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# The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF

## ALBERTA SASKATCHEWAN & MANITOBA

Published under the auspices and employed as the Official Organ of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and the United Farmers of Alberta.

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### TO DIVIDE THE FARMERS

Following close upon the attack upon THE GUIDE made by F. W. Kerr, came an editorial utterance along the same line by the Winnipeg Telegram. That paper published an article on Tuesday, March 29, claiming that THE GUIDE was partisan in that it had nothing but condemnation for the Manitoba government. In speaking of THE GUIDE in the article, the Telegram said:

"Another curious circumstance is that the official mouthpiece of the association seems to have fallen under the thrall of partisanship. It has nothing but commendation for the Alberta government which has refused to take up the elevator question at all. Nothing but praise for the Saskatchewan government which took refuge in a commission of investigation. Yet this same organ has nothing but condemnation for the Manitoba government which has acted and is the pioneer of this momentous policy, and that condemnation is based upon a matter whose introduction into the question bears signs of original insincerity. These are the grounds which have induced Mr. Kerr to conclude that forces are at work to influence the policy of the Grain Growers' Association, not to further its ends but those of the opposition by embarrassing the government."

The Telegram in this utterance makes statements that are untrue and are not warranted by a consideration of the facts. Either the writer of the article has not read THE GUIDE during the past few months or is wilfully attempting to mislead his readers—with a purpose in view. No person knows better than the Winnipeg Telegram that THE GUIDE has been absolutely impartial in dealing with the elevator question and that we have kept in view the interests of the farmers all the time.

The Telegram represents the views of the Manitoba government and makes no pretense to being non-partisan. We have no quarrel with the Telegram on that score, but when we cannot agree with everything the Telegram says we do not like the spirit in which it shouts "Partisan!" The Telegram maintains that every action of the government is exactly right. We have ventured to disagree upon two provisions of the elevator bill and have not criticized the other acts of the government. Yet we are called "partisan." Those critics who lay this charge at our door know it to be untrue and unjust and by so doing are stamping the Grain Growers of Manitoba as insincere.

The most amazing feature of the Telegram utterance is that which declares the 600 Grain Growers in the Brandon convention to be insincere and partisan. It says that the condemnation on the part of THE GUIDE is "based upon a matter whose introduction into the question bears signs of original in-

sincerity." This refers to the demand of the Grain Growers for an independent commission. That resolution was unanimously endorsed by the Brandon convention and later on by resolutions from more than 100 local branches of the association in the province. THE GUIDE has simply supported the 9,000 Grain Growers in Manitoba in their demands. Yet the Telegram, in its attempt to discredit THE GUIDE, makes the charge that the great body of the leading farmers of Manitoba are insincere and are mere partisans. The farmers of Manitoba are awake to the fact that by working together and laying aside all affiliations with political parties they can secure legislation in their own interests. They have demonstrated this fact, yet in the face of this, along comes one of the big daily newspapers and brands them as hypocrites and partisans. If this is not what the Telegram means, then it should say so clearly.

THE GUIDE stands today absolutely alone in its field in Western Canada. It is the only paper that dares to speak plainly to any and all governments and demand protection of the farmers. There is no other paper in the field that is not owned or controlled by corporations or political parties. The organized farmers own and control THE GUIDE. Its policy is the policy of the farmers from the great lakes to the Rocky Mountains, as laid down by them in their annual conventions.

The Telegram says we have nothing but praise for the governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and that neither of them have done anything to assist the farmers in the elevator question. This is untrue. We have called both those governments sharply to time on several occasions and the result has been that friends of both those governments have declared that we were partisan. Governments like to create the impression that all persons who disagree with them are partisan. They do not like the idea of independent thought becoming general. In Alberta the government and legislature has not yet been in a position to deal with the elevator question, though it has assured the farmers that it will do so. It has a bigger matter (from its own viewpoint) on its hands just now, and when that is cleared away we will expect action. The Saskatchewan government has appointed a commission which has been endorsed by the Grain Growers of that province. THE GUIDE assisted in every possible way in bringing the Saskatchewan government to time, and in compelling a recognition of the demands of the Grain Growers. If the Saskatchewan government does not fulfil its promise and protect the interests of the farmers, we will support the farmers as fearlessly as in Manitoba and for our pains will no doubt be called partisan again—but on the other side. The same applies to Alberta. We are linked with the farmers of Alberta in their fight for reform and if we have to challenge the government of that province we will do so despite the fact that friends of that government have also called us partisan. We have been compelled also to call the Ottawa government sharply to account for instances wherein they have neglected the western farmers. In this also we have been called partisan.

