



SASKATCHEWAN SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association

SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

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Our Ottawa Trip

I look upon our Ottawa trip as a gigantic success, that might have been much more successful. Personally I think we made a great mistake that we did not provide time and permit the manufacturers and boards of trade to show us all they could of the east, their institutions and industries. I have great confidence in the majority view of our people when they have all the facts before them. A good look at that which is. You cannot hoodwink our men by letting them see the real thing. It is keeping the truth from us that is dangerous. We did not go down to Ottawa to play the Cromwell, though some may think that would have been best. We did not expect any particular display of friendliness from either of the political parties or from the different city organizations. We knew the parties were subservient to public opinion. We knew something of the strength of Eastern sentiment and power of our organized rivals. As a rule they do not look with favor on farmers' organizations, for some reason or other. We did not expect the government to fall on its knees and publicly confess its manifold sins and transgressions before us, at least in the presence of their confessed foes (opponents) as well as the protected manufacturers who were there in force to listen. We did not expect them after sitting for four hours perforce, listening to our readings, to spend four more hours to reply. Most of us were just as anxious to hear from the opposition leaders as we were from the government, but they were dumb. It certainly was a sight that day not easily forgotten; to see Canada's two grand old men, Sir Wilfrid and Sir Richard, sitting like stoics with the government and opposition benches, as well as the galleries of the House literally packed with Canadian yomen, while about a dozen were closely gathered around the table, and the stack of papers gradually growing higher in front of Sir Wilfrid, as one by one the speakers presented them to him. Across the aisle sat the man paid by the government to oppose the government, with his counterpart George Eulius Foster near by, anchored in their seats like wild oats in a field of wheat, wearing an epicurean smile as they peered into the face of Sir Wilfrid with their expression of mingled pleasure and fear watching him take his medicine. Sir Richard wore a sort of "I told you so" expression, while all occasionally glanced fitfully around trying to diagnose the situation as from the floor of the house and the packed galleries, came the thunderous applause as each speaker made a point which met with their approval; and that, I think, was perhaps one of the most effective and convincing arguments of all, the unanimity and spontaneity showing intelligent alertness. The whole East heard that day a movement in the tops of the mulberry trees, and if wise, will assist those having in hand the administration of our affairs, to introduce a policy more in keeping with fair play to the basic industry of agriculture, for the game is not over.

Our farmers realize that they have too long been used by politicians, but that they have still to learn how to use the politicians. They are aware too, that any hopeful plan to do this will have to emanate from amongst themselves. The ultimate moving force will be public opinion. Towns and cities must be won to our view. This should not be difficult. It should be clear to them that a rural community with ideal roads, homes, families, farms, and citizenship is a greater asset and a more solid foundation to ideal city life than a rural community of ignorance, strife, vice, poverty and

discontent. Farmers in the West understand that their system of farming is a sort of living out of capital account. They know they are mining their farms, but feel that it is the only system possible under present adverse conditions of high tariff, freights, interest, and distribution charges in general. I read a recent statement of Sir Wm. White, to which he said: "Western farmers were exploiting their farms. Had gone mad wheat raising. Selling the farm rather than the product of it." This is generally acknowledged, but he, and everyone else who has watched, knows what would happen if farmers went into mixed farming on a large scale under our present law of competition. If the different dealers saw several farmers in town the same day with the same class of goods for sale, they would, as they have frequently done in times past, beat the farmer down until the price was below the cost of production. Farmers know this. They know what competition against each other means, while all other interests are protected by combination, trust, or a protective tariff. He dare not go into it. City people have long looked with scorn on the men and women who produce their food and now many farmers are mining their farms, then moving into the city, in order to revel with the rest in the spoils of the protective and general speculative system, rather than stay on the farm and fight for better conditions of rural life.

If our legislators want to depopulate the rural communities, make those who work poorer, and those of craft and greed richer; they could not do better than stay with the policy of protected city industries, which is practically placing the rural population in the grip of the merciless mailed hand of a protected

plunderer who is unwilling to work in an open competitive field. The stability and security of the nation does not rest in either poverty or riches in the extreme, but both security and stability will be secured when our fiscal policy is adjusted so that rural life can be properly compensated, and a modest standard of social comfort and improvement guaranteed. Agriculture is to the nation what the mainspring is to the watch, and in the coming rivalry between nations, that nation will lead whose rural life is best educated and housed, and most capable of helping to govern the nation. For a certainty that nation cannot lead the world long, which revels in a fiscal system developing extreme poverty and extreme luxury. Priding itself on its cities and towns built up and developed by a system of organized special privilege at the expense of its rural communities; which delights in pointing with scorn at the impotency, poverty and ignorance of its agricultural population brought to that stage by the unnatural drain of a fiscal system enforced on them, by a combination of city aristocrats.

