

## Our Progress Number

The issue of The Guide on December 6 will be something new in western journalism. It will be the biggest issue of The Guide ever published and it will be by long odds the best number. We are calling it our "Progress Number." As the title indicates this big issue will contain a record of the progress of the farmers' organization throughout Canada and the possibilities of the future. The best thoughts of leading progressive thinkers will be set forth in the "Progress Number." This big issue will contain an historically accurate account of the rise and growth of the farmers' organization. It will deal not only with the organization in the Prairie Provinces but in the other provinces of Canada as well. The Canadian farmers have accomplished a great deal by their organized efforts, and in some ways have surpassed all other countries. The achievements of farmers in other countries will be set forth and their experience will benefit our farmers in their work here.

Direct Legislation, Taxation of Land Values, Tariff Reduction, Co-operation among Farmers, Railway Regulation and Lower Freight Rates, Better Farming Methods, Improvements in the Grain Trade, Public Ownership of Public Utilities, Better Conditions for our Women, Better schools for our Children, More Efficient educational and organization work among our Farmers, General Training of our young men and women in Agricultural and Domestic Science. These are some of the progressive subjects that will be dealt with in our "Progress Number."

There will be also the story of the rise and growth of each of the associations, the Grain Growers' Grain Company and the Grain Growers' Guide. The germ of progress is in the very air and it is upon the farmers will fall the chief burden of making Canada a real democratic country where every citizen will have a square deal—a country of industrious, educated and frugal people and of happy, healthy and contented homes—a country where extremes of wealth and poverty will not be known.

It is to meet this spirit of the times that the "Progress Number" of The Guide is intended. The articles will be contributed by leading men in the farmers' organization and also by other men equally interested in the cause of democracy. In addition there will be some very fine Christmas articles and pictures. The illustrations will be one of the chief features of the "Progress Number" and it will attract the attention of every reader. Special attention will be given to the problems of the women on the farms. There will also be several real interesting stories for old and young. The boys and girls will find something that will make them want to sit up late to read. The cover design on the "Progress Number" will be in three colors and very handsome. It represents one of the ancient heralds that we have conjured up to sound the call to the farmers of Canada to join hands in future progress.

There is a tremendous amount of work involved in preparing such a number. It will contain more reading matter and more valuable information than a 150 page book that sells for \$1.50. But we are going to give the "Progress Number" as a free gift to every regular subscriber. There will be more than eight tons of paper consumed in printing the paper.

We are going to ask our readers to join hands with us to send this "Progress Number" of The Guide far and wide throughout the English speaking world, particularly in Canada. We will mail a copy of the "Progress Number" to any address for 15 cents. We want to see a copy of it placed in the hands of every farmer in Western Canada and as many as possible in Eastern Canada, United States, Great Britain or any part of the British Empire. We want our readers to send copies to their friends. We want to get these orders in advance, so that we will know how many copies to print.

If every reader of The Guide will send from one to ten copies to friends we will print 50,000 copies of this great number. Every member of the legislature, the House of Commons and every public official should receive a copy of our "Progress Number." How much will our readers do to help this great work? We promise that this issue will be worth more than \$1.00. We sell it for fifteen cents. Let us have your orders now. Fill out the coupon below and send it in at once with money or post office order. The "Progress Number" will do missionary work wherever it goes.

Please send one copy of the great "Progress Number" of The Guide to be published December 6, to each of the addresses given below for which I enclose \_\_\_\_\_, being fifteen cents for each copy. Seven copies will be sent for \$1.00. Stamps or post office orders are equally acceptable.

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## Australia's Troubles

Go where we may in this world, and the problems which the people are trying to solve are very much the same. Our Australian cousins, who are generally believed to be among the most progressive in the empire, are being oppressed by trusts and kept poor by the high cost of living, even as the people of Canada are.

