NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

This department of The Guide is maintained especially for the purpose of providing a discussion ground for the readers where they may freely exchange views and derive from each other the benefits of experience and helpful suggestions. Each correspondent should remember that there are hundreds who wish to discuss a problem or offer suggestions. We cannot publish all the immense number of letters received, and ask that each correspondent will keep his letter as short as possible. Every letter must be signed by the name of the writer, though not necessarily for publication. The views of our correspondents are not of necessity those of The Guide. The aim is to make this department of great value to readers, and no letters not of public interest will be published.

ELECT INDEPENDENTS

Editor, Guide:—Haven't we had about enough epistles showing how the farmer bears the greatest part of the burden necessary to run this country and also to make the millionaires? It has been proved conclusively and only the narrow-minded and those with axes to grind dare contradict it. We hear a lot of how the reciprocity agreement between Canada and the United States is going to lower the price the farmer gets for his beef, butter and eggs. I think this is more of the manufacturers' moonshine, because, in the first place, can't we raise beef cheaper than the U. S. farmer and, secondly, don't we export beef? With regard to butter and eggs, it may possibly reduce these a fraction, but it is a matter of penny wise and pound foolish if we oppose it on this score. Surely we are clear-minded enough to sacrifice a cent in order to gain the dollar. But this is not what I meant to write about. Let us stop this talk of the poor burdened farmer for the present and set to work to right matters ourselves. The farmer has been to the government and nothing much is doing, so now let us make the government come to the farmer. How can this be done? Let us take a glance at the Trades Unions in Great Britain. What have they done? In the present parliament they have forty-two representatives. Now if they can afford to send forty-two, surely the farmers of Canada can send forty-two, and this would probably put the balance of power in the farmers' hands. Surely the farmer never had opportunity knock more determinedly at his door. The manufacturer is an enterprising man and consequently never lets an opportunity pass, but the farmer is built differently. He must waste valuable time arguing over it, and time that costs the farmers thousands of dollars. So let us now get into politics—not party politics, as party politics has been and is the curse of every civilized nation—but go into politics independently. For instance, let us now prepare for the next Dominion election, and all the branches of the G. G. A. in each and every constituency send delegates to a meeting in their own constituency and appoint a bona fide farmer to run at the next election; pledge him to support the farmers and pledge the farmers to support him on the polling day. We would have some fine three-cornered fights and, personally, I think the farmer would win out. Don't let our farmer member have to support himself, let each farmer give $5 a year towards his expenses, etc., and also for a man to take his place on the farm when he is away. We don't want men who are independent of their farms; the men we want are those men who get their livelihood solely from the farm, and they would then stick to the farmers.

T. M. NEWTON.

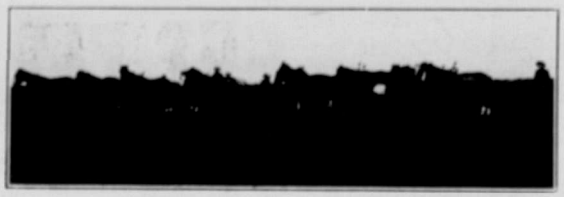
Minnedosa, Man.

