

The Mail Bag

MEN, NOT PARTIZANS

Editor, Guide:

"Tis men not partizans the time demands,
Men with a well weighed ballot in their
hands,

Men who lend purity to their stern decree,
Or, finding that but futile, will work no
knee.

To scurvy tricksters whatsoever their
state,

Men who opine that only right is great,
Men who are free, nor wear a party brand,
Such are the men that times like this
demand."

Poets, preachers, philosophers and a
great many farmers agree, that blind
partizanship is a bad thing. If any one
still has lingering doubts about the matter
they may have their doubts dispelled by
perusing the campaign literature of the
two grand old political parties.

Tales of political graft are so common-
place as to scarcely attract attention for
a passing moment. Corruption is thought
by too many to be an essential part of
politics as it is played in Canada. History
admonishes us that corruption destroys
liberty, yet there are many who say
"On with the dance; let graft be un-
confined," or "After us the deluge."

Then there is the question of Free
Trade. The farmers' organizations of the
three prairie provinces met at their respec-
tive conventions last winter and resolved
in favor of Free Trade; urged the reduction
of the tariff immediately and the taxation
of land values. These resolutions were
conveyed to the government with the
result that the tariff has been increased.
Politicians cry, "Production, production
and more production," and "Patriotism
and production." Yet they increase the
tax on agricultural implements and so
make it harder for the producer to produce.

What are we going to do about it? An
election is in the offing and the parties
which have been responsible for protection
and graft are apparently in undisputed
possession of the political field. If this
condition is allowed to continue our rulers
may well say that "Protection and graft
continue with the consent of the gov-
erned."

It is high time that the farmers of these
prairie provinces were putting independent
candidates in the field for the next federal
election. This is the most effective
method by which to protest against mis-
government. If this is not done then,
as a people, we deserve the kind of
government we are getting.

It has been rightly said, "The laws of
any country are plenty good enough for
the people who live under them and allow
them to continue." If we are dissatisfied
with our present laws it is our duty to
send men to Ottawa who are not tarred
with the party brand. Hoping you will
do so.

F. J. DIXON,

Independent Member
for Centre Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, April 14, 1915.

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

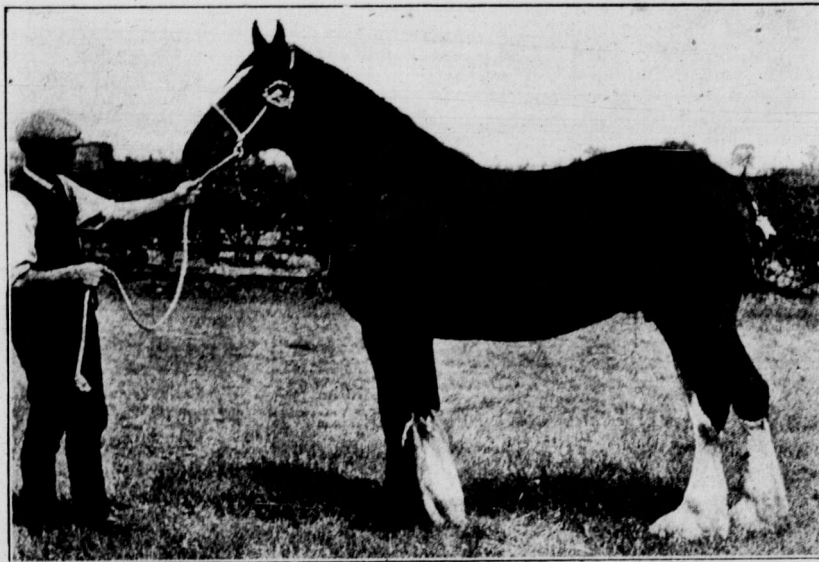
Editor, Guide:—The writer's attention
has been drawn to an editorial in "The
Advocate" of Manor, Sask., commenting
upon John Kennedy's address in the town
of Arcola wherein he gave expression to
what he thought should be the ultimate
of the co-operative development thru the
Grain Growers' Grain Company. Mr.
Kennedy's idea appears to be that this
company should become the great clearing
house for the purchasing of merchandise
to supply country towns and merchants,
as well as car lots of bulky commodities
for the farmers surrounding the towns.
He states, and I believe correctly, that
if the country merchant could purchase
on this large quantity basis, which assures
the departmental stores their low cost
values, it would put the country town
in a position to hold its local trade, as
I am convinced that the "overhead
charges" are as low in the country as in
the city. The editorial goes on to say
that the Grain Growers' Association of
Saskatchewan has issued a circular offer-
ing to procure for its members groceries
and small articles, even down to chewing
gum, patent medicines and plug tobacco.
The article winds up by saying, "We of
the small towns would like to know where
we get off at?" As I understand "The
Advocate's" enquiry is this: Is Mr.
Kennedy or the Grain Growers' Associa-

