

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Surveys made .....                    | 196 |
| Inspectors' grade sustained .....     | 152 |
| Inspectors' grade not sustained ..... | 44  |

The Board of Appeal of Minneapolis and Duluth in their report for the year ending July 31st, 1908, says:

"All grades of grain should be established on the commercial or milling value of same and not entirely on its physical appearance.

"To arrive at same with any degree of accuracy, chemical analysis with milling and baking tests have been made by us.

"These have been made through outside sources, and, while we do not question their reliability, the findings in each case being corroborated by similar work of State Agricultural Laboratories, we find the large mills all equipped on these lines, and to more fully protect our inspection, we fully concur in the recommendation made to you on November 12th last by Governor John A. Johnson that the State establish a laboratory and employ a chemist, same to be under the supervision of the State Grain Inspection Board, thus giving to all the safest possible guarantee, under State authority, of State inspection.

We would also recommend that some changes be made in the present method of inspecting grain out of store into cargoes.

"The present method of inspecting grain in a running stream, in our judgment, is far from satisfactory, and would offer the suggestion that all grain to be loaded into boats first be run, and an average sample taken for inspection, re-inspection and appeal, the same to be graded and docked in the same manner as incoming grain, the State Inspector at such elevator to see that the identical grain so sampled be loaded on to the boats.

"When cargoes of grain are loaded for export, covered by a State inspection certificate, the State, in our judgment, should throw some safeguards around such shipment, so as to prevent any chance of tampering with same until it reaches its destination, even though it should be bound for foreign port."

#### The Elevator Question

**WE** COMMEND a careful perusal of the letter signed "Glen," which we reproduce from a recent issue of the Free Press, on the elevator question. The writer, who evidently studied the question from the view point of "business," with the instincts of a shrewd business man, clearly sets forth the paralyzing effect—the withdrawal of so much of the proceeds of our grain product from general business, for

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the maintenance of and paying dividends on capital tied up in unnecessary storage.

"Glen" has struck a note; the business men who regard the multiplying of elevators at every station in the West as a sign of prosperity, should play too. There are very few towns in our prairie provinces, which depend for support on the proceeds of the farm, but what suffer to a large extent through the elevator interests, by "combination," getting more of the proceeds of the grain than the service they render entitles them to.

The latest acquisition to the "interests" that propose to "develop" the West is the National Elevator Co., capitalized at five million dollars. In the prospectus issued recently, they state their intention to build four hundred elevators in Saskatchewan and Alberta through a subsidiary company, The Great West Grain Co., of Brandon, Man. They claim that a 30,000 bushel elevator costs \$5,000 to build, and has an earning capacity of \$5,000 a year at good points. To illustrate the profits in the elevator business they relate the following particulars, given by the grain buyer for the Alberta Grain Co. at Stettler, Alberta. His elevator has a capacity of 35,000 bushels with a flat warehouse for 20,000 bushels. Commenced business on 14th of November; handled 200,000 bushels; made a profit of \$20,000; bought oats at 20c. to 25c. a bushel, and sold them at 35c. to 50c.; and that 600,000 bushels of grain was sold at Stettler last year.

We know nothing as to the truth of that statement, but we know that the difference between street and track price during the last two years in the newer districts of the West, would average 10c. a bushel, to say nothing of other speculation the elevators are supposed to practice, which would give the buyer of the Alberta Grain Co. the profits he claims to have