



## 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.

## SASKATCHEWAN ELEVATOR REPORT

Editor Guide:—We in Saskatchewan had great visions of equity being crowned queen, when we heard of the government thinking of giving us a morally correct elevator system. We thought of the time when we could haul our grain to a place where it could be kept until we had a car-load of it and then it would be loaded for us, so that we could sell it on the track. We thought the killing rush of the loading platform was doomed. The help that never came or could not come would no longer annoy. We thought we were to live to see the time when we could do our own hauling in our own time and when we would get the proper grade, and all the present evils would fade away like the darkness at the coming of morning. We even thought our grain would be screened and put on the market without weed seeds and our name would become great; more than that we thought the waste of too many elevators would cease, and that the monopoly thus made would belong to the government who own all monopolies. But it seems the difficulties are too great or the men who are our champions are too small. Will this co-operative deal be ideal? Will it prevent the waste of too many elevators? Will it cover the whole field? Will it be popular? Are the farmers to get a square deal in spite of the circumstances which never should have existed? If we do not like the railway service we can do our own hauling. Is that it? Here we have a railway practically built by the government (us), but although it supplies store-keepers, etc., with sheds for their goods which it loads and unloads yet the farmers can find their own loading facility or sell their grain to the outfit who have a hold-up privilege. We cannot depend on anyone. The man in power doesn't care two straws. They could not and will not trouble themselves. Their policy is "leave things as they are, wait till the clouds roll by," and the Manitoba system must die because they said so. Poor Manitoba! Well, if we have nothing we know where we are. Why should they not hand over the post office to the express company? We are individuals. We are bound together for the common good. Not much! In these patriarchal days every man is for himself. There is where we make the mistake. We thought we were bound together for great and imperial business. But there is too much to be made in this "constitutional difficulty" and "technical" business.

SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWER  
Orencia, Sask.

## BELIEVES IN PROTECTION

Editor Guide:—In your issue of Dec. 7th, under the heading "Our Cotton Mills" you state that Canada imported seventeen million dollars worth of cotton goods on which we paid a duty of four million. You also state the Canadian cotton mills produced fourteen million dollars' worth of goods on which the manufacturers were enabled to exploit the public to the tune of three million and a half dollars the amount of the protective tariff. No, I think you hardly go into details enough to enable your readers to form a correct judgment as to the justice of protection in the cotton industry. I would like to inquire what per cent. wages bear to the cost of producing this \$17,000,000 worth of cotton goods in England, and what per cent. wages bear to the cost of producing \$14,000,000 worth in Canada. If, for instance, wages bear a ratio of 25 per

cent. to the cost of production in England, and wages being a hundred per cent. higher in Canada bear a ratio of fifty per cent. to the cost of production, the manufacturer would surely be entitled to 25 per cent. protection, as it would hardly go into his pocket, but rather into that of the working class. Now, there may not be this difference in wages, but capital is worth more in this country. The expense of erecting mills and installing a necessary plant may be greater owing to the higher rate of wages prevailing in the building, and iron and steel trades, and the wages of the workers in the cotton mills are certainly higher than they are in England, so that 25 per cent. protection may be necessary to bring the cost of production in Canada on a level with the cost of production in England and Europe. Now, I do not claim that the Canadian tariff is perfect or does not need readjusting in some instances, but it surely needs closer and more penetrative investigations before we decree it indiscriminately. Protection seems to me a good thing



Buildings on farm of Alf. Greentree, Man.

so long as it protects the wages of the working men; beyond that it should not go. If we want higher wages and higher standard of living than that prevailing in England and the European continent we must afford the manufacturers that much protection. This phase of the question was brought out some time ago by your correspondent, Mr. Waldo Blodgett, and though it induced much bitter criticism it was never satisfactorily refuted. You say the manufacturers were able to pay a dividend of fifty per cent. on a considerable part of the capital. Many farmers were able to pay themselves the equivalent to a dividend of fifty per cent. on a considerable part of the capital even in this poor year. So much the better. More farmers will be induced to come; more manufacturers will be induced to come. This country needs both.

F. G. CASEY.

Eagle Hill, Alta.

## POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

Editor Guide:—I am greatly interested in the discussion kept going in our paper regarding the formation of a new political party and the non-necessity of forming such a party. It appears to me that a new party is unnecessary, not that I intimate for a moment that the two old historic parties fill the bill. It is a sign of broad-mindedness of the GUIDE correspondents that not one of them attempts to differentiate fundamentally between the conservatives and liberals.

Yet I am sorry to see a few writers still advocate the "dominate your party" idea which I believe originated with E. A. Partridge. We thoroughly proved the futility of this idea at the last election in Dauphin. There is only one way to dominate either the Grit or Tory party and that is to put into them more money than those who now control them. Of course the idea is ridiculous and illogical, as we haven't the dough and never will have until we first own the government and then we can keep our money for more honest purposes. It seems to be pretty well agreed that it is not advisable to organize politically within the Grain Growers' as our objects are said to be industrial. And if we organize within our own association would it not be well to investigate a little before organizing to see if the political party for which we yearn is not already in existence, like the unknown God whom Paul introduced to the Athenians. To our usual words of "Organize" and "Educate" let us add a word as necessary as either, "Investigate." Hoping from this discussion in THE GUIDE may yet evolve the political party we so earnestly seek.

