

RECIPROCITY AND GRAIN PRICES

We have had occasional letters from our readers who maintain that reciprocity will be detrimental to the welfare of the people of Western Canada. They maintain that as the United States and Canada are both exporting countries, that the Minneapolis grain prices cannot be any better than Winnipeg. The American Tariff Board collected considerable data upon the price of various products affected by the agreement, and including the price of grain. The price of wheat at Minneapolis is practically always higher than in Winnipeg from 5 to 15 cents. The following are the monthly prices on the Winnipeg and Minneapolis markets for the past six years. Any Western farmer who has doubt that he will get a better price for his wheat under the reciprocity agreement should study these figures very carefully:

	1905			1906		
	Mpls.	Wpg.	Diff.	Mpls.	Wpg.	Diff.
Jan.	\$1.13 1/2	\$1.00	.13 1/2	.83 1/2	.76 1/2	.07 1/2
Feb.	1.16	1.01 1/4	.14 1/4	.82 3/4	.76 1/2	.06 1/2
Mar.	1.11	.92 1/2	.18 1/2	.75 1/2	.72 1/2	.03 1/2
Apr.	1.05	.91 1/4	.13 1/4	.86 3/4	.78 3/4	.08 1/2
May	1.15 1/4	.91	.24 1/4	.82 1/2	.79 3/4	.02 1/2
June	1.10 1/4	1.01 3/4	.08 1/2	.84 3/4	.83 1/4	.01 1/2
July	1.09 1/2	1.07 1/2	.02	.78 3/4	.79 1/2	-.01 1/2
Aug.	1.09 1/2	1.01	.08 1/2	.75	.74 1/4	.00 1/2
Sept.	.82 1/2	.77 1/2	.05 1/2	.70 3/4	.72	-.02 1/2
Oct.	.84 1/2	.77	.07 1/2	.76 1/4	.75 1/2	.00 1/2
Nov.	.84 1/2	.77 1/2	.07 1/2	.80	.73 3/4	.06 1/2
Dec.	.87 1/2	.76 1/2	.11 1/2	.81	.73 3/4	.07 1/2
	1907			1908		
Jan.	.79 1/2	.72 1/2	.07 1/2	1.10 1/4	1.08 1/4	.02
Feb.	.84 1/2	.75 1/2	.09 1/2	1.04	1.06	-.02
Mar.	.81 1/2	.75 1/4	.06 1/4	1.07 1/4	1.09 1/2	-.02 1/4
Apr.	.82 1/2	.77	.05 1/2	1.00 1/2	1.01	-.00 1/2
May	.99 1/2	.87 1/2	.12	1.08 1/2	1.14 1/4	-.05 1/4
June	.99 1/2	.89 1/4	.10 1/4	1.09	1.05 1/2	.03 1/2
July	.99	.91 1/2	.07 1/2	1.15 1/2	1.04 1/4	.10 1/2
Aug.	.95 1/2	.89 1/4	.06 1/4	1.23	1.06 1/4	.16 1/4
Sept.	1.07 1/2	1.02	.05 1/2	1.02 1/2	.98 1/4	.04 1/4
Oct.	1.17	1.13	.04	1.02 1/2	.98	.04 1/2
Nov.	1.03	1.02	.01	1.08 1/4	1.03 1/4	.05 1/4
Dec.	1.08	1.05 3/4	.02 1/4	1.06 3/4	.97 1/2	.09 1/4
	1909			1910		
Jan.	1.07 1/2	.99 1/2	.07 1/2	1.15 1/2	1.04	.11 1/2
Feb.	1.12 1/2	1.07	.05 1/2	1.14	1.02 1/4	.11 1/4
Mar.	1.16	1.10 1/2	.05 1/2	1.14	1.04	.10
Apr.	1.26 1/2	1.23 3/4	.02 1/4	1.11 1/2	1.03 1/2	.08
May	1.29 1/4	1.23	.06 1/4	1.11	.97 1/4	.13 1/4
June	1.34 1/2	1.31	.03 1/2	1.05	.89 3/4	.15 1/4
July	1.31 1/2	1.30	.01 1/2	1.25 1/4	1.17 1/2	.07 1/2
Aug.	1.37 1/2	1.13	.24 1/2	1.15 1/2	1.05 3/4	.09 1/4
Sept.	1.01 1/2	1.00 1/2	.00 1/2	1.11 1/2	1.05	.06 1/2
Oct.	1.03 1/2	.99 1/4	.04 1/4	1.07 1/2	.98 3/4	.08 3/4
Nov.	1.06 1/2	.98 1/4	.08 1/4	1.04 3/4	.91 1/2	.12 1/2
Dec.	1.13 1/4	.98 1/2	.14 1/4

