



The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer

CANADA'S FARM MACHINERY MAGAZINE

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PRESIDENT AND MANAGER
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"Everything begins and ends with the soil."

MAKE OUR TENT YOUR HEADQUARTERS WHEN AT THE FAIRS

OUR GUARANTEE

No advertisement is allowed in our columns until we are satisfied that the advertiser is absolutely reliable and that any subscriber can safely do business with him. If any subscriber is defrauded E. H. Heath Co., Ltd., will make good the loss resulting therefrom, if the event takes place within 30 days of date advertisement appeared, and complaint be made to us in writing with proofs, not later than ten days after its occurring, and provided, also, the subscriber in writing to the advertiser, stated that his advertisement was seen in "THE CANADIAN THRESHERMAN AND FARMER." Be careful when writing an advertiser to say that you saw the advertisement in "THE CANADIAN THRESHERMAN AND FARMER."

THAT threshing outfit you purchased is a big thing on your hands. It represents an investment of from \$3,000 to \$5,000 and as such is entitled to the consideration of your best business judgment. If you are a beginner and this is your first attempt at the business of threshing you had better sit down and count the cost carefully. Don't be in too much of a hurry to get business and above everything don't cut rates to do it. You are an absolute necessity in the handling of the grain crop and you are entitled to a living wage and a chance to get your investment back. Threshing is hard, grinding work. It is by no means child's play and anyone that engages in it is worthy of a reasonable monetary consideration. If your brother thresherman wants to cut prices, let him do it. He will get out of your way just so much the quicker. Threshing is a business and can only be carried on successfully on sound business principles.

From time to time we have mentioned brome grass in our columns and whenever we do we hear from some of our readers to the effect that it is a pest. Recently we received a letter from

a Manitoba farmer to the effect that it should be classed as a noxious weed. This may be putting it rather strong but there certainly seems to be something bad about this grass. If any of our readers can enlighten us regarding their troubles with this grass we would be pleased to hear from them.

The all-absorbing question before the farmers of Western Canada at the present time is that of "ownership and operation of elevators." It is not only a question but it is in reality a problem—a problem so big that it is taxing the biggest minds in the three prairie provinces in the solving.

It is moreover a problem the component parts of which have taken years for their development. Twenty-five or thirty years ago such a thing as a grain elevator problem among the farmers did not exist. They were glad and willing to sell their grain in any market that offered itself. They also took what was offered them in the way of price and raised few if any complaints. Concerted action among the farmers was impossible because the number was too few and the farmers themselves were too widely scattered. The majority of grain men at that time were also farmers and in consequence there was less distrust on the part of grain raisers of those to whom they sold their grain.

But like all things that pass through a period of time a change has been effected and there is riot bordering on revolution in the grain raisers' camp.

Has the farmer been cheated out of his just dues? Has he been robbed of monies that rightfully belong to him? If not, no problem exists. If so, it is high time that something be done.

For the sake of argument we will grant that there has been dishonesty and unfair dealing on the part of the grain dealers. We will assume that the farmers of Western Canada have been robbed of hundreds of thousands of dollars in the past decade. Are the

farmers in calling for a change ready with a substitute for the present system of handling grain, that will guarantee freedom from trickery and excessive overhead expenses? Will Government elevators and Government supervision solve the problem? Will a system of grain handling that will have practically 100,000 stockholders (for every farmer in Western Canada will be a stockholder) be practicable? If it is a Government proposition and a loss is sustained who will bear this loss, the farmers or the entire body politic from whom all revenue is secured? If it can be run at a nice profit who will share the profits?

The grain business is an all-absorbing one in a country like Western Canada. It is but the natural duty of every farmer to zealously watch the fruits of his labor until they are in such a position that he can check against them at his local bank.

But at the same time the farmer must not be carried away with the idea that he has everything in his own hands. The leader and the platform orator may be loud in his proclamation that the farmer has but to say the word and the world will answer to his "beck and call." It has taken thousands of years to develop our present industrial system (let it be good or bad and it will take some little time to perfect a substitute. It cannot be done in a day, a month or a year.

Already in Western Canada there are those who are clamoring loudly for co-operative stores, co-operative implement houses, etc., and who are positive in their statement that they can be had for the asking. These ideas have grown out of the agitation for a farmers, grain handling system and are in reality the desire to have the whole cake because there is a good prospect of getting one slice. Co-operation is a good thing but there must be co-operation between buyer and seller alike. The farmer is not a manufacturer. He has neither the time nor inclination for such things but he is nevertheless a large consumer of manufactured goods. It galls at times to pay the difference in price between the actual cost of production and the selling price. Yet these goods must be distributed and it takes time, men and money to accomplish this distribution. Now it matters little whether the manufacturer affects his own distribution or whether it is left to the consumer, the cost of making the same will remain comparatively constant, all things being considered.

Don't be in too great a hurry in this matter of co-operation. Get one thing at a time and get it sure.

A Ten Dollar per day engineer, providing he can earn it, is ten times as cheap a proposition as a three dollar per day man. He will keep his engine running longer and better and is always on the job.

Cheap help around a threshing outfit is dear at any price. It continually delays the game and turns what should be profits into losses. Get the best help you can secure and pay them good wages.

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