

interest to the Alberta farmers. They have been dealt with by local branch associations throughout the province, and the delegates at the Convention will be fully prepared to take action upon them. The United Farmers of Alberta are growing stronger year by year, and by placing themselves on record at each Annual Convention, they will very shortly be in a position to demand from the Government a consideration of their representations. The Government of Alberta has a duty to perform, and one which is apparent to every Alberta farmer. That duty is to set the Live Stock Industry upon its feet by securing a system by which the farmers can send their stuff to markets and secure a fair return for their labor. The Dead Meat Trade and the Pork Packing Plant are subjects that the Government must consider sooner or later.

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WHERE HAS HE BEEN?

Premier Rutherford of Alberta has given out an interview to the Edmonton Capital, which is published in the Alberta section of THE GUIDE this week. In the interview he is reported as saying that neither the Manitoba Government nor the Saskatchewan Government have committed themselves to Government Ownership of Elevators. This interview has been reproduced far and wide throughout Alberta, and so far as we can see, has not been corrected nor denied, and can be taken as an expression of Premier Rutherford's views. If Premier Rutherford really thinks that the Governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan are not committed to Government Ownership of Elevators, he is about the only person that thinks so. If the English language can be relied upon, then the Government of the two Provinces have declared for Government Owned Elevators, and both Governments mean business. Just why Premier Rutherford should rush into print with a statement like this, is hard to understand. He says that he will consider the request from the farmers for Government Ownership of Elevators in Alberta. It will be gratifying to the farmers of that Province to know that Premier Rutherford will consider their request. He has been considering some of their requests already for several years, and there is still no probability of any immediate move towards a remedy on the part of the Government. It is evident that the Government of Alberta will not make a move until pressure is brought to bear by the organized farmers. Premier Rutherford points out the various interests of the farmers of Alberta, and suggests that this will affect the issue considerably. He has a splendid opportunity right now to show his interest in the Agricultural Industry of the Province.

It is hard to see where the Government of Alberta has assisted the other farming interests to such an extent that nothing should be done for the Grain Growers of the Province. The fact that Government owned elevators may be provided at the Coast, does not affect the question in the least. The farmers of Alberta will still have to run the gauntlet of the interior elevators the same as they do today, or they will have to ship all the grain over the loading platform, which is something they will not do for a long time, if ever. The Interior Storage Elevators of Alberta, must be taken over by the Government now or later on and the United Farmers are the only organization that can secure such a move on the part of the government.

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LAND SHARKS BUSY ON SCRIP

The Dominion Government now has an opportunity to show its interest in the welfare of the people of western Canada, and at the same time administer a salutary lesson to the speculators who are enriching themselves at the expense of the western farmer. This

can be done by administering the law relating to the land grants to South African veterans. Up to the present time, scrip has been issued to veterans for about 2,000,000 acres of land and only ten per cent. of it has been taken up by the veterans. The remainder has been sold to speculators. To hold his half section of land the veteran is required that settlement duties be performed. These duties are to commence by December 1st, 1910. The speculators have bought up all the available scrip, a large part of it being secured at \$200. It is now selling at \$700, as given in quotations on the Winnipeg Stock Exchange. The latest move on the part of the speculators is to induce the government to extend the time when settlement duties must begin. By having another year in which to operate, the speculators can manipulate the market to make more profit for themselves. The veteran who intends to settle on his own land will have made up his mind long before that time.

The scrip was given to the veterans as a mark of appreciation of the services of those men who went to South Africa. Canadian patriotism manifested itself in the form of a generous gift to the men who fought for the empire. This same Canadian patriotism is now quoted on the stock exchange and is being hawked in job lots throughout Canada. The blunder has been made and cannot be undone, but a greater blunder can be prevented. By holding to the original time of settlement the speculators will be compelled to disgorge at a reasonable price. No person objects to seeing a proper recognition made of the services of the veterans, but that patriotism should not be utilized to fill the pockets of the land sharks. The government has a plain duty to perform and should not be misled by the ranting and shouting of self-appointed champions of patriotism. The veterans have been cared for and the non-extension of the time for settlement will not affect them. The government of Canada must choke off this latest graft that is being planned. Every farmer in the west who has the interests of his country at heart should write to his representative at Ottawa and express in plain English his feelings towards this colossal land steal that is being engineered. The government will follow the line of least resistance and that path should be towards the right.