Now, if the charge of partisanship is to be preferred against us, it can only be in that we are in favor of the farmers of the west. That we will admit. If, in our endeavors to secure a square deal for the farmers we must be criticized by all political parties, then we must accept our fate. But, nevertheless, we will continue upon our course and uphold the farmers' cause against all comers, even though all the governments may come down upon us. The farmers of the west have the power to secure legislation in their own interests and they must not be deterred by criticism. There never has been a single reformer either in the shape of a journal or an individual but has been criticized, misrepresented and condemned by political parties of all shades. But this we

know, that without THE GUIDE as a fearless champion of the farmers' rights, the Elevator Combine would be still unconquered and the governments of the three prairie provinces would still be standing behind the "constitutional difficulties" fence smiling at the farmers. Now that we have driven them from their retreat we are called partisans. So be it. The limelight of truth will still continue to shine as a beacon to the farmers who want to see their interests protected.

### SUPPLY THE HOGS

The executive of the United Farmers of Alberta are urging the farmers to sign the contract for supplying hogs to the pork packing plant. This contract was endorsed by the Edmonton convention and a committee of the board of directors was subsequently appointed to deal with the government. The contract as adopted is the third one that has been drafted, as the first ones presented by the government and by the U.F.A. were not satisfactory to the other contracting party and were discarded. The present agreement binds the farmer to supply hogs to the plant for five years under a penalty of \$2.00 per hog for each hog sold elsewhere. Considering that the farmers who support the plant are to have complete charge of its operations this penalty clause will practically work as satisfactorily as in Denmark, where it is in force in the co-operative bacon curing plants. When the plant is in operation the management will be in the hands of directors elected by the farmers who supply the hogs. The only part the government will have is to supply the money necessary to erect, equip and operate a plant capable of handling three hundred hogs per day. The government will work in conjunction with the directors in arranging for the construction of the plant. The hogs that pass through the plant are to be taxed a quarter of a cent per pound to pay off the money advanced by the government, and when this is done the plant will be owned by the farmers who support it. The government is not willing to erect the plant until 50,000 hogs per year have been pledged to it by the farmers of the province. As the freight rates are to be pooled, all the farmers in the province will stand on an equal footing, no matter how far they live from the plant.

The contract which was accepted by the Edmonton convention is the one presented by the government and is only obligatory upon the farmers, providing that:

"The government of Alberta will establish a pork packing plant in the said province of Alberta in accordance with and along the lines set out in the report of the commission appointed on the third day of July, 1908."

This commission is known as the "Pork Commission," and its report was presented to the government on January 7, 1909. Copies may be procured from the Department of Agriculture, Edmonton. The recommendations of the commission were published in THE GUIDE on March 16, 1910. These recommendations must be adopted by the government in erecting the pork packing plant or the contracts signed by the farmers will not be binding. The following is the first and most important recommendation:

"That when a sufficient number of hog growers give a reasonable assurance that they will supply at least fifty thousand hogs per year to a plant, and that they will elect from among themselves officers and directors whose duty it will be to look after the steady supply of hogs of suitable quality; to decide on the amount of money needed from time to time to successfully operate the plant; to look after the conduct and ability of the operators; your commissioners would then recommend that the government furnish the money to build, equip and operate a plant, as they and the directors deem most advisable, so constructed as to admit of enlargement, and the original plant to have a capacity large enough to handle at least three hundred hogs a day at the start; that the management take in the farmers' hogs, pay them at time of delivery up to two-thirds of their estimated value, then at regular intervals as may be agreed upon when sufficient time has elapsed to place the product on the