*Indicates Winnipeg prices higher than Minneapolis.

Even the strongest opponents of reciprocity have admitted that the Western farmers will receive a much better price for their barley by having free access to the American markets. Just how much better that price will be it has been impossible to say. The following average prices in Winnipeg and Chicago for malting barley for the past ten years will show what free access to the American market means. These figures were compiled by the Canadian and American governments:

	1900		1901		1902	
	Wpg.	Chgo.	Wpg.	Chgo.	Wpg.	Chgo.
Jan.	.36	.41	.40	.49 1/2	.38	.61 1/4
Apr.	.35	.40 1/2	.40	.48	.40	.65 1/2
July	.41	.42	.65	.52 1/2	.40	.60 1/2
Oct.	.38	.47 1/2	.38	.55 1/2	.33	.47 1/2
	1903		1904		1905	
Jan.	.29	.51 1/2	.36	.49	.35	.49
Apr.	.29	.50 1/2	.45	.49	.38	.44 3/4
July	.29	.50	.42	.45 1/2	.38	.46
Oct.	.40	.54	.37	.45 1/2	.36 1/2	.44 3/4
	1906		1907		1908	
Jan.	.38	.46 3/4	.42	.51	.46	.92
Apr.	.38	.46	.42	.67	.49	.76
July	.43	.47 1/2	.54	.65	.44	.65 1/2
Oct.	.40	.48	.69	.90	.54	.57 1/2
	1909					
Jan.	.49	.62 1/2				
Apr.	.57 1/2	.65				
July	.58	.75				
Oct.	.45 1/2	.60 1/2				

In regard to the oat situation it has been claimed that the Canadian farmer will gain nothing under reciprocity, as prices on both sides of the line have been practically the same. The fact is that the American prices have averaged above the Canadian, and the Canadian bushel of oats weighs 34 pounds, while the American standard is 32 pounds. It is not difficult to see that there will be a considerable advantage accruing to the Canadian farmer in having the American market in which to dispose of his oats.

That ratification of the reciprocity agreement will mean dollars and cents in the pockets of the farmer in Western Canada who has wheat, barley or flax to dispose of. This better price will mean more prosperity. The prosperity of the individual means the prosperity of the nation. The reciprocity agreement means a much more prosperous era for Western Canada, and is but the beginning of a much wider movement towards the removal of trade barriers which have hampered Canadian people for a generation past.

