



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 of 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.

A REPLY TO MR. GREEN

Editor, Guide:—In view of the fact that the farmers of the three Prairie Provinces have on several occasions declared themselves, through other organizations, to be in favor of Direct Legislation, I was somewhat surprised to see, in your last issue, a tirade against that much needed reform from the pen of one of the chief executive officers of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' association, namely Secretary F. W. Green.

I am under the impression that the Saskatchewan Grain Growers declared in favor of Direct Legislation at their last annual convention and that makes Mr. Green's action appear all the more strange. However, I must assume that he was writing unofficially and expressing his personal opinion which I am sure, in this case, will not carry much weight with his fellow farmers. His objections to Direct Legislation are so childish that it would be folly to discuss them except that some persons might take it for granted that they are unanswerable if no notice is taken of them.

In the first place his fears with regard to the influence of certain classes of immigrants should vanish when he studies the immigration reports and finds out that the foreign born inhabitants of this country only amount to about five per cent. of the population. His second terror is the apathy of the people. We admit that the people are too apathetic. Why, even in the last federal election about 20 per cent. of the registered voters neglected to cast their ballots, but that is no reason why the other 80 per cent. of us should be disfranchised. Furthermore, the illiterate voter is the apathetic voter, and he will be automatically disfranchised by the Referendum.

As to turning over the power to legislate directly to the apathetic and illiterate. It is to laugh. About sixty per cent. of the population of this country is engaged in agricultural pursuits, so that the farmers would, by helping to obtain Direct Legislation, be placing themselves in a position when their true weight would be felt and their full influence brought to bear upon the public policy of this country and also of the provinces which they inhabit.

The local associations should follow Mr. Green's advice to study this question, in order to protect themselves against some of their misguided friends. The more they study it the better they will like it. Meanwhile I would recommend Mr. Green to take a little of his own advice and "study the question." For if the blind lead the blind shall they not both fall into the ditch?

Yours for Direct Legislation,
F. J. DIXON.

Winnipeg, November 28.

AGAINST MIXED FARMING

Editor, Guide:—The present unfavorable year which Senator Jones says is the worst since 1903 will have the effect of subjecting the farmers to unlimited advice in the direction of mixed farming. When the Red River Valley was having its frozen years in the latter 80's a like experience befell them. One and all urged them to take to stock raising and dairying, the Dominion government even sending an expert dairyman to lecture to them on the way they should farm, with the result that dairying became an important industry, and it took a good many years for them to find out that there was vastly more money in grain growing. If instead of taking that dairyman's advice they had drowned him in the

river, they would have been money ahead.

This is a wheat country and in nineteen cases out of every twenty, the prosperous farmer owes his prosperity to wheat growing, first, last and all the time. "Mix your farming and don't carry all your eggs in one basket," are proverbs that are fallacious, and it is the experience of most farmers that as large a percentage of loss occurs in stock raising as in wheat growing. Whatever a country is adapted to let that be its specialty and specializing is the order of the day in all occupations. The doctor, the lawyer and all professional men make some particular branch of their trade their sole study; and I maintain that through the States and Canada, the tendency is the same way as regards the farm. Some parts are noted as good dairying districts, some excel in fruit-growing, some in corn and pork, others in cattle and sheep and others make wheat or barley or oat-growing their mainstay.

It has been said that the "weed problem" would force the farmers of the Red River Valley to quit grain growing. I have in mind a farm that gave this

AGENTS WANTED

We want a good live hustling agent to represent The Guide in every community, in the Prairie Provinces. There are still some districts not represented. Any man or woman desirous of helping us and at the same time earning some money for themselves, should write to us at once. If we have no agent in your vicinity, we can make you an interesting proposition.

Subscription Department, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg.

year a yield of 35 bushels of wheat to the acre and it is as weedy as they make them. The weeds are a negligible matter. To the farmer I would say disregard all advice in the direction of mixed farming but keep on steadfast at wheat-growing; this is a wheat country and instead of frittering away their time on an infinite variety of products let the farmers specialize in wheat and in nine cases out of ten they will attain success sooner.

A. D.

Winnipeg, October 20.

THE COAL TARIFF TAX

Editor, Guide:—Is it true that the rebate on coal is to cease on December 5 when it cannot be expected that full shipment will take place before that time, not taking into account the utter inability of the Western mines to catch up with consumption? Don't you think the Ottawa government is too previous by quite a month? Will it not be impossible for the 500,000 tons we are said to require to be produced by the West? Does this not appear to be an attempt to place us in cold storage after having starved us to death?

WALTER SIMPSON.

Brownlee, Sask.

SINGLE TAX REVIEW

Editor, Guide:—Let me call the attention of your readers to the Special Edmonton and Grain Growers' edition of the Single Tax Review for Sept.-Oct., 25 cents from 150 Nassau Street, New York, but I am sure procurable at your office. Every one should read it. The "write up" of the Hudson Bay Co. alone is worth the money. It does not mention, however, that all letters written by employees of the company had to be read by the factor to see that nothing

was said about the suitability of the country for growing vegetables, grain, etc., for fear settlers might be attracted. And now the policy of the company, as expressed by Lord Strathcona, is to hold their land till the settler has made it valuable, while the company does nothing to open up the country, as does the C. P. R. Their "servants" (?), when they escaped, were hunted up and brought back. I got these facts from W. S. Gladstone, an old servant of the company.