tion of Saskatchewan on the right track
and which will prevail? My feeling is
this: If the local towns as social, edu-
cational and religious community centres
are not required to complete a well
rounded rural life then eliminate them
and do all our business thru one or two
large cities in each province. If the
country towns are a necessity to fulfil
our ideals, then Mr. Kennedy's plan is
the best. As a country merchant, owning
store property both in Saskatchewan and
Manitoba, I have an open offer to transfer
our business interests to the co-operative
organization to be run as community
institutions, but I believe it would be a
distinct calamity to all communities if
their local stocks and business places
were closed up.

H. L. MONTGOMERY,
Deloraine, Man.

COST OF FOOD

Editor, Guide:—In March 13 issue
of Overseas Daily Mail is the following:
"The average retail prices paid by
the working classes for food in eighty
of the principal towns now and a year



Clydesdale mare, "Dunure Chosen," foaled 1911. Sire "Baron of Buchlyvie" (11263), dam "Dunure Ideal," by "Auchenflower." In 1914 this mare was first right thru all the shows as a brood mare. In addition to being champion Clydesdale at the Royal and Highland shows, winning the Cawdor Cup at the latter. Bred and owned by Wm. Dunlop, Dunure Mains, Ayr, Scotland.

ago are compared in the following table
issued on Tuesday by the president of
the Board of Trade:

	Last year			Now		
	s.	d.	c.	s.	d.	c.
Bread, per 4 lb.	5½	11		7¾	15½	
Butter, per lb.	1 3¾	31½		1 4½	33	
Jam, per lb.	5	10		5¾	11½	
Cheese, per lb.	8¾	17½		10¼	20½	
Bacon (streaky) per lb.	11	22	10	24		
Beef (English) per lb.	9¾	19½	11	22		
Beef, chilled or frozen, per lb.	7¼	14½		8¾	17½	
Mutton (English) per lb.	10¼	20½		11¼	22½	
Mutton, frozen, per lb.	6¾	13½		8¼	16½	
Tea, per lb.	1 6	36		1 9¼	42½	
Sugar, gran., per lb.	2	4		3½	7	

I thought these figures might interest
you. Bread, I see, is as cheap as here,
if not cheaper. I am not acquainted
with the Winnipeg price. Butter is
dearer, jam is cheaper, as mail order
people quote Canadian jam 16 cents
per lb. We are paying 22 cents a pound
for cheese. Bacon is quoted 25 cents
by the side. Sugar is \$8.25 per 100
lbs. out here.

C. S. WATKINS.

Langvale, Man.

PRACTICAL PATRIOTISM

Editor, Guide:—We read a great deal
these days of patriotism and production
and the farmers are advised to produce
all the wheat they can in 1915 even if
they have to produce it at a loss to them-
selves. A few thoughts along this line
might help others than the farmers.
Will the manufacturers of farm ma-
chinery supply machines to work the

land at a loss or at cost? Will the
laborer work to produce that grain at a
loss? We grew wheat at a loss in 1911
and 1912 and at cost in 1913, yet none
of the machine companies volunteered
to lose anything. If they carried us over
with ten or twelve per cent. added they
were doing a great service.

The new tariff recently introduced by
the hon. finance minister, to my mind,
is the greatest invention by which the
grain growers of the West can show their
patriotism and they should loyally support
their minister in making this tariff per-
form what it is supposed to do, viz., raise
the revenue. This can only be done by
purchasing goods on which the govern-
ment collect a duty. The grain growers
of the prairie provinces have invited
the minister of finance to work with them
and raise the revenue by taxation on
land values, but he refused to impose
this tax. There is therefore no other
course left to the grain growers but do
all in their power to raise the revenue
by Mr. White's method of a duty on
imports. Support it loyally. Be sure
everything you buy has paid an import
duty. Help to keep the country from

financial ruin. This is the finance min-
ister's invitation in his new tariff.

