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TAX THE UNEARNED INCREMENT

Editor, GUIDE:—Allow me to congratulate you on the able and persistent manner in which you fight for the legitimate rights of the farmers. And the partial success they have already achieved in regard to the marketing of grain, etc., is, I am sure, greatly due to the way you have always championed their cause. The cartoon in your issue of January 19th hits the situation off to a nicety, and at the same time shows the position of the three western Associations and the combined interests they have to fight.

The chief object I have in view in writing was to reply to Mr. C. E. Ivens' letter in your issue of 19th January. He thinks it unfair to penalize speculation. Now I beg to differ from Mr. Ivens on this point. It seems to me unfair that farmers who reside on and live under all the inconveniences of pioneer life, should by their industry be the means of increasing the value of adjoining lands, probably held for the purpose of speculation. In Saskatchewan we have a uniform Land Tax for farmers and speculators alike, but I think that owners of uncultivated and unoccupied lands held for speculation, ought to pay a special tax as a percentage on the increased value made possible by the resident owners. In this country we can't get anything for nothing, and no more should the speculator who holds land for increased value. Would such lands increase in value if the residents were to leave the district? I say not. Therefore it proves that the speculator is indebted to the resident owners for his increased value and consequently ought to be compelled in some way to contribute to that community for same, or as the British phrase is—"Unearned Increment."

I think the special tax on unoccupied and uncultivated land would have the tendency of throwing this land into the hands of the real farmers with consequently improved results for the social life and public facilities of the district.

I do not wish at present to intrude further on the space of your valuable paper or as I would call it "The Farmers' Self Educator," but should you think worthy of publication, I will take courage and come again. I am sorry to say I am not yet a member of the G.G.A., but am going to first meeting of local branch and ask them to take me in, for I can't stay out any longer, when such victories are being won. "Long live the United Farmers' Association of Canada."

A. W. MAY.

Mayview, Sask.

FARM LIABILITIES

Editor, GUIDE:—In your issue of January 19 (Page 6), re planning next season's business, you state that one question which is of the utmost importance to farmers is how to finance the operations of the farm until the crop is secured and marketed. This is a problem in which no doubt many new farmers would like to know what to do. It was a great boon at one time to be able to get things on credit, which is a bad system if you can avoid it, but now you have to pay cash for everything, which no doubt is the best plan when you have the money, but hard on those who have not. This system prevents buying goods which you could easily do without. Then again you say we ought not to have our liabilities all fall due in November. To my mind this is as good a date as any, because if we cannot pay then it is a sure thing we should have no money to pay any other time of the year, unless we are rich enough to be able to hold our wheat for a few months.

Then you state that the banks are beginning to look upon farmers accounts in a different light. Now I have not found it so myself. The other day I tried to borrow \$100 from a bank to pay off the last of my machinery notes, but could not get it. The manager stated that it was too early in the year to lend money, and the majority will only lend it for three months.

Perhaps you were only alluding to farmers of some years' standing in writing your article.

FARMER.

Cubitt, Sask.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FARMERS

Editor, GUIDE:—I am a subscriber to your valuable paper and I must say I

consider it Canada's leading farmers' paper. I find your editorials to be true to the farmers interests and I have to agree with them almost to the letter. It is great to know that at last we have a paper which is up to its claims and is standing fearlessly for our rights.

Your "Mail Bag" contains many good letters. They are all interesting and many contain good ideas and sound logical argument. Of course there are some I find it impossible to agree with; at the same time these letters are worth reading because they set you thinking and bring out new ideas.

The present is certainly a time of great thought and remarkable action. This interprovincial organization which is about to be formed throughout the Dominion is a great step in the right direction. It will certainly bring about a great many improvements for the agricultural class all over Canada and through them benefit all classes, for the greater the prosperity on the farm the greater will be the prosperity of all our people.

While an organization of the farmers of the Dominion will be of great benefit it strikes me that an international organization of agriculturists would be of still greater benefit. Would it not?

For the near future I would favor an organization covering the United States and Canada, and perhaps later other countries might be brought in. I feel satisfied that if intelligent farmers from all over the U.S. and Canada were to meet at some suitable place in the U.S. one year and in Canada another, and there discuss questions both of national and international importance, it would have the effect of greatly improving conditions in each country and between the two nations. At these conventions international legislation would figure largely, and through the organization, right would be brought to bear on the governments which would force them to act as no other influence would.

I hope you will see fit to have this letter appear in THE GUIDE, because I feel that this idea is worthy the consideration of our farmers. I thank you in anticipation for your space.

REUBEN R. TEGART.

Rouleau, Sask.

IN SUPPORT OF A CANADIAN NAVY

Editor, GUIDE:—Having perused letter written by Mr. H. G. A., re Canadian navy, in issue of January 26th, I wish to make a few remarks.

Well, any farmers with whom I have been talking all seem in favor of a Canadian navy and are quite willing to assume their share of expense. This gentleman can see no need for a navy. Well, perhaps he cannot see very far; perhaps not much further than his own doorstep.

It is a good thing we have statesmen of integrity who can think and act for such men as he. Canada for the last hundred years has been living in peace and prosperity under the prestige of the British navy, and it is time we relieved the over-burdened tax payer of the mother land a little of the cost of protecting us. This writer evidently never reads the papers and thinks that the ships are always floating around on a holiday tour, or else on a picnic. Where would all our wheat for export be if war broke out without this same fleet? Could we have excluded the Japs and Chinese from British Columbia without ship protection. I think not. See the work they did in settling the fishery disputes. Also look what the fleet did for the slave trade.

Then there is the surtax with Germany. I guess we would have had to take that off again only for the fleet.

The fleet also protects our coasts against smuggling. We all deplore the fact that we have to keep such large armaments, but if we would hold the supremacy, we must build the ships and spend the money, too.

This question must not be considered from a local standpoint, but from a standpoint of the good of the Empire as a whole, for what hurts it hurts us, and this is a case of the survival of the fittest. Canada with her great future as one of the foremost colonies should go one better than the others and build her own navy. We've got to begin sometime, and why not now?

F. H. ASHE.

P.S.—How would a small tax on incomes over \$1,500 be? Would not this lighten the burden on the small farmers?—F.H.A.

Ashtville, Man.



1910 DAIRYING PROSPERITY

The one thing which has contributed most largely to dairying prosperity the world over for the past thirty years has been the DE LAVAL CREAM SEPARATOR, and favorable conditions afford more than usual opportunity for it to continue doing so during the new year of 1910.

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