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The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, November 22nd, 1911

LESSONS OF ADVERSITY

There is probably twenty-five per cent. or upwards of 40,000,000 bushels of grain yet unthreshed in the West today. Probably half of this will not be threshed this winter. We are receiving letters daily stating that thousands of acres of wheat, oats and flax are either lying under the snow or are in stacks and that the threshing machines have pulled in for the winter. In some cases the threshing mills are still operating but will be unable to handle the entire crop. This means a serious setback to the country in general and a more serious reverse to the farmers directly affected. Wherever possible, farmers should have their grain threshed at once as it is safer than to risk it outside for the whole winter. In most parts of Manitoba the snow has been dry and can be pretty well shaken off without doing much injury. Dry grain will absorb considerable moisture and suffer but little damage. In some parts of Saskatchewan the snow was preceded by rain so that there will be considerable ice that must go through the mill with the grain, and thus render it "no grade." However, if left till spring the ground will be wet and in many cases it will be impossible to get a threshing mill onto the ground, while the grain will suffer by lying out during the winter.

Even with the bumper crop this year thousands of farmers are very badly hit. In addition to the perversity of Nature the ingenuity of man has handicapped the farmers. Frost, rain, rust and snow have levied a fearful toll. But the railway companies have held up the farmers for cars, either intentionally or unintentionally (the result being the same); the elevator men have been very active in the short weight—low grade—heavy dockage game, and the farmers have paid the bill.

With conditions such as have been experienced this year, a sample market would have increased the income of every farmer with grain to sell. It has been impossible for the farmers to secure the real value of their grain, especially the lower grades, simply because it could not be sold on sample as it is at Minneapolis. A study of the prices on the Minneapolis sample market, as published in The Guide every week, is convincing proof of the value of a sample market. When the farmers get together unanimously they can have a sample market. There is reason to believe that some of the railway companies are coming to view this matter with less opposition recently. Some of the grain interests also favor the sample market. The farmers can secure the necessary amendments to the Manitoba Grain Act to make a sample market operative if they go about it in earnest. The longer the sample market is absent the longer will the Western farmers be compelled to take less than the market value of their grain. A sample market will help to reimburse the farmers for the loss sustained through adverse conditions such as have obtained this year.

COCKSHUTT AND PLOWS

W. F. Cockshutt, M.P., of the Cockshutt Plow Co., was in the West a little while ago and gave the following interview to the Saskatoon Phoenix:

"I know of no dissatisfaction or agitation among the farmers of Ontario, whatever there may be in the West. The farmer is every bit as prosperous as the dweller in the town. Farm implements are not exorbitantly high in Canada. They may be cheaper in the United States because that is a high tariff country. But when the industries of the East spread out into the West, as they are bound to do, the farmer of the West will be satisfied. A reduc-

tion of five per cent. on implements would have meant the throwing of hundreds of men out of work in the East."

Thus we see that, according to Mr. Cockshutt, the reason why farm implements are cheaper in the United States than in Canada is because the United States is a high tariff country. This explains probably why Mr. Cockshutt can sell his 8-furrow engine gang plows in Minneapolis for \$502 when he charges \$680 for them in Winnipeg. On this theory, the more duty Mr. Cockshutt paid to get his plows into the United States the cheaper he would sell them. The Cockshutt company have not yet replied to our letter of October 24, so we presume that they cannot deny any of the facts. Mr. Cockshutt might entertain Parliament with some flights of patriotic oratory and drive home his arguments by giving the prices of his plows in Canada and the United States. It would make a beautiful peroration and would certainly be full of national sentiment. If the Ontario farmers like his prices there is no objection to them doing so. Here is an extract from the Cockshutt advertisement in a Western farm paper which should be interesting to Western farmers:

Dr. J. A. McDonald, chief editor of the Toronto Globe, in speaking of the progress made by the Cockshutt plows in the United States, says:

"It was a great satisfaction to find that this superior implement was appreciated by the farmers of the United States. While at Washington I found the American manufacturers of steam plows making a great ado about it, and the head of one large plow manufactory told the Washington authorities that he would not be able to stand against this competition."

