



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.

TAG THE DELEGATES

Editor GUIDE:—Would it not be a good idea for our delegates to Ottawa to wear a badge with the inscription, "M. G. G. A." and the other two provinces similar? Then each delegate would know, without asking, from which province the other came. Everyone in the East would know at a glance they were the Grain Growers' delegates, and there would consequently be many more conversations by the people in the East with the delegates individually. It would be a good advertisement for the West. Besides the feeling of the West on this delegation would be expressed in every one of these personal conversations, and the East would plainly see that we were enthusiastic. Why should not THE GUIDE have badges ready for the delegates when they arrive at Winnipeg? They need not be expensive.

A. J. M. POOLE.

Neepawa, Man.

WHY THE DIFFERENCE

Editor GUIDE:—I have noticed frequently the assertion made, by prominent men who are supposed to know, that Canadian wheat holds the premier position of any wheat in the world today. Senator Ross, in his article in yours of the 2nd inst., says in part: "Canada now produces the best wheat in the world. The blue ribbon so long held by Minnesota and the Western States has passed to Manitoba and the Northwest."

To the ordinary observer if this is not a delusion it is an extraordinary fact that Canadian wheat does not command the price its relative merit demands. The contention is held by those interested in the wheat business in this country, that the prices of wheat quoted in Winnipeg are governed by the export demand. If this is correct United States wheat must be on the same level, as they have still a large surplus for export. Now wheat at Duluth and Minneapolis is always quoted around 10 cents a bushel higher than Winnipeg—and yet we have "the wheat." I would like to see someone explain this matter, and still make out that our wheat "knocks the spots" off anything grown.

D. MACRAE.

Foam Lake, Sask.

THE STEEL STEAL

Editor GUIDE:—Some more dirt cheap Massey-Harris machinery. Last harvest I bought a twine clamp for the knottor of my Massey-Harris binder. The clamp weighed four ounces, and cost 30 cents or 14½ cents per ounce, or \$2 per lb., or \$4,000 per ton. Just the price of a first class steam threshing outfit. No, it was not gold dust or a rare drug, neither was it encrusted with diamonds. It was only a common casting. Let us contrast the price of a Massey-Harris casting with the price of railroad steel:

Massey-Harris casting clamp,	
per ton	\$4000 00
Steel rails	25 00
Difference in favor of steel	\$3975 00

Why, Mr. Editor, it looks to me as if there was more steel, in fact cast steel, about the Massey-Harris casting than there is about the railroad steel. A school trustee is not allowed to contract for the washing of the floor or the lighting of the school fire or any other business connected with the school, but Mr. Jones, the president of the Massey-Harris Company can sit in the senate and work overtime and go without sleep looking after the

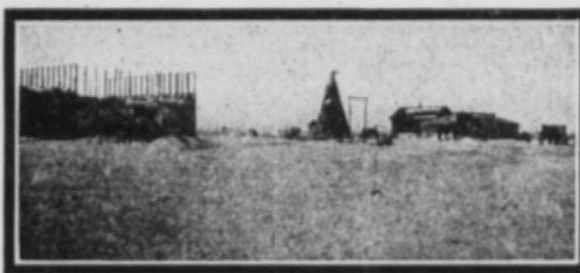
farmers' interests. Mr. Jones proved that the manufacturers do not need protection. That is a fact, it was the farmers that needed it. And this is a fact, the farmers and consumers ought to have their twenty-five fat years.

JOHN PARKER.

Maymont, Sask.

MUST STAND TOGETHER

Editor, GUIDE:—It has been said repeatedly that it is impossible to get the farmers as a class to combine and stand together to protect their own interests. Whether this is so or not I do not pretend to say, but it is self-evident that there never was a time in the history of agriculture when it was so necessary for farmers to show a united front and stand up against and fight for their rights as to-day. It is very gratifying to see the steady growth of the Grain Growers'



Six months on the Prairie at Delisle, Sask.

Association of Saskatchewan and I, for one, would like to see it broaden out into something more than a protector of our commercial interests.

I should like to see our association become one grand fraternal order having the nobler and lofty aims of brotherhood and assume such a position that men would ask to become members and not need to be coaxed and cajoled to join hands with us against our common foes. Since the formation of our local branch I have become an interested reader of your paper and admire the high tone and general attitude you take in regard to various phases of public life. I am pleased to notice that you have "dropped" The Telegram. They were licked and down so let them remain. Our friend, Gabriel, got quite excited about his letter, but there is one grain of truth at any rate in his latter epistle, viz: "We are surfeited with teaching on farming." Now, I don't say that this is exactly the case, but one would think from what one reads to-day that agriculture was a comparatively new industry, for every paper one picks up has something new to tell as to how not to do certain things on the farm.

We are all ready to admit that we can learn something, even out of our own neighbors' failures, nevertheless there is far too much talk these days. It is crops, crops, crops, seven days a week and no rest, and there is just the fear that we shall become men of one idea. By all means let us have an intelligent grasp on the science of our own occupation, because the modern farmer who is going to succeed is the one that can combine practical experience with scientific knowledge, but let us take more than a passing interest in something else outside the farm, and not always be harping on the same old string. Now, Mr. Editor, some of us think we can grow grain and we can, although we admit that

there is much to learn yet, but what we want and want very badly is to feel that when we have grown our grain, after watching it with anxious care, that the grain is ours to do with as we please. At present this is not so. When we have raised our crop and cut it, then it appears it is no longer ours. Up to this time our hopes run high and we make great plans of what we will do after threshing. Our wives and children spend hours over catalogues and imagine themselves in up-to-date costumes, etc., but alas and alack, when the threshing begins our hopes begin to wane and by the time our crop is gone to market our castles-in-the-air are vanished and the up-to-date stylish costumes and picture hat vanishes also, and nothing remains but the expectation of next year's bumper crop. Thank God, this always is ours at any rate. What we want and what we need is some guarantee that the producer shall have absolute control over the product of his labor and it seems that the only way that this can be brought about is by strong combined effort on the part of all farmers in a powerful association, not a number of little societies, but one monster amalgamation, that is bound to carry its demands to successful issue. It can be done and will be done in the very near future. We are told at election time that the farmers are the backbone of the country and although it may only be said as a means to an end, yet the time is not far distant when the farmer will have to be treated for what he really is.