The Sunday Times, of Perth, West Australia, says:

"It seems so anomalous that while the lands of the State should be opened up and made to produce food in abundance, yet the cost of living is steadily rising. We now not only grow enough wheat to feed our own population but we are exporting millions of bushels. Nevertheless, the price of bread is higher than it has ever been, and the bread buccaneers threaten to put it up some more. At one time we had to import mutton from the Eastern States, and the price was fairly reasonable; now we are talking about exporting lambs, and the cost of mutton is at least 33 1-3rd per cent. higher. Sugar is at least 25 per cent. dearer than it was five years ago, and potatoes are 300 per cent. higher. All these appreciations, added to 25 to 30 per cent. on rents, which again causes the cost of clothes to rise, is making the household treasurer as hypochondriacal as Premier Wilson was when the State finances were represented by a quarter of a million accumulated deficit."

"The Sunday Times" deputed a member of its staff to find out the why and the wherefore of this condition of things, and also to see what hope there was for the future.

### The Meat Ring

He sought a man who is interested in the Kimberley cattle business, though in a small way. He remarked:

"The meat ring could reduce prices at once if they wanted to, but they don't want to. It is this way: If they can get as much for one bullock as they could for three, it is not likely that they will bring three 2000 mules just to give the people cheaper meat. They have absolute control of the supply and distribution, and they can rig the market just as they please. The small cattle-raisers have no chance. Say a man has 5000 or 10,000 head of stock up there, and he wants to get them to market. He must charter a steamer; but the ring would know, and they would send along a couple of steamers also. There would be plenty of cattle around Fremantle, and the small man would be met with the position that no one wanted his stock. No retailers could take them, and he would have to accept whatever the ring were generous enough to give him—and generosity is not one of their business faults."

### Will Have Refrigerator

Won't the freezing works open up the trade?

"Not a bit. Cattle will be shipped alive all the same to Fremantle, where the chilled meats, or canned meat, will be exported. As I have pointed out, the ring has control of the retail trade, and no meat can be distributed except what they permit. The small pastoralist may slaughter and chill his meat at Wyndham, but what is the good of that if he cannot sell it in Fremantle or Perth? He is blocked. The freezing works will simply enable the ring to export all their surplus stock, and of course they will raise more cattle in Kimberley, but it won't benefit the consumers here."

But surely the great increase in sheep will destroy the ring's power?

"Not at all. They practically own all the retail shops, and will do with the sheep-owners as they do with the small cattle-man. Why, only the other day one of the biggest squatters in the Pilbarra country brought down 8000 sheep. He submitted them to auction, but could not get a bid, notwithstanding that mutton is selling as high as 8d. per lb. The ring simply boycotted him, and although he is rich he was helpless, and has had to send his sheep all over the country to keep them alive. As a matter of fact, the ring, when there are chilling works at North Fremantle, will probably buy up sheep and export them, making a profit on the transaction and regulating the local supplies at the same time. They are omnipotent. No; the Government cannot crush the ring, because the trade is carried on legitimately, albeit iniquitously. The only power that I know of is the Federal Government, which should

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British and Foreign Correspondents in all the principal cities in the world

put the law against monopolies or trusts into operation. They are prosecuting the Coal Vend—why don't they prosecute the Kimberley Cattle Trust? It is a matter that affects the workers more than anyone else, and Messrs. Fisher and Co. are the very men we expect to protect the workers from the rapacity of meat rings, sugar trusts and other inexorable monopolies."

### The Humble Spud

The normal price of potatoes in Perth, according to the Sunday Times is 1s. 4d. per stone, which being interpreted means \$1.37 a bushel. When the above was written, however, the retail price was 3d. a pound, or \$3.60 a bushel, but in this case there is no suggestion of high prices being caused by a trust. West Australia does not produce sufficient potatoes for its own consumption, and considerable quantities are annually imported from other parts of Australia. The other states at the present time are affected by Irish blight, and to prevent the disease being brought into Western Australia the government prohibited the importation of potatoes. A potato famine naturally resulted and to relieve the situation the government decided to permit the importation of potatoes provided they were peeled at the docks under government supervision. Eleven tons were peeled under the eye of a departmental inspector on the first morning of the new regulation, and the peeled potatoes were sold at 11 shillings (\$2.65), per cwt. wholesale.