Our trip to the East has emphasized this thought and has put both government and opposition wise to the fact that there is a real movement afoot. And if wisdom prevails they will make friends of the children of Mammon, take their pens and sit down quickly and make the tariff bill that was charged to the farmer at \$1000 less by \$950; and possess the terminal elevators without further delay; they will break up the meat trust, stop dallying with the Hudson's Bay road, and start in to help the farmers to stop exploiting their farms. By putting a stop to the exploitation of the farmer.

It is said that Sir Wilfrid would not have made so much of my statement re

capital represented in our delegation, if I had qualified it. My statement was as follows: "We estimate that each Western member of this delegation has a half-section of land, valued with its equipment at at least \$10,000. There are 20,000 in our Western organization, which means an investment of 200,000,000 dollars. If, as our friendly rivals declare, we are only 25 per cent. of the Western farmers, we would represent the enormous aggregate of 1,200,000,000 dollars, and we think we may fairly claim to be the articulate mouthpiece of the whole. Now, we think conditions should be so that this enormous capital invested should earn interest, as well as the capital invested in other industries, which under present conditions is, we think, impossible.

Most people, I think, will recognize a pretty complete qualification here. Each farmer with a half-section of land has a capital investment of \$10,000, on which he is unable to pay interest, and he should be able to do so as well as capital invested in other industries. Mr. McKenzie made practically the same statement, as follows: "On what principle of justice can a government give a man who invests \$100,000 in any industry the privilege of levying a tax on ten men who invest \$10,000 each in land to develop the natural resources of the country?"

Then took half an hour and ably qualified it. The qualification fills about five columns of THE GUIDE. Yet, Sir Wilfrid's statement took place after that admirable qualification had been made. And what did Sir Wilfrid say about it? "If it is true that half a section is worth \$10,000, and the delegation represents 800,000,000, this government has not done so bad." A nice little side play that. But I think Sir Wilfrid saw the point as well as every one else present. Suppose his government could be properly credited with the increase in the value of land in

SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE

All reports of local branches to be published in the Saskatchewan Section of THE GUIDE should be sent to Mr. F. W. Green, Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, Moose Jaw, Sask. Letters for the Mail Bag and everything else intended for THE GUIDE should be sent to THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, Winnipeg, Man.

the West, that could not meet the statement, (and it is not likely that Sir Wilfrid intended it to), that the farmers could not make their land pay interest charges; and certainly could not convince any one that it is even-handed justice to charge a farmer \$500 duty on a gasoline engine, and take that money and pay it out in bounties to the steel trusts at Sault Ste Marie or elsewhere; and we think that we pretty clearly let the government and opposition, and the people of the East generally, understand that we understand, and we expect them to assist in making an adjustment; failing which, we must organize and educate until we can compel the adjustment.

F. W. GREEN.

MEMBERSHIP RECEIPTS

Fees for October:—Blue Hills, \$14.00; Maidstone, \$8.00; Lannigan, \$2.00; Baring, \$6.50; Bulyea, \$11.50; Waldron, \$2.00; Excelsior, \$2.00; Ovestown, \$15.00; Finlayson, \$2.50. Total, \$63.50.
Fees for November:—Paseweg, \$1.50; Atwater, \$1.00; Carnoustie, \$10.50; Earl Grey, \$8.00; Ituna, \$1.00; Roleau, \$4.00; Disley, \$3.00; Belle Plain, \$1.00; Eagle Creek, \$3.50; Cory, \$3.00; Woodlawn, \$4.50; Mount Green, \$10.50; Prosperity, \$2.00; Gainsboro, \$5.00; Zelma, \$4.50; Excelsior, \$1.00; Newlands, \$3.00; Broderick, \$3.50; Red Lake, 50 cents; Woodleigh, \$2.50; Westfields, \$8.50; Pascal, \$1.50; Pascal, 1911, \$21.50; Cataragui, \$15.00; Marquis, \$22.00; Eden Valley, \$9.00; Rosetown, \$2.50; Fern Glen, 50 cents; Bulyea, \$1.50; Carnduff, \$8.50; Welwyn, \$4.00; Welwyn, 1911, \$12.00; Mound Green, \$5.00; Pengarth, \$5.00; Wapella, \$12.50; Shellbrook, \$16.30; Drinkwater, \$11.00; Balcarres, \$9.50; St. Maurice de Bellegarde, \$3.50; Arales, \$1.00; Beaverdale,