HARD ON THE GOVERNMENT

Editor, Guide:—At present one set of citizens are helped by the laws to plunder another set. It will be a great year for agriculturists if the reciprocity agreement with the States and the terminal elevator bill are both passed this session. With respect to your remarks about the grant of $35,000,000 to the Canadian Northern to build 1,000 miles of railway to fill the gap of that railway between Quebec and Port Arthur, and only $2,000,000 for the Hudson's Bay railway, the grant to the Canadian Northern is merely a guarantee to enable the company to borrow at 3½ per cent, and does not take a dollar out of the Dominion treasury; besides the government has a lien on the railway and it makes the Intercolonial (which I notice has a surplus over expenses this year) part of an Atlantic-Pacific line and will give it the chance, when the 1,000 miles are built, of becoming a valuable Dominion asset. The $2,000,000 to the Hudson's Bay railway comes out of the Dominion treasury, and I defy any contractor, working at one end with all his preparation to make, to spend more than the above amount in the first year. "Ce n'est que le premier pas que coute." The first step is now taken and nothing can now stop the work. I think you are too hard on the government. There will be endless difficulty in passing any measure whatever for the benefit of the Canadian farmers through the obstruction tactics of the Conservatives. We are having a sample of it just now at Ottawa in their obstruction of the reciprocity agreement. I would strongly urge on newspapers like yours to press for a "closure" bill. Without this there will be endless delay in passing measures for the relief of the farmer. I would like to put before you an historical parallel. In 1840 when Cobden, Bright and Villiers started the campaign to repeal the corn laws in the first place and eventually abolish the tariff on industrial production and raw material, the Whigs were apathetic. In fact we learn from the "Greville Memoirs" that Lord Melbourne who was then Whig prime minister, said that he would be damned if he would repeal the corn laws, yet in six years they were repealed although the repeal did not become operative till the 1st of January, 1847, and by 1860 most of the other duties were abolished; say twenty years since the first start. In 1905 the Liberals of Canada were just as apathetic on the tariff as the Whigs of Great Britain were in 1840. About five or six years ago the manufacturers approached the government asking for a higher tariff. Sir Wilfrid, acting with caution, appointed a travelling commission to go through the Dominion to take evidence. I remember when the Western farmers gave evidence in favor of reduction, they were always staggered by the question frequently put by the commission: "How do you propose to raise revenue?" There is no doubt that the evidence given by the farmer prevented any advance; the new tariff was found to be practically the same as the old, there were a few trifling reductions on farmers' supplies. The farmers, as a body, began to think over this question of revenue and they did not take long to find out that for one dollar paid by the farmer through the tariff he paid not less than three dollars to the manufacturers, and the only conclusion they could come to was a declaration to raise the necessary revenue by direct taxation. Many other interests have been discovered besides the manufacturers who prey on the farmers by extortionate profits—railways, private elevator companies and perhaps Winnipeg grain dealers. Where, for example, do the ten cents difference between Winnipeg and Minneapolis prices go to? The Winnipeg dealers say that their prices are governed by Liverpool. Are the Minneapolis prices not also governed by Liverpool? The ten cents probably disappear into the pockets of the Winnipeg dealers. If so, no wonder that two-thirds of the Winnipeg Board of Trade are against reciprocity. All the questions affecting farmers' profits are now in the open and it is only a question of time when all the farmers' grievances will be remedied. Meanwhile the Liberal government is making progress; but they should not, in my opinion, be frustrated. It will be a great thing for Canada if the great economic changes advocated by the farmers should be carried on a cry for justice. I do not remember any great economic change being made in the other countries except on the cry of starvation or the high cost of living. No one need starve in Canada but the farmers are determined to have justice.

T. B. L.

Mannville, Alta.



Seeding Barley on farm of W. F. Miller, three miles north of Portage la Prairie, Man.

WITH AN AXE

Editor, Guide:—The yell of political fanatics that "The Grain Growers' Guide is a Liberal campaign sheet" is about the limit. It seems that the political parties don't take kindly to the hard blows our Guide deals right and left. I noticed Hon. Walter Scott had a grievance against you not long ago, so it seems others beside Conservatives resent the truth. I would suggest to any sane farmers who regard The Guide as a Liberal sheet to get the joint opinion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Geo. P. Graham, and Hon. Walter Scott. If we are to believe our senses, these men, and every other professional Liberal politician, hate The Guide and fear its powerful blows more than they fear the combined Tory journalism of the West. The Guide's power lies in its fearless voicing of what the vigorous thousands scattered over the West are thinking day by day. No voice as insistent and fearless as The Guide has spoken against railway monopoly, land monopoly, industrial monopoly. To its voice we must attend if we would be free men. Today we men of the West are bound hand and foot. The farmers of the West must go into politics with an **AXE.**

DAVID ROSS.