At present he is caricatured as a "hobo" in rags carrying a hayfork, but that also will change and he will take his place among his fellows, not at the bottom, but nearer the top, for after all is not agriculture the "cleanest" of occupations and one of the very few where a man's success is not his brother's loss or failure.

There is a remedy and it is in the

farmers' own hands. Whether government control is the cure-all, I do not know, but it would be difficult to find a more unsatisfactory system than the present one of handling grain through the local elevators where the farmer with a small crop (less than car lot) has to take what he can get and be thankful or otherwise. Price, dockage and grade, are all decided for him.

GEO. H. GRAYSON.

Waldeck, Sask.

CATTLE MARKETING DIFFICULTIES

Editor, GUIDE:—We see in your issue of Oct. 19th on page 34 that the Eastern farmers can feed Western cattle on Western feed and make a good profit on them. No doubt they can easily do so when they just get double the prices for them. I know what Eastern cattle are fed like and I know when the cattle are fat. There are from two to five buyers a week after them, while here around Pierson, at least, I myself fed a lot of cattle last winter and they were good and fat, and if a buyer came and did not get them at the same price as he was paying for common stuff, he would go and neither he nor any other buyer could be seen for two or three weeks. Now do you think that it is encouraging when your neighbours get as much for their cattle that get no grain at all. Wishing you all success.

WILLIAM McCLUNG.

Pierson, Man.

Note—There is only one way to get around this state of affairs. Farmers must combine and be their own drovers in order to get full returns for their stock. There is, at least, a little competition at the Winnipeg stock yards, while there is none in the country, and well fed stock may be sold at a good profit at the yards.

A NEW SUGGESTION

Editor, GUIDE:—I will say that I am in hearty sympathy with sending a large delegation to Ottawa when parliament meets, and if they don't give us some redress from some of the grievances the farmers have I think I have a patent medicine that will at least cure the Canadian manufacturers of farm implements and also the cement combine of that awful dread disease high protection, and here is the recipe so every farmer in Canada can have the medicine ready in case our Ottawa delegation should fail to give results. Go to your nearest J. P. and take your oath that you won't buy any implements or cement manufactured in Canada as long as there is a duty on same. I think I am safe in saying that in one year they will be cured if every farmer would give them a full dose every time, as when they would go over their year's business and find that they had not done one dollar's worth of business with the Canadian farmer they would be cured and ready to leave the hospital at any time. And at the same time we must not overlook another thing that would help us: just think of the revenue the government would receive.

C. O. HOLSTEIN.

Wauchope, Sask.

AN APPRECIATION

Editor GUIDE:—Enclosed please find \$1 for another year's Guide. Your paper, or rather let me say our paper, is not only The Grain Growers' Guide, but the guide of quite a number of others who are not Grain Growers or farmers. In my wanderings it has been a pleasure to see our Guide on the desk of merchants and professional men, giving evidence that it is a guide to them also.

You have had so many testimonials from individuals, stating what they think of the Guide, that it is needless for me to enlarge on the subject. It will be a sorry day for the farmer and Grain Grower if the Guide happens to descend from the high plane on which it is standing today. My hope is it never will; that no combination will be ever strong enough to crush it; that those who control it now may long live to manage it as they have done in the past, giving favor to none and justice to all.

May the editorials be always as bold and outspoken. Through the medium of The Guide we feel in touch and sympathy with men who are working for the common cause—the uplifting of the agricultural class. In the issue of October 5 is a heart to heart talk letter by H. N. Thompson, who thinks that too much noise is being made in reference to the way in which the farmers are being beaten or hoodwinked. While respecting all opinions of people and correspondents of The Guide who have such views as above, we must not lose sight of the fact that the battle is on. If we show any sign of weakness or are too mild in our sentiments our position will be as it always has been, the tool of combines and politicians.

"Be just and fear not; let all the aims thou aimest at be thy Country's, God's and Truth's."

All honor to the men who started the Grain Growers' Association! I presume they little thought in 1906 or 1907 that their little organization was the beginning of great things for the farmer and country at large. I consider them as instrumental in bringing to the fore such important matters and questions as Direct Legislation, Free Trade, Government Ownership of Public Utilities, etc. We must not forget also that The Guide exists through the efforts of the pioneers of the Grain Growers' Association. It is up to the farmers to carry on this great work of reform. The old idea that the farmers can't pull together is a thing of the past. The manufacturer is beginning to see it, also the politician. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is blind if he does not see it. Now is his opportunity to show to the masses that all he has said in the past he means, break the fetters with which he is bound and come out during the coming session of parliament and champion the cause of the people. What an opportunity! Will it be Laurier or some other name to be honored by posterity; to be the leader in bringing to hand these much needed reforms?

Before closing these few rambling remarks, I am voicing the sentiments of quite a few when I say that the Mail Bag portion of The Guide is interesting and instructive. It is an avenue whereby we seem to know each other by name if not personally. It is good to know that men's hearts and minds are in the good

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