

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, January 22nd, 1913

## BRANDON CONVENTION

Manitoba Grain Growers have reason to be proud of the splendid Convention at Brandon. It was probably the best ever held and the manner in which the business was transacted shows that the farmers of Manitoba can do something beside grow grain. Compared with the work of any of the Provincial Legislatures the Convention was miles ahead. No time was lost in "hot air" and there was no playing politics. Neither were the delegates trying to boost their salaries. It is an education to a delegate who attends the Convention for the first time and there is still something to learn for the veteran. The questions dealt with were quite as important as those before our Parliaments—being frequently the same—and the attitude of the Convention was certainly more in the interest of the common people. A very significant feature of the Convention was the unanimity with which the delegates contributed over \$1,000 to the "Fighting Fund" in the short space of half an hour. Day by day the farmers are coming to see the truth of Cobden's statement that the people must sacrifice a part of their property to save the rest from confiscation. The delegates realized full well that they had a greater struggle before them than any of the past. But the reforms they are after cannot be secured until there is a larger number of farmers in the Association. Now is the best season of the year for organization work. The delegates are fresh from the Convention and well in touch with the work of the Association. It would be a splendid time to make a vigorous campaign for new members. More emphasis is being laid upon co-operative buying and selling year by year. This new rural business system is spreading rapidly in the West and will continue to grow as its benefits are more clearly appreciated. There is no better way to get the farmers of a community together than through co-operative buying, which brings financial benefit to all. It is the business system which is to make over rural conditions and stop the exodus from the farm to the city.

## WHY FARMERS FAVOR PEACE

The action of the Grain Growers' Convention at Brandon in declaring for International peace and arbitration, and against both the Canadian naval policies, is attracting widespread attention. The Grain Growers' association is the first important organization in Canada to take this advanced step. In some quarters the Grain Growers are being criticized as being narrow minded and selfish, while in other quarters they are being enthusiastically congratulated upon their courage and genuine patriotism. We believe there is no body of public opinion that has thought out the naval question and its relation to war and peace any more carefully than have the Grain Growers. They are well informed upon the question and have not come to any rash or hasty conclusion. The memorandum prepared by the British Admiralty for Mr. Borden states very definitely that there is no emergency, that Britain is not in danger and that no matter what contribution Canada may make Britain itself will maintain sufficient naval force to be independent of all contributions. We believe that if Great Britain were in actual danger, there is not a farmer in Western Canada but would be willing and glad to contribute to her support. But Great Britain has an unlimited supply of money, and never in all her history was as prosperous as today. This being the case, the navy becomes a Canadian question, and every

Canadian citizen has a perfect right to his opinion upon it. The Borden naval policy will not help Great Britain one particle as it provides only three ships and compels the British Government to maintain and man them. The Laurier naval policy will be of no assistance to Great Britain because the Canadian navy would be too far away to be of any use in actual conflict. From the Canadian standpoint no good argument has yet been advanced as to why Canada needs naval protection. The fear of foreign invasion is a myth as is easily proven by Great Britain's experience in the Boer War. The might of Great Britain was taxed very seriously to conquer a comparatively small number of Boer farmers, and the war itself was condemned by no less prominent a statesman than Lloyd George as not justifiable.