Strassburg, Sask.

KEEP HAMMERING AWAY

Editor, Guide:—I am a new subscriber to your paper and would like to express my sympathy with your views on the numerous reform movements you are educating the people on, such as free trade, Direct Legislation and others. Any movement which tends to give the people more power over our representatives after they have been elected cannot fail to put a check on crookedness and graft in every form, cannot help being a benefit to our country. A country run by the people, instead of by combines and capitalists, will tend more to patriotism than otherwise, as we will have something to protect.

Hence the huge patriotic mouthings of the few that own our country practically. Of course we all know how far their patriotism goes.

In reference to Mr. R. L. Borden's tour of the West, the people should not let this grand opportunity pass to present our grievances and demands to this honorable gentleman and his followers from Eastern Canada, and if they are fair-minded men they will surely see the injustice which has been practised on the settlers in this country by our high protective tariff and a bunch of combines and trusts in the East.

I am in favor of reciprocity but it only touches the edges of protection so we must keep hammering away at whatever government we have until we elect a better one. Let us take our example from our opponents and unite, organize, and fight them to a finish. They have the financial backing while we have the votes, and in the long run votes should win, and in winning our financial condition should improve.

I subscribe for several papers but when renewing time comes around we farmers and workers should stand by the honest and fearless variety that is staying with the farmer through adversity. The Guide is one of the best.

F. C. C. ANDREWS.

Nanton, Alta.

C. P. R. TAX QUESTION

Editor, Guide:—One can only feel after all that the decision of the privy council in sustaining the tax exemption of the C. P. R. has done the twin provinces a good service in rudely awakening the people to the fact that in relying on these taxes they were but living in a "fools' paradise." Many school districts have for years been relying on the payment of C. P. R. taxes, accumulating arrears in their books that only show a false asset, while other taxpayers have had the whole burden of the schools to carry. Now that we know where the case really stands we can work for a change. The question is whether the agreement of the C. P. R. can be cancelled without the consent of the railway company. We all know that it was never intended that the C. P. R. should have the unique privilege of remaining untaxed for half a century, and what is more, probably the C. P. R. never knew they possessed this singular good fortune until recent years when they began to see what they could read into the law. If, however, abrogation can be successfully pressed, there could be no moral wrong in taking away from the C. P. R. a right that they never knew they held until recently, when the exercising of that right is producing great hardship and hindering settlement.

If cancellation or modification of the terms of that agreement cannot be obtained unconditionally, then I hold that, as it was an Eastern blunder that is working this havoc in the West, it is the duty of the Federal government to come to an agreement with the C. P. R. to end this great injustice and to give that company notice of its intention to end the agreement on terms to be fixed by a commission. Even the great C. P. R. can possibly see the wisdom of accepting a reasonable offer when the Federal government would have the power of refusing applications for railway extensions in the future that it would not care to see frustrated.

E. WAINWRIGHT.

Borden, Sask.

FOR THIRD PARTY

Editor Guide:—For some time past I have been reading the letters appearing in the columns of The Guide in which the writers express their views respecting the course which should be adopted by the farmers, so that they may secure an adequate representation in Parliament, and obtain a voice in the government in some degree commensurate with the position which they occupy in regard to the wealth, population and industry of the country. But although a general election is within measureable distance there still appears to be great diversity of opinion among the writers as to the best method of obtaining the desired results. Some are in favor of attending the conventions held under the auspices of the Liberal or Conservative party, and endeavoring to obtain control of these conventions with the object of nominating a candidate who is in accord with their views. Others are in favor of nominating candidates who will be independent of either party, with the object of forming a new party which will stand for the principles embodied in the platform drawn up and endorsed by the delegation at Ottawa last December.

If the farmers are going to exercise

THE GUIDE "SEED GRAIN FOR SALE AND WANTED" col umns furnish prompt and economical means by which the farmer who has seed to sell can get in touch with the man who needs it, and vice versa.