



MANITOBA SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. McKenzie, Secretary, Winnipeg, Man.

MANITOBA GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

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WORD FROM BRITAIN

On another page in this issue is published an address sent the secretary of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by the secretary of the Free Trade Union of London, England. It appears from the address that the stand taken by the Western Grain Growers on free trade and a reduction in the tariff in their memorial to Sir Wilfrid has created quite a sensation in the Old Country. The Grain Growers' movement and the success that it has attained has attracted a good deal of attention throughout Canada and has been noticed favorably at intervals by leaders of economic thought in Britain.

In many quarters the unusual display of free trade sentiment, or perhaps more properly speaking, tariff reduction sentiment, by the western farmers, is regarded as being a sudden outburst and is being set forward by a few enthusiasts. As a matter of fact, it is simply an expression of a movement that has been gaining ground very rapidly among Canadian farmers for many years. Sir Wilfrid's visit to the West afforded the farmers an opportunity to express their views to the leaders of the government, which they never had before, because farmers are not like manufacturers and other industrial bodies; they cannot afford to make pilgrimages to Ottawa whenever they want to express their views on any public question. Instead of this being a sudden outburst it is a revealing of a gradual growth of sentiment that has been going on among the agricultural classes for a good many years.

In the matter of her attitude towards free trade or protection Canada has been greatly misrepresented as being altogether in favor of protection to manufactures, while as a matter of fact that sentiment only applies to a very small per cent. of the population and is altogether confined to those who are beneficiaries of the protective system. The farmers have been greatly misrepresented by those who presume to speak for Canadian sentiment and its attitude towards British connections, inasmuch as an effort has been made to make it appear that the farmers' loyalty depends on getting a preference for their products on the British market. That is simply a travesty of the facts. The Canadian farmers do not want the British people to be taxed in their interest. All they want is to have a square deal and freedom from excessive taxation on the commodities they have to buy.

The Grain Growers' Association has now a national reputation. Its influence is felt not only throughout Canada, but in Britain as well. Cannot our Manitoba farmers take this fact seriously and make a consideration in endeavoring to strengthen their organization? Cannot the officers of our different branches take it to heart that they are a component part of an institution that extends its influence all over the British Empire? This ought to be a matter of pride for each of our members and be an incentive for each one of them to do his part in perfecting our organization and extending its usefulness. We cannot afford to do things any longer in a haphazard way. Our meetings, our discussions and our business ought to be conducted so as to insure permanency and develop stability.

TIME FOR THOUGHT

What are you calculating to do this winter to help to promote the interest of the Grain Growers' movement? Every member of the association should give serious thought to this question. The movement which is fraught with so much that affects the welfare of the community requires not only the sympathy but also the active support of all its members. What it needs more than anything else is thought. We have up till now devoted much of our thought and time towards improving marketing

conditions. The Grain Growers' movement has a wider field for its operations than the monetary side. The social and economic side of farm life should command more of our thought and time than the financial side. The question that every farmer ought to seriously consider is, "Am I fitting myself to face the problems with which we are confronted?" In the material, social and political worlds vast forces are being brought into being which will mightily influence the future of humanity. The progress of opinions is bringing many of our social problems within the sphere of practical politics. The power of democracy is being organized so as to bring our institutions more under the control of the people. Hence it becomes the duty of every citizen to fit himself to understand the various aspects of these problems so that they may assist in their solution by intelligent effort. The different branches of the Grain Growers' association affords an excellent opportunity to our farmers for educational work along these lines. It is much to be feared that in many districts our farmers do not appreciate the advantage that they have in this respect. The comparative slack time during the winter months should be utilized so as to create a center in each community that would be devoted to the development of social and intellectual activity. While the older members of the community should take the lead in this movement and give it direction and stability, every effort should be made to interest the younger members of our rural population.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MOVES

On Oct. 6 Hon. Robt. Rogers gave out the following statement:—"It is true that the government have been purchasing land in St. Vital. We found that we did not have sufficient room at the present college for suitable building sites, and when we attempted to buy adjoining property the prices asked were so high as to make such a step almost prohibitive. We decided then to look elsewhere for another location for the college, and we came to the conclusion that the property known as Riverside Park, about five miles south of the city, on the Red River, was the best that could be secured. We found there a beautiful location, and we purchased six hundred acres."

"Due no doubt to the popularity of our Agricultural college, we found ourselves very cramped for room, and find it necessary to take immediate steps to provide greatly increased accommodation. On the site purchased we will have ample room for all time to come, not alone for the Agricultural college and its experimental work, but we will proceed as quickly as possible with domestic science buildings as well, and in all probability will have a technical school. Other branches of higher education which the government will be obliged to take up as rapidly as its finances will admit, can also be accommodated here."

"The changed location of the college can be brought about without any unnecessary extra cost especially so if we realize on the ninety to one hundred acres of land which are not in use at present at anything like the prices that we were asked for the adjoining property."

Present Buildings

"Regarding the present buildings used for college purposes, the government will always have plenty of use for them. In all probability we will sell our present Dead and Dumb site on Portage avenue and move to one of the buildings at present used for agricultural college purposes. Every building we have there will be suitable for use in connection with some of the government institutions, and will therefore entail no loss or waste."

OTTAWA DELEGATION

As I was thinking this morning of our large delegation to Ottawa and the spectacular side of it, I was impressed

with a picture which flitted before me of our annual convention being composed of the delegates to Ottawa breaking up the convention and moving enthused almost in a body, by special train to Ottawa. Here would be something spectacular. The papers of two continents would herald this event and recount their desire for tariff reduction, etc. Our purposes could be given to the press. We would secure free advertising such as we never dreamed of. The fort of protection would quiver to its very foundations and bombarded with the cases you and our other leaders would prepare—it would be a wonder if they did not fall as did the walls of that ancient city in Bible times. If that purpose ruled we would have to hold our convention till parliament meets. I leave this idea for your consideration. Valley River. W. J. BOUGHEN.

Mr. Alex. Rankin, of Killarney, called at our office this week. In addition to being an active and sympathetic supporter of the Grain Growers' movement, Mr. Rankin is an enthusiastic free trader. He was one of the first to join the Free Trade League that has been organized in Winnipeg and while in the city has contributed a substantial amount towards the funds of the organization.

A gentleman from Southern Manitoba has sent us a blue print of a cattle guard which he has had patented in the United States and Canada. He claims

this guard will effectively prevent cattle getting on the railway track. The railway officials say that they cannot get an effective guard. Perhaps this gentleman will get them out of their difficulty if they get into communication with him.

It would be interesting to know how many of our branches are arranging for regular meetings throughout the winter. Planning and thinking how to make these meetings interesting, instructive and useful is one of the ways in which our members will be fitting themselves to become useful citizens. Do not think it is harder to have interesting meetings at your point than at any other. These meetings are what you make them.

When the central secretary advises you that someone is coming to address your branch see that you make ample provision for the meeting. Do not leave the arrangements and advertising to someone else. Ask everybody in the community to come to the meeting yourself. This applies to all the members of the branches.

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