. The mixing of wheat is allowed in country elevators, why is it prohibited by law after the wheat has once been inspected in Winnipeg? In the United States, I understand, large amounts of money have been invested in elevators where wheat is handled, and this money would not be invested unless it was a profitable business. If it is a profitable business to the party who owns the elevator, it would only be a short time before competition would come in and this profit reflected back to the party who raised the wheat.

As we all know, we have grown wheat and sold it at from 6 cents to 15 cents a bushel less than we have got for other wheat which we grew on the same farm, simply because it was graded down one grade while really there has been no such difference in the value of the wheat. I think the millers make the profit and I have been told that the mills to-day are buying all of the wheat, which on account of the severe inspection at Winnipeg is grading rejected, and this is the wheat the farmer is losing his money on.

Wheat which is used for flour, is worth what it shows in the flour test whether it is called No. 1 Hard or No. 1 Northern or rejected, and I believe that if the present restrictions were removed in regard to mixing wheat, more of this difference of 7 cents would be eliminated. We might as well get to this now as five years hence, as this country is going to continue to grow and very soon it will be absolutely impossible to handle the crops on the present basis, which as I said before, is along the lines of old-fashioned ways of doing business that were in vogue ten years ago and was no doubt all right at that time with the small crop of wheat.

I have taken up enough of your valuable space, but I know I am only voicing the sentiments of the Grain Growers and that this matter is just as important to every farmer as it is to me. I think the remedy of the present hardship is in our own hands. It remains to be seen if we will get together and act in a body as we have done before, when confronted by conditions which were not as important or as serious as this existing one. We must, of course, anticipate a very strong fight which will be put up by the railroad companies and the millers, but things have come to such a pass in this country that we must act and act at once, and I think the most important things we have to consider at our meetings will be the system of grading, which is at present too hard and which benefits a few at the expense of the Grain Growers.

Secondly, in regard to the laws which state that wheat should not be mixed after it is once inspected, which is also against the interests of the farmer.

Thirdly, the making of Winnipeg an "Order" point so that our wheat may be sold according to its intrinsic value and not according to the grade as determined by one man, whose judgment cannot, at all times be perfect.

Yours truly,
A GRAIN GROWER

Death of Mr. James Duncan.

The agricultural community at large and beekeepers in particular will regret to learn of the death of Mr. James Duncan, Emerson, which took place at Dominion City on Jan. 22nd. The deceased gentleman was an enthusiastic apiarist, and was widely known through his contributions to Agricultural Journals and for papers read at Beekeeper's Conventions. His apiary at Emerson consisted of 150 colonies from which honey has been supplied to all parts of the West.

Thinks Living is Unexpensive at the Coast.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your issue of January 3rd, page 19, there appears a short letter, some plain speaking from B. C. Regarding the same I should like to say a few words. In the first place I should judge Mr. Stephen to be a disappointed man in the sphere of life he has followed, secondly he must have lived in or around Central Park all his life, and must be possessed of a very strong imagination to make such statements to the general public regarding B. C. Some three years ago I made a visit to B. C. to see friends and also to look at the country for future residence, but what struck me at New Westminster, Vancouver and other towns was not the dearness, but the cheapness, of the necessities of life at those places compared with Southern Alberta. Even now my wife finds it pays to send there for linen and calico and to pay sixteen cents postage on same, per pound. All wearing apparel is much cheaper, and all the necessities for living except chicken, eggs and butter. And greatly in favour of B. C. as regards lumber for building I myself helped my father-in-law to take logs to the saw mill, two miles away, where they were sawed into whatever class of lumber one wished for four dollars per 1,000 ft., and I could have bought all the lumber I wanted in the log for \$4 per M. The cheapest lumber I can buy here in Southern Alberta costs \$20 per M. I visited different men's places while there and found men who on ten acres, with fruit and poultry were making a better and more comfortable living than the majority of men here are doing on 160 or 320 acres. Take Mr. Benson's statement December 20 issue, page 1892 who (poor man) instead of being \$14 ahead comes out \$111 behind on account of a mistake in calculating, as 50 acres of oats at 50 bushel per acre, figure out \$625 instead of as he put it \$750. Take again wages, I found Chinamen working for \$25 per month yearly, which is far in excess of that paid to farm labourers in either Manitoba or Alberta the year round. I found Chinamen doing all the drudgery that the settlers told me it was almost impossible to hire white men to do, such as stumping, clearing or cordwood chopping, for at \$2.50 per day for white labour to do the above kind of work the returns did not warrant the outlay.

LENORE, Alberta.

The Wheat Movement.

Up to the 20th of last month the total amount of grain marketed at points on the C. P. R. and C. N. R. was 62,034,000 bushels, of which 58,513,000 bushels were wheat. This is more than twice as much as was marketed at this time last year. Nor are the terminal elevators at the lakes full, there being in all four and one half million bushels, where there is an average capacity for 18,000,000. It has been estimated that 17,000,000 bushels of wheat will be required for flour and feed, so that unless the yield has been considerably larger than the average estimate of 90,000,000 bushels, there will not be much more to move.

Important to Grain Growers.

As the Annual Convention of the Territorial Grain Growers' Association is drawing near (February 6th and 7th, 1906, being the dates), I avail myself of this opportunity to respectfully draw your readers' attention to some of the important matters that are likely to be brought up for discussion and decision upon.

(1). The advantages and disadvantages of a sample market at Winnipeg.
(2). The change rendered necessary in the method of ordering and allotting cars by the flagrant abuses by many applicants of the present wide, open and complex system at present in vogue.
(3). The proposal that authority be given the Warehouse Commissioner to order the railway companies to erect stations and place Agents therein, where a certain specified volume of business warranted such, necessary in the public interests, just as loading platforms are so authorized and ordered to be erected at the present time.

(4). The Amendment of the Grain Act in several other important particulars.

(5). The Amendment of the Inspection Act in the matter of wheat grades.

(6). Proposed Amendment to The Weed Ordinance

(7). Proposal to permit companies under The Foreign Companies Ordinance to do a Hail Insurance business within the Province of Saskatchewan.

Many other important matters are also likely to be discussed, but this is sufficient to indicate that the coming convention will be a most important one, and I would respectfully urge upon every wheat growing district in the Province to be fully represented thereat.

(Signed) W. R. MOTHERWELL,

PRESIDENT, T. G. G. A.