

The Mail Bag

FRUIT GROWERS AND PROTECTION

Editor, Guide:—Having recently become a subscriber to your paper I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of your policy. It seems as if the old spirit of independence in politics and freedom in trade, which was advocated by the Patrons of Industry in the early 90's, has again come to life. In an article in a recent issue you soundly berate the "Protected" industries, and include among them the fruit farmers of British Columbia. I have to confess to belonging to that body, but I must say the so-called protection is a farce; just about as much use as the "protection" afforded the wheat farmer.

While it is true that there is an important duty on American fruit any benefit that might be derived therefrom is more than offset by the disabilities under which we labor. A great deal of the material used in packing fruit has to be got from across the line and has to pay duty, and this, added to excessive railway charges, nullifies our so-called protection. This has been admitted to be a fact by some officials of the British Columbia provincial government. I have always maintained that every industry should stand on its own legs without any support in the way of "protection" which does not really protect, but which is intended to shut farmers' mouths from inquiring too closely into the industries which are really protected. I quite agree with you that the prairie farmer has no right to be taxed to help out the business of his British Columbia brother and I would gladly see the tariff wall thrown down.

Real help would be given us if the governments would make the transportation companies do the right thing. Just a case in point. This summer a fruit farmers' co-operative association has been dealing direct with prairie farmers and associations, and the other day had two different requests for quotations on car load lots of fruit. On inquiry at the Dominion Express we are informed that there is a reduction in express rates on carlots on everything but fruit. So, despite the fact that it would cost the C.P.R. no more to haul a car by express to the prairie than by freight, it will cost as much per box shipping 1,000 boxes of peaches as it will cost for one. Where it hits both producer and consumer is right here. When fruit has to be shipped by freight it has to be pulled green, and when it gets to the prairie by freight, the less said about it the better.

On the other hand the American railroads put on special fruit trains, with refrigerator cars, and even sidetrack their passenger trains to let the fruit go by in a hurry.

But the B.C. fruit grower is pampered and protected by the tariff of 10 cents per box and in a great many cases he believes it, and would go into a panic if it were to be removed.

Again I must say you are hitting the correct note in advocating free trade and co-operation, and I wish you every success in your undertaking.

JOHN BAXTER.

Penticton, B.C.

SPREADING THE NEWS

Editor, Guide:—Enclosed please find check for 50 cents for which please mail one 25 cents worth of your "Who Owns Canada" issue, and the balance to Rev. J. J. Clemens, 250 Lyon Street, Ottawa (to include the "Who Owns Canada") as per your offer. I would like to spend a lot more money on the circulation of that issue. It is so excellent that in the present crises it should command the attention of every thinking person.

The article treating of the conditions and the editorial showing the way out of them forms a simple conclusive argument that should convince any unbiased mind of the truth of your conclusions and the justice of their application.

I hope you will find it necessary to put it through many large editions.

Sincerely yours,
PAUL M. CLEMENS, Architect.
331 Garry Street, Winnipeg.

RAILROADS AND THE LAW

Editor, Guide:—Is it as great a sin to steal from a railroad company, or from any great corporation that, under the protection of the law in reality steals from the public, as it is to steal from a common citizen? In other words, is there a code of morals applicable to our dealings with corporations and another to our dealings with a common citizen?

In asking this question, it is not my purpose so much to express an opinion as it is to awaken discussion on what seems to me to be an important subject.

My private opinion is that these big corporations have, by using their great power, dealt unjustly with the public to such an extent as to create a spirit of antagonism and even of rebellion on the part of the public. In this they are guilty, to my mind, of doing a great wrong to society, which has reacted to harm themselves. What should be a spirit of friendship and mutual helpfulness between elements that are essential for each other's welfare has been changed to a spirit of hatred and warfare.

The common people, being unable to get justice in any other way, have, in some localities, taken to appropriating the property of these corporations without considering it to be stealing. If I am right in this conclusion, then these great corporations must be considered

loads of groceries being hauled from a railroad wreck in broad daylight and in the presence of dozens of persons, with seemingly no fear of punishment on the part of the offender. This was a disregard for the rights of private property that was truly deplorable, and for the existence of these conditions it seemed to me the railroad company was responsible, because they had not respected the right of private property of individuals.

Before leaving my native state I noted carefully, and with a great deal of interest, an entire change of policy on the part of the railroad company. Later, when they burned our property or killed our stock an agent would call promptly and seemed anxious to repay us in full for our losses, and in many cases I have known unjust claims on the part of farmers being paid.

In my opinion even Canada can not long protect great corporations in their unjust dealings.