The best protection Canada can have against foreign invasion is a prosperous and contented population. In every country in the world the farmers have been the pawns in the game of war. They have paid the larger part of the taxes and shed the greater part of the blood. The Grain Growers are aware of this fact and also aware that war between civilized nations is a crime which can be easily prevented. One hundred years of peace between the United States and Great Britain is shortly to be celebrated. We cannot think of any better method to commemorate this one hundred years of peace than that there should be a treaty between the two countries, in which Canada should partake, that never, under any circumstances, should there be war between these great Anglo-Saxon nations. There is no question that could ever come up between the two nations that could not be settled by arbitration, and we believe the general sentiment in both countries is in favor of such a treaty. Canadian people would favor such a treaty even though in the past Canada has been the loser through arbitration. It is better to lose something than to sacrifice several hundred thousand lives and set back civilization for many years. If every citizen of Canada were to join in this cry for naval expenditure, we would soon have a situation as bad and as dangerous as that prevailing in Germany, but if the organized farmers take a determined and patriotic stand for peace and arbitration they will compel a more serious consideration of the question on the part of the Government. The action of the Grain Growers will also encourage the Peace Party in Germany, which already has 110 members in the National Parliament, to continue their struggle against naval expenditure and towards International Peace. It will also encourage the Peace Party in Great Britain towards the same end. The Grain Growers have no desire to see in Canada large interests built up whose prosperity depends upon war and preparation for war.

There are undoubtedly many farmers who sincerely believe that Canada should make some preparation towards a navy, but we believe that an actual Referendum on the question would find 95 per cent. of the Grain Growers opposed to naval expenditure. We believe that every citizen should have an opportunity to record his opinion upon the naval question and the majority will should prevail. We are publishing letters on both sides of the question in The Guide this week and have no desire to stifle opinions differing from our own. Those who are opposed to a navy and those in favor of one are all in favor of a Referendum on the question, and it should be held. Our readers could forward this cause by sending letters to Premier Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier demanding an actual Referendum and not a general elec-

tion, as an election would merely confuse the people and prove nothing, whereas a Referendum would give the actual opinion of the people.

## A CO-OPERATIVE NUMBER

For the last two years we have made a practice to publish a special Co-operative Number of The Guide during the latter part of the winter. We intend doing so again this year, with the assistance of our readers. We would like every local organization in the three Prairie Provinces to send us a report of their co-operative buying or selling during the past year. We would like these statements to be made so that the exact saving can be shown and the benefits thus be clear to our readers. We would also like to know how much of this work is done on the true co-operative method. It is also advisable to point out whether non-members of the Association have been allowed to participate in the benefits of co-operative buying. We would be glad if each of our correspondents on this subject would give us their idea on the prospective development of co-operation in their community, and the social benefits to be derived therefrom. We would like to make this the best co-operative number we have yet published and we are leaving it all in the hands of our readers. There has been a great advance in co-operative buying and selling during the past year and we would like to make a complete record of it. We will also include reports from co-operative stores. All these reports must reach The Guide office not later than February 24. We trust every one will join hands with us and make this a great success.

## WHO ARE THE STEEL MAGNATES?

It seems to be generally understood that the Dominion Government plans to give some additional tariff favors to the steel interests at the present session of Parliament. There is absolutely no excuse for any further favors to these interests who have already had over \$16,000,000 in hard cash out of the public treasury, in addition to tariff protection and other favors. The steel companies are now paying dividends on their preferred stock and also on their watered stock. Any further permission to rob the people is an outrage. Perhaps if we see who the steel magnates really are it may be more easily understood why they are able to get so much from our Governments. Here is the list of directors of the Dominion Steel Corporation: J. H. Plummer, Sir William Van Horne, Wm. McMaster, Sir Montague Allan, George Caverhill, Senator Cox, Hon. Robt. Mackay, Hon. David McKeen, Frederic Nicholls, W. G. Ross, J. R. Wilson, Hon. R. Dandurand, Sir William Mackenzie, James Mason and Sir Henry Pellatt.

These are the steel magnates and they are also the big men in the Canadian Pacific Railway, Canadian Northern Railway, Bank of Montreal, Bank of Commerce, Bank of Nova Scotia, as well as several smaller banks and at least one hundred other big railway, financial and manufacturing concerns. It would hardly be possible to draw together a board of directors representing greater power in the financial, industrial and commercial life of Canada. They comprise the leaders of the Big Interests of Special Privilege. The pressure they can bring to bear upon the Government cannot be estimated. Nearly all of them are multi-millionaires and are now seeking special legislation by which they can make more millions out of the public. The plan of these men is to get