The Cockshutt company spread this statement clear across the page and many of our readers have seen it. They should have completed the advertisement with this simple legend:

PRICE

8-furrow Engine Gang

Winnipeg	Minneapolis
\$680.00	\$502.00

Then people would understand. This is the fruit of the protective tariff. How long is this to last? How long are the farmers of the West to sit idle and pay their good money out in tribute to tariff pets who know how to retain their special privilege? Is there any farmer in Western Canada who believes that there should be any tariff on Cockshutt plows or any other farm implements? If there is such a man we want to hear from him at once. We know there are tens of thousands who do not believe in it. We ask them to join with us and a way will be found to take the tariff off farm implements.

THE BRITISH PREFERENCE

During the recent election campaign a great deal was heard from leading members of the party now in power as to the desirability of further developing the trade of Canada with Great Britain. There are many people who voted against reciprocity in the belief that by so doing they were voting for Free Trade within the Empire. On many platforms throughout the country opponents of reciprocity spoke in glowing terms of Imperial Preference and Imperial Free Trade, and they won many votes by their patriotic appeal. In the fiscal year ending March 31, 1910, Canada sold \$149,630,488 worth of goods to Great Britain on which no duty was paid, and bought only \$95,350,300 worth from Great Britain which were taxed \$18,032,629.10 in duties. That does not seem

to be fair treatment for Canada to mete out to the Motherland, and now that we have a party in power which is so intensely loyal to Great Britain we ought to be able to expect a substantial reduction at least on the tariff on British goods. If there is anything in the professions of loyalty and patriotism of the opponents of reciprocity, the British Preference should be at once increased to fifty per cent. We believe, moreover, that there is nothing that the government could do which would meet with more general approval than the increase of the British Preference. The only interests which are opposed to the increase of the preference are the Canadian manufacturers, who, compared with the consumers of this country, are very insignificant in numbers, though they possess an influence upon the powers of government out of all proportion to their numerical strength. We must confess, however, that we see little prospect of the voluntary establishment of Free Trade with Great Britain or an increase in the British Preference by the present government. The same forces that controlled the old government will also control the new. If the party in power desires to establish Free Trade with Great Britain it can do so simply by passing an act permitting the importation of all articles produced in the British Isles free of duty. Great Britain now imposes no duty on Canadian goods, nor any others, with the exception of a few articles such as spirits, tobacco and tea, on which the home manufacturer pays the same duty through the Inland Revenue.

Premier Borden, as far as we know, has never announced himself in favor of Free Trade with Great Britain. His statements in regard to the development of trade with the Motherland have been clothed in generalities which may mean anything or nothing, while his belief in the protection of Canadian manufacturers against British competition have been such as to leave no doubt as to what they mean. He spoke, while on his Western tour last summer, of the "great Imperial band which stretches from England round the world and back to England again," but he also said that he did not believe in a tariff that would close a mill in Nova Scotia and establish one in Yorkshire, and in his first political speech as premier, delivered at a banquet given in his honor at Halifax on November 2, he said: "The interlocking of our tariff with that of any other country is undesirable from the standpoint of our fiscal autonomy." If Mr. Borden's party would give us Free Trade with Great Britain under present conditions, while Britain is a free trade country, there would be no need to interlock our tariff with theirs, but those of Mr. Borden's party who advocate Free Trade or an increased preference to Great Britain do so with the reservation, which they do not always make public, that it will not be brought about until Great Britain gives a preference to the overseas dominions by imposing a tariff on imports from outside the Empire. If we are to wait for an increase of the British Preference until that state of affairs is brought about, the Canadian manufacturers need not become alarmed. Great Britain must first reverse the policy it has followed for the past sixty years and which has made it the greatest manufacturing and mercantile power in the world. There is a party in Great Britain which is in favor of reversing this policy, but only a section of that party is prepared to go far enough, even if they are successful in defeating the Asquith-Lloyd-George government, to meet the demands of the Imperial Preference advocates in this country. There