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TOLL OF TUBERCULOSIS

In the World's Work Magazine for January, there is the following article. It is complete in itself and its lesson is as much needed in Canada as in the Great Republic. The article reads:

"The Government report upon the deaths in the United States is based upon reports from the seventeen states where registration is complete, and they contain 51 per cent. of the population. The figures may probably be multiplied by two in each case to make the compilations truly national. In the list of causes of death, tuberculosis maintains its lead. The summary of the most important causes shows these figures:

Causes of Death in 1908

Cause	Number
Tuberculosis	78,289
Pneumonia	61,259
Heart Disease	60,038
Violence	52,421
Intestinal Inflammation	52,213
Bright's Disease	44,036
Cancer	33,465
Apoplexy	32,467

"Infant mortality is the saddest part of the story. The report shows a total of 200,000 deaths of infants, or about 400,000 for the whole country. The government believes that 200,000 of these could be prevented. The comment concludes with this striking statement:

"There is apparently no reason why infants, if properly born, and this means simply the pre-

vention of ante-natal disease and the improvement of the health and conditions of living of their parent, should die in early infancy or childhood. Except from the comparatively small proportion of accidents that are strictly unavoidable.

"The lowest death-rate in the Union is in South Dakota, with a ratio of 10.1 deaths a year per thousand persons. The highest ratios are found, of course, in California, with 18.4 per thousand, and in Colorado, with 17 per thousand. Both states are health resorts, and their death-rolls are increased by the victims of tuberculosis who go there from other states."

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Education is one of the vital needs of the country to-day. What the Grain Growers need in their own organization is education. They need to study all the vital questions that confront them; they need well informed men to lead them. The kind of education needed cannot all be secured in the public schools. A man's education has only begun when he is through with the schools. He then begins his course in the university of Hard-Knocks and the various schools of Up-Against-It. The world is a great school house and its lessons are varied and important. Education is like "eternal vigilance" and both are required to secure safety.

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Every farmer should have a library in his house. It is not necessary to spend a lot of money on books. By spending \$10 a year on good books and studying them carefully, any farmer will acquire a vast amount of valuable information. If he can afford it, the annual expenditure should be increased. It is of no use to attempt to make a success of any business without knowing about the subject.

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"Constitutional Difficulties" in the elevator question have become a thing of the past, and have received a decent interment. Through organization, and sincere and determined effort, similar difficulties in the path of the Government of Alberta will also disappear and the farmers will get their dues.

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When the marketing system is made right and the farmer of the west gets a square deal he will be sure of securing from \$50 to \$1,000 a year more for his produce. But in addition there will be some incentive for the farmer to extend his operations.

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THE GUIDE pointed out to Premier Scott some time ago that he had a great opportunity before him. We still maintain the truth of the statement and it is satisfactory to note that Premier Scott is taking the advice extended by THE GUIDE.

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The Grain Exchange members were very frisky on the day before New Years. The report in the daily papers indicates that the elevator men were the best acrobats of the lot. They are happy that the government will buy out the elevators.

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The elevator men seem glad that the farmer will be given a square deal. It is refreshing to see such joy among the elevator men, Next New Years, the farmers will be able to join in the hilarity also.

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Some of the newspapers of the west are attempting to make the elevator question a political one. It is useless, for the farmers of the west today realize that such is not the way to secure their needed reforms.

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Western grain growers should realize what a loss they are sustaining by not having winter employment. Feeding stock is not hard work but it is very remunerative under proper conditions.