F. W. GODSAL.

Cowley, Alta.

Note.—Copies of this magazine may be secured from the Book Dept., Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, for 25 cents each.

WHO GETS THE \$17,000,000?

Editor, Guide:—As I live at the international boundary and as my nearest market town is in North Dakota and as we have to take our grain across to Sarnes and there ship in bond or pay the duty, I would like to give The Guide readers who are not in so good a position to observe the difference in our market and the one across the line a chance to compare the two and see which market would be of the most benefit to the Western Grain Growers. I also want to ask them if a market like the one the Americans wanted to give us should be cast lightly aside without one word of complaint. I grew 70 acres of barley this year and got 2,700 bushels. I shipped it to Minneapolis where it sold for \$1.06 per bushel. After paying 30 cents per bushel duty, freight and other expenses I had 67 cents per bushel clear. For this barley I was offered by a street buyer in Crystal City 42 cents. To make it plain I will write the totals for comparison.

2,700 bus. sold on the American market without duty net at local market Sarnes at	97c. bus.	\$2,519.00
2,700 bus. at Sarnes with 30 cents bus. duty; 67 cents	1,809.00
2,700 bus. at Crystal City with patriotism, 42 cents.	1,134.00

Now, Mr. Editor, after paying the U. S. customs a tax of \$810 for the privi-

age and offered me 82 cents for it. It was worth 96 cents at Minneapolis in car lots but I only had about 700 bushels of this grade so I sold it and paid the duty and "very reluctantly" handed \$130.00 duty to Uncle Sam and \$4.50 to the county. I took the barley 14 miles and cleared 9 cents a bushel for my day's work which came to \$38.97 or \$6.50 for each man and team. There is another way of looking at this. Coal oil is 15 cents per gallon on the American side in single gallons and 12½ cents in 5 gallon lots. Now for 1 bushel feed barley on the American side the farmer gets 82 at the elevator. He takes this down to the store and gets four gallons coal oil for 50 cents and he has 32 cents left. On the Manitoba side he gets 42 cents for a bushel of the same barley and he takes this 42 cents to the store and gets 1 gallon coal oil for 30 cents and has 12 cents over. In other words the American farmers' barley has nearly four times the purchasing power the Canadian farmers' has.

One of my neighbors traded farms with a man across the line last year. They both went in heavy for barley thinking reciprocity would pass. Both these barley crops went round 40 bushels to the acre. The one on the American side sold his for \$1.06; the one on the Canadian side sold his for 51 cents. The American got \$42.40 on 120 acres; the Canadian got \$20.40 per acre, and the expenses of each were about the same. Now the American that is in Canada wants to sell out and go back to the States, for he says he can make as much from a ¼ section in the States as he can from a ½ section in Manitoba and not work as hard. A large quantity of barley was sowed here last spring and nearly all has been shipped or teamed across the line. One of my neighbors shipped three cars and paid \$1,200 duty. This is what Mr. R. P. Roblin told us at Emerson was the true loyalty, paying duty to U. S. government. He told the writer at a public meeting that any man who for the sake of the few cents more he would get for his grain would sell it across the line to Americans was disloyal to his country and his flag. Well, I want to keep loyal, still I should like that \$130 duty in my own pocket instead of in Uncle Sam's.

Yours truly,

T. W. KNOWLES.

Emerson.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE C.P.R.

Editor, Guide:—It was the Conservative party which made the original bargain with the C.P.R., and gave them all their land, and also made it tax-free for 20 years, and renounced control of their rates till a 10 per cent. dividend is earned on original cost of construction. This was, no doubt, the best possible bargain that could have been made at the time, and it resulted in the development of the West. But now that the Conservatives are again in power with a strong majority the country looks to them to hold the C.P.R. to the bargain they made according to the intention thereof. The tax limit of 20 years was certainly meant to apply from the date of registry of the agreement, and it was the fault of the Conservative party to postpone so long making the C.P.R. select their lands and get the patents therefor. The 10 per cent dividend has long ago been earned on the original cost of construction and the country looks to the Conservative government to enforce this part of the bargain. The C.P.R. is one of the wealthiest corporations in the world, and its wealth is increasing; and they bleed the West for all it is worth. This is no reason for doing them any injustice, but it is a good reason for not sparing them in demanding justice for Canada. The Conservatives have now a good chance for remedying their slackness in the past, and to establish themselves firmly in the esteem of the country.

F. W. GODSAL.

Cowley, Alta.

FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

Editor, Guide:—Apropos of your article "Political Progress" in the Progress Number of The Guide, we are sending you a letter which we are doing our best to circulate through this constituency, and hope you will aid in our campaign by publishing it in The Guide.

We have met the highwayman you speak of, and know him well, only he is not satisfied with 25 per cent. and we realize that the only way to deal with that same highwayman, is to forget our past political beliefs—if ever we had any—and to unite under an independent banner