

FLUCTUATIONS IN MARKET PRICES PINCH FARMERS

Evidence Before Beef Commission Shows Wherein Farmer is Placed at Mercy of Big Dealers and the Railways. Five Witnesses Were Examined.

The Beef Commission examined five witnesses yesterday. Judging from the attendance throughout the day and the interest evinced by those present it is evident that the appointment of the Commission has stimulated an intelligent curiosity into the status of the live stock and dressed meat industries of the province and will have a salutary influence from the mere publicity of conditions.

The investigation yesterday involved the consideration of the meat industry from the standpoint of its consumer as well as the producer. This comparison made between live weight quotations and dressed weight quotations was made upon the basis of the prices of 1906 as the quotations of 1907 were held to be rather unusual for the purpose of comparison.

The contract system was considered, but from the evidence it is apparent it is not so prevalent in this district as in the south and eastern ranching country. One cannot close his eyes to the fact that the evidence so far adduced unmistakably shows that the farmers of this district are not getting a square deal in the business game, and that they are heavily handicapped.

The inevitable question of shrinkage came in for a share of attention. The question of taking the shrink is not so prevalent here as in the south and central Alberta. The witnesses stated that sometimes when farmers had very fat and finished cattle they would shrink very little, the questioning of the commission brought out the fact that the shrink represents really a reduction in price. The buyer pays a nominally highest quotation, which when the shrink is considered, means a reduced quota.

John Gainer, of Strathcona, was the first witness to be examined. He is engaged in buying and selling live stock and conducts a retail meat business. The territory he operates in extends from Edmonton to Wetaskiwin. In his evidence Mr. Gainer asserted that the business is absolutely independent of any other firm or corporation in the country.

Witness stated that he conducted a meat market opposite the P. Burns & Co. building in Wetaskiwin. Others had engaged in business there, but finally were squeezed out by the competition of his and the P. Burns shops. Retail Prices of Pressed Meats.

Counsel Nolan traversed the ground of the retail and dressed meat trade, and the territory he operated in to the percentage of dressed meat obtained from the carcass of a fat steer when killed, and a comparison of the live weight. Prices paid the producer with the retail prices for the various cuts obtained on the block, charged to the consumer.

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Ald. Gariepy Gives Notice of Motion to Rescind all Motions Passed Fixing Street Railway Route—End of Mayor-Walker Tilt—Health Bylaw Amended to Provide for Licensing of Tents.

Fought with considerable significance was a notice of motion made by Alderman Gariepy at the regular meeting of the City Council, Tuesday evening, to the effect that at a future meeting of the Council he will introduce a motion to rescind all the motions passed fixing the route of the street railway.

Neither am I in favor of exemptions, said Ald. Walker, "but when other cities all over the country are using such methods to attract industry, Edmonton must do the same, if the city is to keep in the swim." "This is not exactly an industry," said Ald. Picard. "The government has undertaken to assist cold storage plants, believing them to be of general benefit to the population of the district in which a plant is located."

Another report from the city solicitor asked for the issuance of a cheque for \$100 to be deposited in court as admitted damages to the property of Mr. Drege, through which a street was run and on which some trees were cut down. This report was adopted also.

Courts of revision on sewers, cement sidewalks, plank sidewalks, boulevards and street grading, under the local improvement plan was set for Tuesday, August 6, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Control of Tents. A by-law to amend the health by-law was introduced. It included clauses providing for the licensing of tents and shacks in the city. No person shall occupy a tent or shack except under a license, which price varies for the numbering of the tent or shack and the posting of this number as well as a sign having the letters "E.H.R." signifying the securing of a license under the Edmonton Health Board. The license fee fixed was \$1.

Aldermen Ask Questions. "When will the city auditor's report be ready for printing?" asked Alderman Picard. "It is now ready," replied Mr. Kinnaird.

Need More Accommodation. Alderman Gariepy drew the council's attention to the conditions existing at the local R.N.W.M.P. barracks, as a result of lack of sufficient accommodation. He stated that at times 14 or 15 prisoners were crowded into a small room.

Concessions to Cold Storage Company. The Committee on New Industries reported recommending granting the Edmonton Produce Company exemption from taxation for twenty years, free water for a similar period of years and light and power at minimum rates. This company applied for these concessions in return for erecting a cold storage building to cost \$50,000. The report was adopted.

NEW INDUSTRY IN LACOMBE. The Lacombe Brick, Tile & Cement Co., Limited, has been formed in Lacombe. The company has been capitalized at \$20,000, divided into 2,000 shares of \$10 each. A large amount of the stock has already been subscribed for. Work at the yards is being pushed at a first class rate. A first class brick machine has been purchased and is now in position. The necessary buildings are being erected, and the plant will be ready to start up next week.

TELEGRAMS

DR. TAYLOR NOW MAY FRISCO. San Francisco, Cal., July 16.—Dr. Taylor, physician and dean of the Hastings Law School of the University of California, elected mayor of San Francisco by the Board of Supervisors, at the open auction of the bribery, election, the so-called "Roan Big Stick," came to an end.

Major Eugene Schmitz, who was convicted of election fraud, factor to be reckoned with, in the municipal problem announced that he had resigned his position as mayor of San Francisco. He stated that he would not be a candidate for mayor in 1908, but would continue to be a factor in the city's affairs.

Earthquake Shocks in U.S. San Francisco, Cal., July 16.—A series of earthquakes lasting 40 minutes, were recorded today, beginning with a strong tremor at 11:55 a.m. and ending at 12:35 p.m.

ESCAPED BREWER BACK THE. Toronto, July 16.—Herman the Auburn, N.Y., brewer, who had been arrested by city officers on July 4, was arrested by city officers on July 15, after he had fled from the sheriff and gained street, he had hurried a block west, where he was arrested.

RUSSIAN ARRESTED In Calgary at Instance of Bulletin Special. Calgary, July 17.—A Russian named Matthias Raszkowicz is under arrest on a charge of murder committed in Russia at Marian Poles years ago. The Russian government has communicated with the British government, which in turn communicated with the Canadian government, which finally communicated with the provincial government. Detention of Raszkowicz is believed to be a political one. The Canadian man will fight extradition grounds that he was not his George is the man wanted.

PUTS PRISONER OFF A Conductor Frees Him Because stable Can't Pay His Freight. Frederick, Okla., July 16.—A conductor stopping at a hotel here, was returning from Frederick, a train ten miles from Frederick, returning the prisoner. The conductor, charged with the prisoner, had not paid the freight on the prisoner's baggage. The conductor was released from his duty until the freight was paid.

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