WM. RABY.

Rockhaven, Sask.

A LESSON NEEDED

Editor, Guide:—Now that it has been
conclusively proved that the patriotic
protected manufacturers of Canada have
turned upon the hands that fed them
and bit their protectors in the exuberance
of their patriotism, would it not be a
grand opportunity for the government
to make some effort to teach those good
manufacturers a little lesson in common
honesty?

I see by the newspapers that a measure
is about to be introduced in Ottawa
whereby it is to be made a criminal
offence to try to pick the government
pockets. This is a step in the right
direction, but a very feeble one. The
act no doubt will be passed and placed
on the shelf with many others.

I wonder if the government have real-
ized how the pockets of hundreds of
thousands of poor homesteaders and
their families have been picked by the
now notorious boot and shoe gang and
no cry ever reached their ears, or if it did,
it was smothered.

If the federal government is honest in
its desire to put down such nefarious
work and to punish the evil doers, let
them, for instance, just place boots and
shoes at once on the free list and they
will have done more for the good of
Canada and honest trading than all the

criminal acts they would pass in a lifetime.
I wonder if the government dare attempt
it? PRO BONO PUBLICO.

COMMUNITY CREATED VALUES

Editor, Guide:—Can you imagine any-
thing more stupid, more ridiculous, than
a community allowing a small percentage
of the units of that community to ap-
propriate the whole value, that that
community as a whole creates, and then
tax the products of the remainder of the
units of that community to defray the
expenses of that community as a whole?

We everlastingly cry for taxation that
will fall equally upon the rich and the
poor; such a cry is ridiculous because,
generally speaking, taxation of the rich
amounts to paying back to the com-
munity a small fraction of that com-
munity created value, which the commu-
nity stupidly allows them to take to
themselves.

If the community had always kept
that value, which it itself creates as a
whole, taxation would always have been
unthinkable.

Justice demands that society right
this wrong by the only means feasible—
taxation of land values.

PHILIP McLEISH.

Oak Lake, Man.

RURAL POST OFFICES

Editor, Guide:—May I say a few words
in reply to A. E. Randall's letter published
in The Guide on February 10 in which
to my mind he does a great injustice to
the rural postmasters by generalizing his
statements. I am in a position to know
something about the question in hand.
I was a country merchant for about eight
years and was also a rural postmaster
for the last four or five years. There is
no department of the government better
managed than the postal department.
No postmaster is allowed to speak to
the patrons of a post office in the manner
set forth by Mr. Randall, neither the
Postmaster-General nor any of the in-
spectors of the post offices will stand for
such action on the part of a postmaster.

I think it would be much better for
the writer to specify rather than generalize.
The country merchant in order to hold
his trade must be accommodating. The
trouble in the past has been that the
country merchant has been too accom-
modating and in many cases he has
ruined himself to help some one else.
I am sure the writer of the letter in ques-
tion is not expressing the views of the
farmers in general when he says the rural
postmasters are not accommodating. I
am not opposed to co-operative associa-
tions. I think they have a perfect right
to run their own business, but they should
give other people the same rights. I am
very much opposed to anything or any
move which has a tendency to destroy
our rural villages. What would our
country be like without a village to go to?
Social life would be destroyed, there would
be no village churches, no village doctor,
no village drug store, no village merchant,
all you would see would be a loading
platform. Our village merchants, imple-
ment men, blacksmiths, elevator operators
and dozens of others help to pay our
taxes and thereby keep up the country
roads, public schools and other public
institutions. It is a much easier task
to pull down institutions than to build
them up.

Mr. Randall says that a postmaster
should give all his time to the postal
business. Has he any idea what it would
cost the government to do this? There
are thousands of rural postmasters who
are getting from fifty to two hundred
dollars per year for looking after the
rural offices. Now increase this to a living
wage, say not less than eight hundred a
year, and see how many rural offices will
be cut out. Will that be a benefit to the
farmers? Certainly not.

DAVID HENRY.

Shergrove, Man.

The British Government's fiscal year
closed on March 31; the statement
shows the national revenue to be in
excellent condition. The Chancellor's
estimates were exceeded by £18,000,000.
Even without any increase in imports,
the recently imposed new taxation
should by next March have yielded
£100,000,000.