W. J. BOUGHEN,

Valley River, Man.

## BEEF RINGS

Editor Guide:—As co-operation is out of the experimental stage in many lines, among the farmers of this country and has come to be a reality and I hope to stay, I would like to suggest to co-operative concerns and Grain Growers' Associations the advantages obtained from well organized "beef-rings" during the hot summer months, viz: June, July, August and September and longer if need be. This, although not new to some, would be appreciated by many in many parts of this new country, and will to a great extent solve the problem of using salt-meats in the home during the hot weather season. Besides, having a plentiful supply of fresh meats on hand,

and it is through the medium of The Guide that we can make our wants known. It is for The Guide to remind those in authority that we are in earnest in this forward movement. It is for The Guide to stand firm, but above all to be reasonable and courteous. Let the tone of The Guide be such that those in high places may feel "the velvet scabbard holds the sword of steel," that this agitation is no passing feeling of a moment, but a movement of reform in which those who are engaged are in earnest. The waking of the Western farmers has begun. It is for The Guide to show through sober and well thought out reasoning that our demands are reasonable.

"DINAMITE."

Dins P.O., Alta.

## FARMERS PULL TOGETHER

Editor, GUIDE:—Some years back I had a very strong yoke of oxen. It was not always they would pull together but when they did they could pull any kind of a load. Now the farmers of the Dominion are very strong and if they will only pull together they will soon remove from their shoulders the heavy load that the manufacturers' and railways' government have loaded them down with. I was reading in a farm journal where ex-President Roosevelt speaking at a meeting of the Grange at Summit Park, N. Y., said he heartily believed in organization and co-operation among farmers. The importance of such movements cannot be overestimated. If the state is saved the farmers must do it.

EDWIN JACOBS,

Salcoats, Sask.

## SAYS MONEY WASTED

Editor, Guide:—I have just read in the last issue of The Guide Sir Wilfrid Laurier's reply to the address presented by the farmers' delegation from Western Canada, and am not one bit surprised at the superficial view Laurier took of their requests. As I said in the letter I wrote to The Guide two or three days ago that I looked upon the delegation to Ottawa as so much time and money almost wasted. I use the precautionary word, almost, for I suppose that some of the delegates can attend to other business besides visiting old friends, so the money will not be wasted, but as far as getting any benefit from interviewing the government, I never expected any. Now it appears that in the paper presented by Mr. Green of Saskatchewan, he remarked that the delegation (here present) represented agricultural wealth to the amount of about \$300,000,000, and Laurier was quick to make capital out of that statement, for in his reply he brutally remarked that if the Western people had accumulated wealth to that amount in so short a time, then conditions in the West were not in such bad shape after all. Now, sir, it seems to me that the delegation might have made it plain that they represented the manhood of this Western country and let money represent itself, but I suppose the present atmosphere at Ottawa was unhealthy for any but those who represented wealth, but did we not have enough at Ottawa already who represent nothing but wealth without sending several hundred more from the West to represent \$300,000,000 of wealth? When one reads the history of the English-speaking people of North America (not the school book history), one can see that it became the settled policy from the time Columbus discovered America down to the present that wealth was the only thing that was really worthy of representation. Even that august body of men that assembled at Philadelphia after the revolutionary war, "for the sole and express purpose of revising the articles of confederation," but who closed the doors of the convention to the outside world, threw their instructions in the wastepaper basket, then settled down for four months in secret conclave and proceeded to frame that windy document known as the Constitution of the United States. That body had only one man, the aged Benj. Franklin, who seemed to have any consideration for the masses and showed any opposition to the desire of the others to exclude as far as possible the masses from the control of the government. That document declared as a "self-evident fact that all men are created free and equal," and yet it

it comes at a price cheaper than salted meat, thus a saving as well as a luxury. And now if any reader could suggest plans as to starting a ring and in management of same, I, together with the public at large should be pleased to hear from him through the columns of THE GUIDE.

SUBSCRIBER

Fillmore, Sask.

## THE DUTY OF THE GUIDE

Editor Guide:—I enclose one dollar for renewal subscription. There can be no doubt that The Guide has been an education to the farmers of the West. It has brought home to them the source of their weakness. The first sign of strength is the admission of that weakness, and we all admit that previous to the advent of The Guide the farmer was like the apple that they all took a bite of and nothing was left but the core, but all this is changed. The Guide has made us realize that the farmer has rights the same as any other body of men, and he is now beginning to feel his strength. But in the first flush of our manhood let us not forget ourselves, let us remember that our demands will not be obtained by coercion, by blustering, but by calm, lucid reasoning. Let us remember that such radical changes as we demand and that we consider necessary, cannot be made at a moment's notice. Rome was not made in a day; let us have patience