\$1.00; Bangor, \$1.50; Swift Current, \$8.00. Total, \$284.50.
Fees for December:—Semana, \$8.00; Annaheim, \$3.50; Milestone, \$30.50; Harris, \$9.50; Star City, \$3.00; Netherhill, \$14.50; Wauchope, \$15.50; Kempton, \$2.50; Roleau, \$3.00; Tisdale, \$9.00; Birch Hills, \$1.00; Whiteberry, \$13.50; Dreyers, \$5.00; Wadena, \$3.00; Ames, \$2.00; Arlington Beach, \$14.00; Milden, \$3.00; Bethune, \$10.00; Latham, \$2.50; Grand Coulee, \$22.50; Greenwood, \$5.00; Phippen, \$2.00; Perdue, \$4.50; Newberry, \$25.00; Helbec, \$15.50; Red Lake, \$9.50; Marquis, \$7.50; Pioneer, \$1.50; Cobourg, \$4.50; Camlachie, \$4.00; Arlington Beach, 50 cents; Cupar, \$12.00; Long Creek Valley, \$7.50; Mount Forrest, \$9.50; Marquis, \$8.00; Naisberry, \$15.00; Vanscoy, \$13.50; Kempton, \$1.50; Oler, \$8.00; Arlee, \$10.50; Burnmore, \$1.00; Colleston, \$17.00; Senlac, \$10.50; Whiteberry, \$3.00; Central Butte, \$1.50; Progress, \$4.50; Foam Lake, \$4.50; Fillmore, \$2.50; Davidson, \$9.50; Audrey, \$8.00; Unity, \$13.00; Excelsior, \$1.00; Badgerdale, \$7.00; Idalson, \$9.50; Riverside, \$6.00; Tugsage, \$9.00; Hillisden, \$16.00; Redvers, \$3.00; Laird, \$3.00; Marion, \$14.00; Parkbg, \$7.00; Lang, \$17.50; Roche Perce, \$2.50; Rokeby, \$2.00; Flett Springs, \$1.50; Allen, \$1.00; Allan, 1911, \$12.00; Keeler, 1911, \$14.00; Glasston, \$1.50; Excelsior, \$1.00; Southminster, \$1.00; Cantal, \$11.50; Waseca, \$1.00; Cavington, \$9.50; Drake, \$1.00; Clapton, \$4.00; St. Antoine, \$7.50; Dundurn, \$12.00; Arcola, \$3.00; Bulyea, \$11.00; Earl Grey, \$3.50; Bienfait, \$3.50; Heron, 1911, \$10.00; Weerburn, \$19.00; Perdue, 50 cents; Red Deer Hill, \$8.00; Wavota, 1911, \$5.00; Humboldt, \$14.50; Oler, \$1.00; Sonningdale, \$3.50; Tenfold, \$5.00. Total, \$692.50.

WEYBURN REMITS

I herewith enclose money order for \$19.00. This is for our paid-up members of the Grain Growers. We have at the present time, thirty-eight yearly and ten life members.

W. J. BULLIS, Sec'y.
Weyburn, Sask.

THEY HAD TO PAY

Some months ago Mr. Jas. Moore wrote us re a fire claim against the C.N.R. which he was unable to get a settlement for, and asked us to try. The following letter will explain itself:
"Yours of the 22nd inst. to hand, and I have got the release duly signed as you request. I am enclosing same herewith. I am very pleased indeed to have this matter settled, and must thank you for the interest you have taken in the case. I am also satisfied with my own share of the expenses, as I was repeatedly told by outsiders that my claim would be all eaten up with expenses. Trusting everything is in order, I remain,
JAS. MOORE.
Hillisden, Sask.

BLUE HILLS MEETING

The Blue Hills Association met in regular session on Dec. 17 at one o'clock at Lake school. Samuel Stott called the meeting to order and as there was no business the meeting was turned over to the program committee, and the ladies. There was a good program rendered in songs, recitations and music. After the program the ladies served a bounteous lunch of pies, cakes, tea and coffee. A

DON'T FORGET CONVENTION

"The big Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Convention at Regina, on Feb. 7, 8, 9, 1911. One thousand delegates entitled to be present."

S. G. G. A.