

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, March 17th, 1915

On April 1 the price of The Guide will be increased to \$1.50 per year, both on new subscriptions and renewals. Just two weeks remain for those who wish to take advantage of the old rate of \$1 a year or \$2 for three years.

## WHAT IS THE LIBERAL POLICY?

The disappointment that the farmers of the West, along with their brothers in the East, felt at the announcement of the Government's taxation proposals, was not one whit greater than that with which they will read the criticism of the budget which was made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the House of Commons last week. After nearly a month of consideration the Liberal leader on Wednesday last moved an amendment to the budget resolution. The amendment was as follows:

"This House is ready to provide for the exigencies of the present situation and to vote all necessary ways and means to that end, but it regrets that in the measure under consideration duties are imposed which must be oppressive upon the people, whilst yielding little or no revenue, and that the said measure is particularly objectionable owing to the fact that instead of favoring, it is placing extra barriers against Great Britain's trade with Canada, at a moment when the mother country is under a war strain unparalleled in history."

This resolution, while all right as far as it goes, is absolutely lacking in any constructive proposal, and the speech of the ex-Premier was equally devoid of any suggestion as to the way in which revenue should be raised under present conditions. Sir Wilfrid pointed out very truly, that the increase in the tariff will have the effect of reducing imports, and will consequently produce little, if any, more revenue than would have been derived under the former tariff. But he had no alternative suggestion to make. The Finance Minister must obviously obtain a revenue from somewhere, and it is surely the duty of the Opposition when they disagree with the methods by which the Government propose to raise it, to point out some better way. Sir Wilfrid's method of raising revenues when he was Prime Minister was a tariff which taxed the British goods on the average 19 per cent, and goods from the United States 14 per cent. The present Government finding that under existing conditions this tariff would not produce a sufficient revenue has raised the tariff on British goods 5 per cent, and on other goods 7½ per cent., expecting thereby to secure an increased revenue. It is all very well for Sir Wilfrid to say that the increase in the tariff will not have the effect expected by the Government, but he surely, as the head of the Liberal party, has an alternative scheme of taxation to lay before the people of Canada. There are rumors, which seem every day more likely to be true, that a federal general election is to be held during the coming summer. If that is so, then on what policy will Sir Wilfrid Laurier ask the people to replace him in power? The organized farmers not only of Western Canada but of Ontario as well, together with a very large section of the residents of the towns and cities, believe that it would be in the best interests of the people of Canada to adopt Free Trade and raise all revenues by direct taxation. For whom is this large section of the community to

vote, when election day comes? They certainly cannot support the Government in its present tariff measure, but it will be equally impossible for them to give their support to the Liberal party, unless it has some definite fiscal policy, which is in accord with their Free Trade convictions. The suggestion that the Government should equalize revenue and expenditure by practicing economy is a good one, but it does not come very well from Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the Minister of Finance was amply justified when, in replying to the ex-Premier, he recalled the reckless extravagance which was practiced by the Liberal party during the last few years it was in power. Canada today seems to be bankrupt in statesmanship. There is not in the federal political arena a single man who represents the progressive forces or the progressive ideas which animate and possess the organized farmers of Eastern and Western Canada.

## FARM MACHINERY

The average cost of producing one bushel of wheat on the prairies is calculated to be 58 cents. A 20 bushel crop of wheat takes from the soil \$9.40 worth of fertility at current prices. Thus each bushel sold from the farm will rob the soil of 46 cents' worth of crop bearing energy. Hence a bushel of wheat sold costs actually \$1.04. Very few farmers realize this fact, but it is none the less true, and it is evident that even with the present high prices which are being paid for grain very little profit can result. How can this cost be reduced? First of all, by keeping livestock and returning the manure to the land, and in conjunction with this the use of a proper rotation of crops. On the whole, land thruout the West is very fertile and does not respond favorably to the application of manure for some years. In some localities water scarcity practically prohibits the possibility of stock being kept. It would seem that such places can do little to reduce the cost of production. But such is not the case. By proper soil tillage methods the fertility of the land can be made use of to best advantage and in order that this be properly done suitable agricultural implements must be used. On every farm today machinery forms a very considerable item in the capital invested. Economy in the purchase of implements has not been practiced very extensively in the past thruout the West, but one of the greatest sources of loss comes from the improper handling and care which machines receive. The Commission of Conservation recently investigated this question and the results should form ample food for reflection. Out of 94 farmers visited in Saskatchewan 73 had made no provision for housing any of their machinery. In 21 cases one or more machines were kept under cover, but not one farmer had made provision to completely protect all his implements from the weather. In Alberta 37 out of 92 visited leave all their machinery out-of-doors. In Manitoba conditions were somewhat better, 14 out of 94 having house room for all the machinery, while 44 claim to keep part of it under cover. In Ontario, where machinery is carefully attended to a binder will cut twenty or

more crops, whereas in the West on many farms if it cuts seven crops it is considered to be doing remarkably well. There is no reason why the length of time that machines are worked cannot be doubled if the average farmer would take a little more trouble in looking after them. An implement shed can be built for a comparatively small cost, grease and oil are cheap enough and paint can be used on wet days to cover up parts of the machine which are being exposed to the ravages of rust. This year more production than ever is emphasized. Why not attend to the details first and ensure greater economy in production by exercising greater care in the purchasing, use and care of farm machinery?

## THE SCHOOL FRANCHISE

A letter from Hon. George Langley elsewhere in this issue deals with a question of particular interest to the people in the rural West. There is no greater need in this country than an educational system which will give every boy and girl a good common school education before they are compelled to take their place in the struggle for existence. The organized farmers have repeatedly declared for the enfranchisement of the women in these provinces, and for that reason we believe that they will be in hearty accord with Mr. Langley in demanding for the women a voice in the education of their children. At the present time the women, unless they hold property in their own name, have no voice in school matters and are not eligible to hold office as trustee. A step towards the correction of this error was made last week in a bill introduced in the Manitoba legislature by which the wife of any taxpayer will be made eligible to hold office as trustee. But even tho this legislation will enable her to hold office as trustee, she will still be unable to vote in the election at which the trustees are elected. If the Manitoba legislature formally recognizes, by the enactment of this law, that it is desirable for women to become school trustees, surely the members of the legislature will find it difficult to advance any good reason why these same women who are fit to become trustees are not also fit and capable to vote for the election of trustees. However, such as it is, this law is a step in the right direction and hastens the day when the women will come to their own and have a vote on all public questions. The mother has chief care of the child from birth to the age when the child is able to take care of itself. Upon the mother falls the chief burden of feeding, clothing and instructing the child in the home. What good reason can be advanced why the mother should not have a voice in the management of the school in which her child is to be educated?

## IMPLEMENT PRICES

Widespread attention has been attracted, since the increase in the tariff was announced, to the action of some Canadian manufacturers in increasing the price of their goods, in spite of the fact that they are selling from stocks which were manufactured long before the change in the tariff took place, and