

THE "A. B. C." OF RAILWAYS THE BOX CAR



the carrying out of its work there would be difficult in finding an instrument which has been of more assistance to modern industry than the freight car. Its uses are manifold, from a traffic handling point of view, for it serves alike the shipper of merchandise, the coal dealer and at times the livestock man.

When we consider the history and development of the freight car we find there a reflection of the rapid progress made in the industrial world of recent years. It is but a short time ago, comparatively, when the standard car, of light wooden construction, had a

maximum carrying capacity of only thirty thousand pounds, and to-day we have the modern car equipped with heavy trucks and constructed of steel throughout, transporting at high speed a load of from ninety-five to one hundred and ten thousand pounds.

The value of the box car to shipper and railway has increased to a degree commensurate with its development and particularly so during the past few years, when the more expeditious release of equipment after reaching destination, has permitted an increase in car mileage which represents just as much more service to the public.

CO-OPERATIVE SELLING

IT IS NOW USED IN FIVE PROVINCES BY WOOL MEN.

Prince Edward Island Made a Start Last Year With the Marketing of Wool by Fifty Farmers—In Nova Scotia the System is Confined to Two Counties—In Quebec Great Strides Have Been Made—Other Combined Selling.

In five of the Provinces of Canada the co-operative plan of marketing wool has been put into operation. Three of the five—Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Quebec—are in the east; two—Alberta and Saskatchewan—are in the west.

The beginning in this line, so far as Prince Edward Island is concerned, was made last year, when 5,500 pounds of wool were marketed in a co-operative way by fifty farmers of the Island Province. The year before, in the same Province sold co-operatively 28,902 pounds of wool, and received nearly \$11,000 for the same. The price per pound ranged from forty-three cents for medium clothing to ten cents for "tags," says Ahmik in the "Frontier Globe" of Nova Scotia. The co-operative system of wool selling has so far been confined to two counties, and farmers in these two counties sold 17,388 pounds this season in the co-operative way. The average price was forty-one and one-eighth cents per pound, including black fleeces, tags, and a few reject fleeces. The expense in connection with the sale, insurance, packing, and loading was slightly over one-half cent per pound. This included 100 wool sacks which were bought outright, and which may be had by the men next year for bringing in their wool.

In Quebec 1,617 farmers are organized in wool growers' and sheep breeders' associations, and through their organization 169,840 pounds of wool were sold this season. The average weight of fleeces sold was 7.59 pounds; the average cash returns per fleece, \$3.18; the average price per pound for wool sold, 41.8 cents. Local prices for ungraded wool throughout the Province ranged between thirty-one and thirty-five cents a pound, so that grading and co-operative netted members a gain of seven to twelve cents a pound, or twenty to forty per cent. advance. The membership fees in the Quebec associations are based on the amount of business each member does, and four cents a fleece covers all expenses of carrying on the business.

In these eastern Provinces officials of the Departments of Agriculture have assisted the work of co-operation by advice and by aid in grading, etc. In Saskatchewan the Provincial Department of Agriculture has done still further. It has acted as a selling agency for Saskatchewan's wool producers. Saskatchewan's wool growers to the number of 487 have accepted the assistance offered, and this year disposed of 180,000 pounds of wool through the department. It extended to the growers a net of 7.59 pounds; the average cash returns per fleece, \$3.18; the average price per pound for wool sold, 41.8 cents. Local prices for ungraded wool throughout the Province ranged between thirty-one and thirty-five cents a pound, so that grading and co-operative netted members a gain of seven to twelve cents a pound, or twenty to forty per cent. advance. The membership fees in the Quebec associations are based on the amount of business each member does, and four cents a fleece covers all expenses of carrying on the business.

In Prince Edward Island and Quebec, at all events, the co-operative work is not confined to the selling of wool. It extends to the breeding and selling of sheep and lambs as well. Last year the Quebec organizations held four local sheep sales, at which 98 head of breeding stock were sold.

In Saskatchewan Provincial assistance in co-operative marketing is not confined to the selling of wool. It extends to poultry as well. This department was inaugurated last season and is being continued this year. Stations are maintained by the department, at which live birds are received from growers and official reports submitted on the killing, packing, and grading. When the birds are received, the Co-operative Organization Branch of the Department of Agriculture will forward producers an advance payment at graduated prices, consistent with the quality of the birds. The poultry will either be sold immediately or should the market be low, placed in storage until a satisfactory price can be obtained, and, when all of the birds have been disposed of, final payment will be made which will return to the producer every cent he realized from the sale of his birds, less the cost of transportation, killing, boxes, and storage.

In Quebec the Provincial Department of Agriculture has taken steps to promote the development of a co-operative bacon industry. With this end in view an expert was four years ago brought in from Denmark, in which country seventy-five per cent. of the bacon produced is handled co-operatively. An effort was made to induce farmers of St. Valier to undertake the establishment of a co-operative bacon factory, but as they seemed indisposed to move the department itself built one, which now has a capacity of fifty or sixty pigs a week. Last year, when hogs were ruling much lower than of late, the prices paid for slaughtering ranged between 11 and 12 1/2 cents per pound, and the price for bacon was on an average 19 cents.

In the parish of Princeville, Arthabaska county, the farmers themselves have taken hold of the matter. They subscribed \$30,000 last year for the erection of a plant, and the first operations of this plant have proved encouraging.

! TOYS !

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- The Men's Black Beaver Rat Lined Coats at 35c, 45c and 60c.
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