

A GUIDE CONTRIBUTOR

Among the many bright stories that have been published in The Guide during the past year have been several from the pen of Hopkins Moorhouse, of Winnipeg, one of the cleverest of Canadian fiction writers.



Hopkins Moorhouse

Mr. Moorhouse's stories have appeared not only in The Guide but in the leading magazines of Eastern Canada and the United States. For several years he has been connected with the Department of Agriculture in Manitoba, but has recently left that position in order to devote more of his time to his literary work.

Our Ottawa Letter

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able manner with several aspects of the question. Before he closed he declared that the millers of Canada must get off the backs of the farmers. The millers must stand on their own feet. All the Finance Minister could do when speaking against Free Wheat was to get behind the national policy. He would ask the government where the national policy comes in with regard to the nickel industry. It is apparently all right so far as the national policy is concerned to export our nickel to the American side to be refined; and it is all right to let our silver go out of the country and be refined in the United States; but when the farmers of this country ask for Free Wheat, members of the government say that for national reasons it cannot be granted. "I do not see much force in that," said Mr. Cruise, "and if I had my way I would say, 'to Halifax with the national policy.'"

Apart from the ministers of the crown the only voice from the West raised in protest against Free Wheat was that of Alexander Morrison, member for Macdonald, Man. In his maiden speech he declared that the time was not opportune for changing our policy. He said it was the duty of Canadians to conserve their wheat surplus for the requirements of Great Britain and her allies. Mr. Morrison thought that when the war is over such trade relations will be made with the mother country as will make it not desirable to have Free Trade in wheat between Canada and the United States.

Hon. William Pugsley in supply took occasion to point out that the printed estimates provide for a total expenditure during the approaching fiscal year of \$188,000,000. On the other hand the Minister of Finance in his budget speech had stated that the grand ordinary and capital expenditure for the year would be approximately \$160,000,000. Mr. Pugsley failed to see why this additional \$28,000,000 which, apparently, it is not the intention of the government to spend, should be left in the estimates. He said that the government should either strike them out or prepare a statement indicating what sums it was proposed to vote but not to spend. The ex-minister created some amusement on several occasions by asking ministers whose estimates were under consideration whether or not they proposed to spend all the money asked for. In every case so far he has received an affirmative answer. Of course the real tug-of-war will come when the estimates of the minister of public works are under consideration, because a large portion of the \$28,000,000 consists of votes for public works, public buildings, etc., voted before the war and which it has been deemed advisable to revoke from year to year without any intention of the money being spent.

Sir Robert Borden defended the keeping of these items in the estimates. He said it was not desirable to strike out votes which had received the sanction of parliament on at least two occasions. Besides, he added, the war might terminate, conditions change, and it would

be found desirable to go on with some of these expenditures.

Figures of Canadian trade for the first ten months of the fiscal year, as issued by the customs department, show a remarkable increase in exports as compared with the corresponding period of 1914, while imports also show a small gain. For the ten months ending with January, exports of domestic products totalled \$593,265,000, an increase of \$260,847,000, or nearly 80 per cent, as compared with the preceding ten months. Imports totalled \$394,093,000, an increase of \$15,046,000. The balance of trade for the ten months is a little over \$200,000,000 in Canada's favor. The total trade in merchandise for the ten months has been nearly \$990,000,000, an increase of \$275,000,000, as compared with the corresponding ten months of 1914-1915.

Big crops and war orders account in the main for the phenomenal increase in exports. The exports of agricultural products for the ten months totalled \$218,000,000, an increase of \$104,000,000 or nearly 100 per cent, as compared with the preceding year and reflecting last year's big crop and the high prices obtained for it. Exports of manufactures for the ten months totalled no less than \$166,000,000, an increase of \$105,000,000. This big jump in the export of manufactures is, of course, mainly due to war orders, a considerable part of which Canada must herself pay for later in taxes.

Other branches of export also show satisfactory gains. Exports of the mine for the ten months totalled \$53,688,000, an increase of \$11,000,000; exports of animals and their produce totalled \$88,763,000, an increase of \$24,000,000; exports of the forest totalled \$45,428,000, an increase of \$9,000,000, and exports of fisheries totalled \$18,541,000, an increase of nearly \$3,000,000.

The budget debate is proceeding, but has not yet reached the committee stage, where it is expected there will be some modifications of the taxation proposals. They will be under consideration next week. On Monday the Dominion-wide prohibition resolution will be debated.

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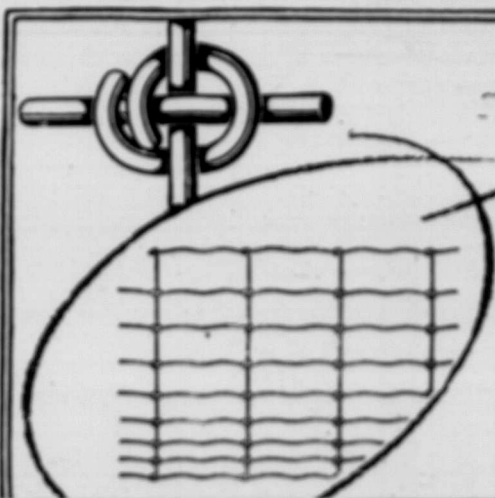
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FEDERATION MEETING

On February 11 a meeting was held in Regina in the office of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company to discuss the possibility of closer working relations between the farmers' organizations in the three prairie provinces. The discussion covered the activities of the various companies and associations, with the idea of seeing whether they could give better service to their members. It was realized by all present that the work of unifying the activities of all the associations and com-

panies would be a very large one and would require a great deal of careful thought. Good progress was made, however, and arrangements were made for a future meeting. Those present at the meeting were: J. A. Maharg, William Moffat, C. A. Dunning, T. A. Crerar, J. B. Musselman, Hon. George Langley, John Kennedy, J. S. Wood, Thos. Sales, John F. Reid, P. J. Collyer, J. E. Paynter, A. G. Hawkes, John Morrison, H. W. Mills, R. C. Henders, Jas. Robinson, H. W. Wood, C. Rice Jones and G. F. Chipman.



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22	48	16	3, 3, 4, 5, 5, 5	.29
24	54	16	3, 3, 4, 5, 5, 5	.33
26	60	16	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 9	.37

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No. 9 top and bottom, balance No. 12	Height in inches	Uprights in inches apart	Spacing of horizontal rails	Price f.o.b. Winnipeg
18	36	8	2-inch spaces at bottom	\$0.56
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8	52	22	4, 5, 5, 7, 8, 9, 9	.43

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