THE CRISIS IN BRITAIN

Every sweeping move towards democracy necessarily interferes with the established order of things, and withdraws from certain classes privileges which long usage has accorded them. For centuries the hereditary nobility of Britain have enjoyed vast privileges and invulnerable social prestige. It is but natural that they should resent any curtailment of these privileges, and it is equally natural that the common people should demand a share of the blessings heretofore showered upon the few. It has been due to the carelessness or lack of knowledge of the people in all countries that there is a Special Privileged class. The most serious recent inroad upon the preserves of the British aristocracy was the Lloyd-George budget, which was only passed after a protest and a general election. The present situation makes even more drastic demands upon the nobility. They are asked to give up the veto upon legislation which has been theirs from time immemorial. The Parliament Bill, as the Veto Bill is known, has been rejected by the Lords and returned to the House of Commons. Premier Asquith has issued an ultimatum that the bill must pass the Lords upon pain of having sufficient new peers created to ensure its passage. The premier has secured the consent of the king to such action. There is now dissention in the ranks of the peers, a number of them revolting from the leadership of Lord Lansdowne, and threatening to "fight to the last ditch." Lansdowne and Balfour have advised the passage of the Bill rather than submit to the lowering of the peerage by the creation of several hundred new members of that body. The government has left the matter in the hands of the leaders of the Unionists for the time being, and has asked for an assurance that the bill will pass the Lords when it is next sent to them. There is little doubt but that this will be the action taken within a very short time. The veto of the House of Lords will then be past. They will have power to delay any legislation for not longer than two years, which will be sufficient time for the people to become informed upon it to prevent any hasty law making. Democracy is making more rapid strides in the Motherland than in any other part of the Empire. The people of the Island Empire have demonstrated beyond the range of doubt that they are not a decadent race, but are fully capable of adjusting themselves to changing times and conditions.

When the British people, through the leaders of the two parties in the House of Commons, declared themselves upon the German aggression, the government of the Fatherland began to consider. Great responsibility rested upon them. The air soon cleared, and the

crisis is passed. Britain has a habit of being deliberate, but very determined. Well it is for the peace of the world that she is so.

Reports from Great Britain are to the effect that Sir Cement Merger Aitken, M.P. for Ashton-Under-Lyne, is providing free country excursions for school children, and paying off debts on public institutions. This is a favorite method of political corruption in Great Britain, and has already brought its reward. Aitken's methods have been openly attacked on the public platform by his late opponent, and already his own supporters are beginning to feel that they have burnt their fingers in adopting a man who represents the worst traditions of Canadian finance. His bounties may be pleasant for his constituents, but that is poor consolation to the Canadian consumer who is paying the shot.

The Canadian National League is busy unloading earloads of "patriotic" rubbish upon an unsuspecting and long-suffering public. These patriotic organizations like to get close to Ottawa so that they can send their literature through the mails without paying postage. Yet our politicians prate about political purity. Why should not the Canadian Council of Agriculture have an office at Ottawa and flood the country with literature under a postal frank? Wouldn't there be a hue and cry if the farmers abused this privilege?

Though the farmers will be busy with the harvest at election time they have consolation. Affairs will drag along in pretty much the same old way after election. The country will continue to grow. But if the farmers do not pay strict attention to their harvest there will be a quick and sure demonstration as to the importance of the farming industry.

If election dates were fixed by statute and Direct Legislation were in force in federal affairs there would be an end to such situations as now face the people of Canada. Great national questions could then be settled by the people, and not by the politicians as at present.

During August we are making a special offer to send The Guide to any address in the British Empire till the end of the year for 25 cents. Here is an opportunity for our friends to assist us in increasing our subscription list.

Both the political parties express their delight at the prospect of an election, so there is general satisfaction all round. After the ballots are counted no doubt each of them will say, "I knew it."

The man who reads, studies and does his own thinking, is the man who is the great factor in shaping events. The man who allows others to do his thinking for him is a fixed quantity and commands little attention.

For the next seven weeks many men who are ordinarily quite sane will frequently talk and act in quite another fashion. Even our politicians will develop an extraordinary disregard for the truth.

Direct Legislation will place full power in the hands of the people. Then, and not till then, will they be able to make the advances towards democracy that are needed.

Half of Canada's navy is on the rocks. But the country is still safe, for the farmers are still working.

When the tariff walls are down and there is freedom of trade between nations the need of great armies and navies will be past.

"An Ode to Cement" would be an appropriate title for a contribution by Sir Max Aitken.

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At our an prospects f practically very poor, prevailing i widely dist vices duri a year ago greatly. E would only year's crop last, 105.00 as having 121,828,970 period of roughly sp year's crop cent. less t

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