

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, December 20th, 1911

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

On page 27 of this issue there is a series of questions which every reader should answer and send in at once. The situation is serious and prompt action is needed. Let everyone lend a hand in this way.

A RECIPE FOR RICHES

We have been studying to find a method by which farmers may amass riches. We believe that we have reached a solution, and under the circumstances it is our duty to hand over this discovery to our readers. In the first place you should buy a farm. This should not be paid for in cash. Go to your local bank and get them to finance you for as long as you like for from 5 per cent. to 6 per cent. per annum. This, of course, is a matter that is easily arranged. Then you should incorporate a company composed of yourself, your wife, your children and one or two of your relatives. As soon as this is done sell your farm to this new company at twice what you paid for it. The next thing to do is to issue stock equal to twice the amount that the company paid for the farm. Half of this stock should be "preferred" and the other half "common." "Common" is a much better name than "water."

The next thing to do is to go to the Dominion government and have a law passed compelling the Canadian people to buy Canadian farm products on a penalty of a prohibitive tariff tax. In addition to this you should get the government to give you a bonus equal to about the cash value of your farm. Probably your municipality could be induced to exempt your farm from taxes to encourage an "infant industry." You should not forget about this time also to press the government to give you free trade in everything you want to buy, particularly your "raw material." This will make your purchases very cheap. No doubt the government could also be induced to build good roads. Railway rebates would also help you. When you have got all this accomplished—and it is a very easy matter—you should arrange with your brother farmers to sell no farm produce in Canada at less than the price in other countries, with the tariff tax added on. By this means you can raise the price of all that you have to sell to about double its real value.

Now is the time to sell stock in your company. You should first sell it to the individual members in the company at about 25 cents on the dollar. Then these individual members can turn round and sell it to the public, including manufacturers, railway men, college professors, and school teachers, at about 200 cents on the dollar. This of course, you see, will help the members of your company to make a lot of money and as your business will be very profitable all the stock holders will make money also. You can pay out a part of your profits in cash and put the balance to "reserve" for rainy days.

In case any farmers are inclined to be independent and to sell their produce at less than a "living price" you could get together and under-sell them until they are pretty nearly out of business. Then go to the bank and have them put pressure on these individual farmers and they will soon be compelled to quit. You will thus be able to buy their farms at a very low price, and either shut them down or use them according as is most profitable. By reducing the number of farms you can "give the public a better service at reduced cost."

In Canada you should keep your price as high as the tariff will permit, but in other countries you will still be able to sell under your competitors and make a good profit. This, of course, is merely "disposing of the surplus." You should get the government to assist you

in opening up foreign markets by sending out trade commissioners and by giving large subsidies to steamship companies and railway companies to haul your produce at a low rate to the foreign market. This is a very enterprising way to build up an export trade.

We believe that if this system is followed faithfully, that it will soon place the farming industry upon a very profitable basis. Farmers by this means should be able to build themselves large country houses, equipped with the latest and best conveniences. Every farmer should have an automobile and a good pair of driving horses. A staff of servants could be kept and it would probably be a good thing to have a railway spur track run up to your farm and have a private car in which to travel.

Of course there would necessarily be certain criticisms of farmers as soon as they became affluent. Manufacturers and railway men and other "misguided agitators" and "blacksmith shop politicians," would start an agitation to have the tariff reduced and to prevent your issuing "watered stock." The best way to answer this is to declare that if any reduction is made in the tariff that you will have to quit business altogether and then the people would have nothing to eat. This is an argument that they can't answer. It would also be well to point out that farming is an "infant industry" and that in a "young and growing country like Canada" it is necessary to "encourage infant industries." You should also point out to the public, that it is not wise to have a one-sided development in Canada and that it is necessary to encourage farmers in order to "build up a well rounded Dominion." You can safely declare that if the tariff is lowered it will "endanger the empire." You should also declare that if the tariff is reduced and your privileges withdrawn, the wages of working men would have to be reduced and the country go to the dogs generally. Imagine the pictures you could paint of deserted farms! All the farmers should hold a great convention once each year to which they could travel in their private cars. In delivering public addresses you should be very careful to be patriotic. You should point out the great service you are rendering to the empire by your tremendous sacrifice in supplying bread. It would be well to have the Union Jack prominently displayed at your public meetings and always close with "Rule Britannia." In a few years, as this scheme works out, you will probably be given a title for your "service to the empire." All the leading farmers would be "Sir" and occasionally there would be a "lord" and an "earl." The country would be full of senator farmers. Some of you might even become members of the British House of Commons and buy a knighthood. Now, is not this alluring? What more could the farmers ask for? And isn't it easy, too?