L. J. WALTER.

FARMERS ARE WATCHING

Editor, Guide:—I just want to write to let you know that we farmers are noting the good things that we see in The Guide. It is an eye opener for the people of this country to learn how they do things at the Capital, handing out those millions of good honest Canadian dollars, while the bulk of the people of

A BOOK YOU NEED

Edward Porritt's great book, "Sixty Years of Protection in Canada," has now arrived from the printers, and is in stock at The Guide office. All orders received up to date have been filled, and we can now send the book by return post. We have a good stock left, but judging from the way the orders are coming in the edition will soon be sold out, so those who want to get this valuable book would do well to order it at once. "Sixty Years of Protection in Canada" tells the story of the fight between Free Trade and Protection in Canada from 1846, when Canada gained her fiscal freedom, down to 1913. It contains Mr. Porritt's original book "Sixty Years of Protection in Canada, 1846-1906," and also "The Revolt in Canada Against the New Feudalism," by the same author, revised to date especially for Canadian readers. Everyone who wishes to be posted as to the respective merits of Free Trade and Protection in Canada must read this book. It is the only book which tells the whole story of Canada's tariff history, and it is written by a master hand, who has made the story intensely interesting. Cloth bound, in large, clear type, this book is being sold at the low price of \$1.25 post paid. We are selling it so cheaply because we want as many as possible of our farmer friends to read it. Its wide circulation will strengthen the farmers' cause. Get your copy at once.

BOOK DEPARTMENT, GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, WINNIPEG.

as enemies of good government and as creators of conditions that lead toward anarchy.

In my native state, the republic to the south, railroad companies seem to have adopted a more advanced and enlightened policy than have the companies of Canada. Canada being more like a centralized republic gives these great corporations stronger support than have the corporations in the republic to the south. Yet, even here, the common people will not always endure oppression.

In my native state I have witnessed this general unjust dealing and have been unjustly dealt with at a time when railroad companies seemed almost utterly to ignore the rights of individuals, and I have observed with a great deal of interest the results of such dealings. In a community that was ordinarily moral I have known of railroad property being appropriated for private use when these companies seemed to be utterly unable to recover their property or to punish the offender, for no jury would bring in a verdict of guilty, no matter what evidence the railroad company might produce. I have even heard of

Canada do not know what it is for. I, for one, think it is time that a sharp lookout was kept on these people that keep making a raid on the public treasury and see what use the money is put to.

I hope that you will keep up the good fight in order that we may have an awakened public conscience so that they may take a deeper interest in the well-being and welfare of this young and growing country.

Wishing The Guide every success in its endeavor to give the untarnished truth, I am, Yours very truly,

JAMES HARDINCK.

Nesbitt, Man.

FOR A SOCIAL REVOLUTION

Editor, Guide:—The letter of "A Subscriber" in your issue of last week and his fallacious ideas of "How to improve conditions" give me, metaphorically, the hump. Most of us, I believe, would take no exception to that part of his letter containing an expression of his opinion of the ethical side of the farmers' movement, such as: Monopoly is evil, irrespective of who controls; no class distinctions; co-operation for the

betterment of all. Are not these our last arguments in all our propaganda work? In this democratic age the one-man control he proposes of our affairs, even if supervised by municipal councils, would, I am sure, be anathema to the majority. Nor can we imagine how this protege of the council would be able to square his "political economy" to suit the interests of all classes and remain a man of character as is required of him.

This creation of "A Subscriber" is, remember, to be one of ourselves, and this intellectual conception has not yet become class conscious. This autocrat he would set up, has still to learn this elementary principle of the new movements. Surely there could be nothing more Quixotic than the pen picture "A Subscriber" paints of his two farmer acquaintances and expects this to do duty for arguments. Thrift is a quick remedy for the abuses that cause the "present agitation." The farmer is poor because he controls no concern purely his own; while contentment would be absolutely fatal to all progress towards bettered conditions. All of us know some that have had a slice of good fortune, so much so that they could write out a cheque on the bank and their demands would be honored, but too often this good fortune has been so ephemeral that these men are poorer for their luck. Politics has been defined as: The public side of duty. Can we be doing our duty as a people and things obtain as they do here? One has evidence everywhere of how signally we have failed, for coercion by barons of privilege is still rampant and wielded with a power as complete as that of any feudal aristocracy. The actual ruinous conditions in evidence in all directions is further accelerated by the present impossibility to earn a cent to meet current living expenses, for all public work is nil, here in the West.

Deplorable as is the state of things on the Prairie, yet we find the people bearing stoic-like their burden. Will this always be? I think not, I am sure not! What we want the masses to understand is that the wealthy as a class have no interest in reforms. Reforms most urgent are those dealing with the problem of the incidence of taxation such as: A graduated income tax; heavy probate duties; taxation of all unearned increments up to 75 per cent, or more of the whole. Followed by: Absolute free trade, inside a few months; closer control on aggregations of capital to limit their earning power and prevent inflated values being given to the capital accounts of same. With these laws you would not have established the millennium, but, through these enactments, a more equitable distribution of our socially created wealth. Remember, too, the time never comes when a reconstruction does not imperil some great interest of the rich, but the thought of the moment and for all time should be rather the greatest good of the greatest number.

Finally, I would submit that it is high time our organization ceased to exist as a court of registration of pious opinions which only go to fill the archives of our official staff, when its very raison d'être calls for it being a militant organization seeking a pacific revolution.

Yours, in the cause of commercial freedom and righteousness.

TOM MOORE.

Forest Bank, Sask.

July 19, 1913.

TWINE FROM FLAX STRAW

Editor, Guide:—Just a few words re binder twine from flax straw. Last year, in Boltineau, N.D., an implement dealer showed me a ball of twine made from

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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. 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.

MEN IN

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DIRECT I

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