

The Editor believes in the desirability of public ownership and operation of public utilities, such as telegraphs, telephones, railways, stock yards, cold and other storage warehouses, including grain elevators of all kinds, steamship lines and wharves.

He believes, however, that to secure the best results from public ownership, the people must choose their representatives in parliament for their honesty and business ability, rather than allow them to be picked out by "the machine" for their ability to win a party fight by eloquence, promises or bribes, or for their subservience to an interest, a leader or a clique.

He further believes, that at least a portion of the great natural resources of the nation should be retained as part of the public domain, to be operated at cost by the government, directly or through a commission, whenever private owners use their monopoly of these resources to levy an unnecessary tribute upon the people.

Though not looking for trouble, the Editor is prepared to attack any wrong however entrenched and defend any right however exposed to assault.

But while striving to secure improvement of the physical conditions surrounding the people, by fighting abuses and aiding reforms, he recognizes that in the development of the beauties of character in the individual, and in the nation is found the surest hope of happiness.

The soul is more than the body, and the life is more than meat.

He realizes that his views will not always agree with those of the individual subscriber. This will sometimes be occasioned by the Editor being wrong, sometimes because the subscriber is wrong, and not infrequently because the Editor and the subscriber are both wrong.

However, he is determined to do his best to advance the cause of human progress according to his lights, and for this reason feels justified in asking for the assistance and support of all good men. Faithfully yours,

THE EDITOR.

Our Paper

The Guide is by no means our ideal of what a Farmers' Paper should be. It is, in fact, but the first step towards the ideal we have in mind. How soon it takes the second step depends in a very great measure upon the Farming Public.

It is almost inconceivable that a great agricultural country inhabited by a class of more than ordinarily progressive farmers should not support an enterprise of this kind to the extent of making it the largest, strongest and most influential paper in Canada. We are giving them the chance to do so and we think they will.

Our ideal of a paper, and one which we hope to see realized in a comparatively short time, is that of a great weekly newspaper containing authentic accounts of all matters and movements of importance to the farmers and other workers, who are in the same boat as the farmers, so far as being slaves of the capitalist classes who control the natural resources, the means of production and transportation and the medium and avenues of exchange.

This newspaper would help in the work of freeing the people from this slavery by assisting them to organize and get a clear insight into the causes of the present unsatisfactory conditions, and the nature of the remedies, educative, legislative and co-operative, to be applied. It would also try to teach them to escape from the slavery of selfishness, petty greed and the crime of disloyalty in their relations with one another.

This great newspaper would naturally replace in the homes of our people the organs of machine politicians, public service corporations and other capitalistic interests, which, not content with preaching false doctrine on economics, suppressing or distorting the truth about the success of advanced legislation in other countries, systematically employ inspired articles disguised as news items to confuse public opinion.

As illustrative of the foregoing we give the following quotations: Here are the words of Mr. Bryan: "A great many of the big daily papers are owned or controlled by trusts and corporations. Their editors are but tools in the hands of schemers. They chloroform the people, telling them things are all right, while the trusts come along and pick their pockets. These editors are but the mouthpieces of the great Trusts, and they write what they are told to write by those who would fleece the people."

The following are quotations from various articles in the January Arena: "They" (referring to the stock gamblers) "have systematically deceived the people by misleading rumors, articles and public statements, and they have on occasion used the great banking interests in such a way as to further their diabolical plans." Again, (referring to the San Francisco situation), "To support graft the allied corporations bought up the weekly papers." Here is another in an article dealing with the corporation-owned press: "With great newspapers day by day deliberately misrepresenting progressive statemen who champion the cause of the people and justifying the criminal rich at every turn or seeking to further the well-laid plans of the high financiers and public plunderers, it is surely time for thinking and conscience-guided men and women to awaken from their lethargy and organize for aggressive warfare on the enemies of free government, common honesty and morality."

Its Editorials would be written from the stand-point of the producers and its news columns would contain all that could be found out respecting progressive legislation, the growth of Co-operative Associations and the progress of the public ownership and co-operative idea as applied to public utilities and natural resources.

It would be a great educational force and would the more quickly operate upon the public intelligence, because as well as supplying "good medicine" through its circulation, it would cut off the supply of "dope" by reducing the circulations of the plutocratic organs, which it would naturally replace in the homes of the people.

So long as partisan and capitalistic organs are the only media of publicity which we have, it is practically impossible to carry on a campaign of education which affects the interests of a party or of a capitalistic institution.

By a conspiracy of silence a popular agitation can be kept from spreading, a prosecution of a vicious corporation can be made to appear as a persecution, or an effort to show the strength of popular discontent with existing conditions or the conduct of our legislators can be rendered abortive by declining to publish the communications of the malcontents.

We recognize that our paper in its present form is not capable of efficiently discharging the functions of an opinion paper, an official organ for an Association, a reporter of markets, or a newspaper, and therefore we speak of it as being only the initial step in the creation of a more efficient publication which will succeed it so soon as the support given it by the public will warrant.

So soon as it becomes self-supporting as a monthly, it will be converted into a semi-monthly and after making good in that form will become a weekly. New features appropriate to its changed form will be added as the changes are made.

Those who feel with us that the paper in its present form is not capable of accomplishing what could be accomplished with a more satisfactory medium will, no doubt, labor earnestly to enlarge our subscription list to the point which will warrant us approaching more nearly to the ideal form.

We earnestly solicit every farmer who reads these lines, to instantly send forward his subscription and constitute himself an active canvasser on behalf of the paper, keeping up the work as occasion offers so long as there can be found a farmer in his vicinity who is not on our mailing list. We solicit news of farmers' organizations, whether in our midst or in other countries, and communications from our farmers throughout the three provinces who have information to give