

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, May 5th, 1915

WHEAT SEEDING IS OVER

The wheat is in the ground. It has been put in under favorable conditions and in a good seed bed, and in most cases with plenty of moisture. Thousands of acres of wheat are already showing two or three inches above ground, and the season generally is reported to be from a week to ten days earlier than last year. Good weather will see the other grains sown in record time and everything in readiness for an abundant harvest. The seeding and the harvesting will be well done. If the farmers were equally careful to provide good marketing and sound economic conditions they would find it result quite as profitably as good tillage.

MOVING TOWARDS CONSOLIDATION

The organized farmers of the West will welcome the announcement that the first step towards the consolidation of the several existing farmers organizations has been consummated. The following statement shows that The Grain Growers' Grain Co., and the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association are temporarily combining their efforts to assist the farmers of Saskatchewan in securing their necessities at the lowest possible price:

STATEMENT

To The Shareholders of The Grain Growers' Grain Co., in Saskatchewan, and The Members of The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association:

We wish to make the following announcement covering the purchasing and distribution of general supplies by the Company and the Association for the province of Saskatchewan.

An agreement has been entered into between the Company and the Association, covering the period up to December 31st next, whereby they will co-operate in an effort to work to better advantage in the purchase and distribution of supplies to the farmers in Saskatchewan.

Under the agreement the Company and the Association act in conjunction, thru a joint committee, in securing supplies; the Company becoming largely the purchasing and the Association the distributing medium. All orders originating in Saskatchewan—whether for car-load quantities or less—should be sent direct to the Central Secretary of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, Moose Jaw.

This is the first step towards bringing about a fuller and more effective co-operation amongst the farmers' organizations of Western Canada, and is in the direction of more comprehensive organization than the West has yet had. We trust that everyone interested will co-operate to make this undertaking fully successful.

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GRAIN
COMPANY, LIMITED.
THE SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN
GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

This arrangement we regard as one of the most important that has yet been made in the progress of the organized farmers. The Grain Growers' Grain Co. has for some time past been working in conjunction with the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co. in the distribution of farm necessities in that province. Thru their own organizations, the farmers of the West can readjust the entire commercial life of the country. To secure the best possible results it is necessary, first, that the farmers of the three provinces give their whole-hearted financial support and patronage to their own companies, and, second, that these various companies get together so that their entire forces may be used for the improvement and advancement of the farmers' interests. It would be a great handicap to the farmers' in-

terests, if their own companies, each organized by the farmers for the conduct of their own business, should develop into mere commercial competitors. Today their combined business does not total more than one-quarter of the grain shipped, and far less than that percentage of the other lines of business in which they are engaged. There is every reason why their organizations and forces should be unified and consolidated. By such an action, they would at once become one of the strongest commercial organizations on the continent, and could develop to do remarkable work in making better the conditions on our Western farms. Such development is a matter of growth, however, and it should be the aim of every well wisher of the farmers to see that this first agreement, now undertaken for a limited period only, should become permanent and be widened to embrace all the farmers' organizations.

REPLY FROM ROBERT CRUISE

In our correspondence columns in this issue we publish a letter from Robert Cruise, M.P. for Dauphin, in reply to a recent article which we published, urging the farmers to investigate the charges against him. Mr. Cruise welcomes the fullest investigation, and we hope that the farmers will give him an opportunity to explain fully the charges made against him by Commissioner Ferguson. We think it would be well for Mr. Cruise to publish the facts of the case in regard to the homestead which he secured, and to publish it as soon as possible, so that all interested may be aware of the situation. The charges are serious, and if Mr. Cruise can clear himself, we think he should miss no opportunity of doing so. We shall be pleased to publish his explanation in The Guide whenever he cares to send it.

WAR PURCHASING COMMISSION

Premier Borden has taken a wise step in appointing three well known business men as a commission to purchase war supplies for the government. Possibly no one regrets more than Sir Robert Borden the scandals and graft that were connected with the purchase of horses, boots, bandages, motor trucks, binoculars and other supplies for our Canadian soldiers, and he has now taken the right steps to prevent the same dishonesty and extravagances in the future. The men appointed to the commission, Hon. A. E. Kemp of Toronto, H. LaPorte of Montreal, and G. F. Galt of Winnipeg, are all well known men who have built up large and successful businesses of their own, and if they apply the same principles to the purchase of war supplies that they have used in their own affairs, they will undoubtedly be able to save a vast amount of money for the people of Canada compared with the old system which has been in vogue hitherto. If the commission is to do this and retain the confidence of the public it must disregard absolutely the patronage lists which have been used by their predecessors and make it absolutely clear that they are entirely free from the influence of the politicians. Public opinion has been strongly aroused by the recent revelations of graft in war supplies and the present temper of the people will

not stand for anything but the most straightforward and impartial dealings in the purchase of war supplies in the future.

THE YEAR'S TRADE FIGURES

The statement of the trade of Canada for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1915, published last week by the Minister of Customs, shows how seriously the present depression has affected Canadian trade. The figures, tho they have been padded by the inclusion both as imports and exports of over a hundred and thirty million dollars of gold, which is not really a part of the trade of Canada, show a considerable decline compared with the previous year, and, indeed, when compared with figures for three years back. The total imports of merchandise in the year ending on the 31st of March, 1915, amounted to \$435,371,000, compared with \$618,328,000 for the previous fiscal year. Imports of dutiable goods were valued at \$279,717,000, as compared with \$440,130,000 for the previous year, while free goods imported amounted to \$175,654,000, as compared with \$208,198,000. The falling off in exports is not nearly so great, domestic merchandise exported during the year totalling \$409,418,836, compared with \$431,588,439 for the preceding twelve months. Exports of manufactured goods show a considerable increase over last year, amounting to \$85,539,000, compared with \$57,443,000. Exports of animals and their produce were also in excess of the previous year, being \$74,390,000, against \$53,340,000. The increase in both cases is, no doubt, due to the war, many thousands of horses and millions of dollars' worth of war supplies having been purchased in Canada by the allies. This fact is significant, showing as it does that the war is not the only cause of the present business depression and widespread unemployment. On the contrary, war orders are keeping many Canadian factories going night and day and are giving employment to thousands of people in addition to those who have escaped unemployment by enlisting in the army. The big falling off in imports is the serious feature of the year's figures, especially when it is remembered that customs duties on imports are the chief source of the federal revenues. The decline in the value of dutiable imports from \$440,130,000 to \$279,717,000, which is over 30 per cent., means a corresponding drop in revenues, and proves the truth of the contention which The Guide has often made, that the tariff as a means of raising revenues has failed miserably in the present emergency.

IT'S UP TO THE FARMERS

There is a possibility of a general Dominion election before harvest time, and there is a certainty of an election before September, 1916. Every naturalized farmer in the West has a vote. What is he going to do with it? If the farmers of the West go out and record their votes for the Grits and the Tories, they have no ground for complaint if they get no redress of the grievances against which they have complained. Those who have been in the West for a few years are familiar with the record of both parties. The Liberals were in