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## The Mail Bag

who are not farming out West would like to know how much wheat brings us who are ten miles or more from the elevators or where the wheat can be sold. Most of us must sell as soon as threshed, or someone will sell for us, which would be more expensive. For instance, a homesteader 10 miles out, while threshing, hired two teams and wagons at \$6 00 a team per day, 60 bushels to the load, one trip a day is 10 cents a bushel, cost of threshing 10 cents, the seed 10 cents and twine 1½ cents per bushel, all of which must be paid before we have any money to pay out elsewhere. The price for No. 2 wheat, delivered at the elevator here today is 59 cents with the usual here today, is 59 cents, with the usual dockage. While there is wheat shipped from here which is graded No. 1, very little is graded better than No. 2 in the elevators. Accordingly, the price the farmer receives, after paying the above expenses, is 27½ cents per bushel. It would perhaps be impossible for one to get 1000 bushels each year from a quarter section of land, while a part must be used for oats, for feed, and some for summerfallow, hay and pasture. Also chances of loss by hail, frost or drought have all to be considered. But if it is possible, it can only bring \$275.00 for a year's work. That should buy groceries, clothing, coal, repairs for machinery, interest and principal on notes, liens and mortgages. If one should ask how a family shall live on such income the only answer would be Taft's, "God only knows." Many of us will be sold out when mortgages become due and the homesteads owned by the last seven these who have by the loan companies or those who have money to invest. Intending settlers should be informed and then think twice before attempting to farm out

All the howl and noise made by the crop boosters will not bring the average yield of wheat to 20 bushels an acre around these parts.

A. F. ECKDAHL.

Young, Sask.

#### THE SURTAX

Editor, Guide: In reading the questions for The Guide Referendum there is one question I would like made a little more plain. The fifth question reads

"Are you in favor of placing a special surtax of \$25 per quarter section upon all vacant farm lands?"

Now what am I to understand by "all vacant farm lands?"

Does it mean all vacant farm lands? Open it mean all vacant farm lands? vacant farm lands?" Does it mean all deeded land capable of cultivation that is not in cultivation?

Please answer through The Guide as the same question may be ambiguous to others also.

W. E. KEEFER. Ashville, Man. Note.—It is not possible in submitting a question like this to a referendum to state all the conditions and details involved without submitting a complete bill. Details, however, can safely be left until the principle has been decided. The object of the proposal is to impose an additional tax upon speculators who are holding land idle for a rise in price. Exactly how the land subject to the surtax would be defined need not be decided at present. In Saskatchewan, where this principle has been adopted, there will next year be a surtax of \$10 a quarter section of "The land of any owner or occupant not exceeding 320 acres which has less than one quarter of its area under cultivation, unless such owner or occupant is an actual resident upon the said land." It is upon the principle that Guide readers are asked to vote in the referendum. Those who believe in taxing the speculator's idle lands more heavily than those occupied by farmers will vote question 5 .- Editor.

#### FREE TRADE WITH BRITAIN

Editor, Guide:-Now that your chal-lenge to the Manufacturers' Association to debate the tariff has been refused, it would be interesting for us farmers to study the real reason for their not accept-ing. As a farmer I believe in free trade. We are producers of raw material and should have the liberty to purchase manufactured goods at the lowest possible price. I am particularly anxious that we get free trade with Great Britain. Don't you think a step in that direction would be of more benefit to the common people of both countries than either a Canadian navy or contribution?

H' BARISH. Wapella.



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