There is just one little item that should not be overlooked. In return for all the favors which the government extends to you you should show your appreciation at election time by giving a goodly contribution to the campaign fund. By this means the politicians will fool the people and induce them to vote against themselves and as long as this can be kept up there would be no danger of your privileges being withdrawn. It would be amusing to see the railway magnates, the manufacturers and other common people shouting "equal rights to all, etc.," and then defeating their own object with their ballots. But our readers may rely upon this advice. We don't know any place where it has been worked out, but the principles are sound and have been proved effective in Canada.

When the tariff is taken off agricultural implements our Western farmers can afford better equipment on their farms.

PROPOSED GIFT TO SPECULATORS

A very emphatic protest is necessary against the proposal which has been made on behalf of speculators holding South African veteran warrants that the time for the location of scrip should again be extended for a year. When the bill granting to Canadian volunteers in the South African war the right to a half section of land was passed in 1908, one of the conditions was that the land must be selected by the volunteer or his substitute on or before December 31, 1910, and occupation and settlement duties commenced within six months. This gave volunteers who desired to do so ample time in which to avail themselves of the bounty, but the great majority of those entitled to scrip sold their rights to speculators for a consideration ranging from \$200 to \$500. The total number of warrants issued is 7,215, but only 618 volunteers have personally taken up scrip and filed on land, the other 6,597 warrants having passed into the hands of speculators. Most of the volunteers disposed of their rights on the understanding that the scrip would have to be located as provided in the bill, by the close of 1910, which understanding was strengthened by the statement of Hon. Frank Oliver in the House of Commons on February 4, 1909, that no changes were contemplated in the conditions relating to the grants. On March 9, 1910, however, Mr. Oliver introduced a bill extending the time for the location of South African scrip until December 31, 1911. This proposal was vigorously opposed at the time by the Grain Growers' associations of the West and by The Guide, it being pointed out that the extension would only be to the advantage of speculators and against the interests of settlers, the effect being to retard settlement and enhance the price which those who would eventually locate the lands would have to pay for the scrip. Equally strong opposition was offered to the bill by Western Conservative members of Parliament, including Dr. W. J. Roche, the present secretary of state, Arthur Meighen, W. H. Sharpe, R. S. Lake and Glen Campbell. Dr. J. P. Molloy, a Liberal member, also opposed the granting of the extension of time except in the case of volunteers who desired to take up lands for themselves. Dr. Roche said: "Few of us, especially from the West, have not received letters and petitions from public bodies and individuals opposing this bill. Grain Growers' associations all through Manitoba have passed resolutions condemnatory of such an extension of time." Dr. Roche quoted with approval an editorial in The Guide opposing the extension, and further said: "In a few years we will have little good land left for homesteading purposes, and the speculators will utilize the scrips for their own aggrandizement and to the disadvantage of the bona fide settler."

Glen Campbell, then M.P. for Dauphin, said: "I object entirely, or almost entirely, to any change in those conditions because the great majority of that scrip has got into the hands of speculators. It is out of the hands of the men who actually earned it, and if a special bonus of this kind is to be given by the government, it should be given to the men who went out and took their lives in their hands. I would not object to this additional time being given in the case of military bounty warrants still held by the volunteers, or by the widows or heirs of men who died in the service." Arthur Meighen, M.P. for Portage la Prairie, opposed the bill on the ground, among others, that it was unfair to the veterans, inasmuch as it gave an added value to the scrip after they had sold their rights. "The very extension," he