

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, December 22nd, 1915

TO SECURE FREE WHEAT

The organized farmers are very wise in keeping the free wheat question well to the front at the present time. Parliament will be meeting in a few weeks and undoubtedly the question of accepting the United States offer for free wheat and wheat products will be threshed out pretty thoroughly on the floor of the House. The organized manufacturers and allied interests succeeded in defeating reciprocity in 1911 thru the expenditure of an enormous amount of money. They no doubt have sufficient influence with the Dominion Government to defeat free wheat if they set about to use it the same way. Every year the Minneapolis market averages over the Winnipeg market, and particularly is the advantage considerable on the lower grades. The farmers have to buy everything they require in a restricted market and they certainly should have the right to sell their products wherever they can get the most for them. It is only war conditions which gives the farmer a good price for his wheat this year. In normal times such an immense crop would have brought the price down to 60 cents or perhaps lower. It is no use to waste time arguing the benefits which the opening of the American markets will bring to the Western farmers. They have been studying this question for years and know exactly what they are talking about, and they also know that by every principle of justice they are entitled to all the benefits that the American market will bring them. The American Congress is at present in session and there is some agitation on the part of Congressmen from the Western States to have the free wheat offer removed from the American statute books. If this is done the only hope for securing free wheat is to have the old reciprocity agreement, which still remains on the American statute books, accepted by the Canadian Parliament. There is nothing new to be discussed in the free wheat question. Every one in Canada who is interested in the question has already studied it and is conversant with all the facts. The Dominion Government is quite naturally looking at it from a political viewpoint. If all the big interests are opposed that will be sufficient reason for the Dominion Government to refuse. The only thing left for the farmers to do is to continue their work of education and forward their resolutions to Ottawa in order that the government may become convinced that there is only one mind on the question in the West. It should also be made very clear that the farmers will do their best to defeat at the next election every candidate who is nominated in opposition to free wheat. If the Dominion Government was fully convinced that refusal of free wheat would lose to them the rural seats in the prairie provinces they would be in favor of free wheat immediately. When the next Dominion election is held the Dominion Government will be defeated unless it receives considerable support from the prairie provinces. Let us make it clear that there will be no support from the prairie provinces unless some attempt is made to give the farmers a square deal.

MORE TAXES AND LESS BORROWING

The Federal Parliament meets at Ottawa on January 12 and once more the most important business with which it will have to deal will be the raising of money to pay for the war and to meet the ordinary expenses of government. So far all the money which Canada has spent on the training, equipment and maintenance of the Canadian army divisions has been raised by borrowing. When the war started Canada had a total net debt of \$331,873,814. This has now risen to over

\$500,000,000 and expenditure on the war is continuing at the rate of \$2,000,000 a week. If the piling up of the debt continues at this rate it will mean that Canada for all time will be under an enormous burden of debt and the government will be required to raise every year an enormous sum of money with which to pay interest. The recent domestic loan of \$100,000,000 was a step in the right direction, but altho this money was borrowed in Canada from Canadians, this does not alter the fact that the interest from the loan, amounting to \$5,000,000 a year, will have to be paid out of the taxes. Besides interest upon borrowings, Canada will also be called upon for large sums of money in pensions to disabled soldiers and the dependents of those who have sacrificed their lives for the Empire. We believe that the time has come when the policy of the Federal Government should be to curtail their borrowings as much as possible and raise a considerable portion of the money necessary to carry on the war by taxation. Let us as far as possible pay as we go. Large sections of the people of Canada at the present time are enjoying a temporary and artificial prosperity as a direct result of the war. The manufacturers of war materials, in particular, are making huge profits, not only because of the very high prices which they are receiving for their work, but also because they have their plants running at full capacity day and night with orders sufficient to keep them busy for months to come. It would certainly be reasonable for the Finance Minister to impose

convert to the taxation of land values. But if we cannot hope for this at the present time we can expect that a proposal for taxing war profits will commend itself to the practical mind of a Finance Minister sadly in need of funds.

PROSECUTE THE WAR GRAFTERS

The question which everyone is asking is, "Why have the war grafters not been prosecuted?" Sir Charles Davidson has done his work of investigation thoroughly and satisfactorily to the general public. He has exposed a large number of grafters and the next step in the fulfillment of this work of national house-cleaning is to see that punishment is meted out in the same impartial manner. The investigation will be of comparatively little value unless it is followed by justice. It is time that a stern warning was given to those who look upon the public treasury as an institution that can be looted at will. In the appointment of Sir Charles Davidson to make an investigation Premier Borden made an example that all governments could well afford to follow when charges of graft are made by responsible parties. He should now follow up this work by bringing all those who have been exposed in the investigation before a jury where it will be decided in a fair and impartial manner whether or not they have violated the laws of the land and are entitled to a term in the penitentiary. A man who robs the public treasury is just as much a thief as the man who robs the post office, and in the latter case punishment is swift and sure. By all means let justice take its course.

Christmas Greetings

To all of you who read *The Guide*, and who have for years past appreciated its efforts to make Canada a better place to live in, we who write its articles, draw its pictures, print its pages and transact its business with the public, Wish a Very Merry Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

a tax which would take into the public treasury for the purposes of the war a considerable portion of the profits which are being made from the manufacture of war supplies. The farmers are also benefitting in the price of grain from the war and it would be only fair that they also should be asked to contribute some of the money which is coming to them as a result of the war. The farmers, however, are already having a portion of their profits taken from them by federal law. The tariff both increases the farmer's cost of production and decreases the price which he receives for his products, and before any further taxes are laid upon the farmer it would be only just that the unfair discrimination under which he suffers at present should be removed: first, by the repeal of the duty on wheat, which would open up for him the United States market, and second, by the removal of the duty upon all the raw materials, machinery and other goods which the farmer uses in his occupation. The best way to raise revenues for the war and for every other public purpose is by a direct tax upon land values, because under that system every citizen would contribute to the state in proportion to the benefits which the state has conferred upon him by reason of administration of law and order, the carrying out of public improvements, as well as the provision of educational, social and commercial facilities. Eventually we believe that either the present Finance Minister or some more progressive successor will be a

POULTRY MARKETING ASSOCIATIONS

There is at last a definite movement on foot which has as its object the improvement of the marketing end of the poultry business. The Dominion Department of Agriculture, thru its livestock branch, has appointed two representatives, one in Alberta and the other in Manitoba, with an appointment in Saskatchewan pending, whose duties are to remedy the existing unsatisfactory condition of the poultry market. Today Western eggs among the trade have the reputation of being the worst obtainable and Eastern buyers will only handle them when there are no others to supply their demand. The condition in which dressed poultry is sent to market is equally unsatisfactory. With the proper organization this can be remedied and it is this work which the new appointees are expected to do. Broadly speaking, the plan is to form marketing associations in representative districts. Shares will be bought by members to provide working capital for the project. A competent man will be appointed to look after the business who will be kept in touch with the central markets thru the provincial representative. The measure of success of this work will depend directly upon the support which it receives from the farmers and their wives in each locality. It is essentially co-operative in its nature and the success which has accompanied a similar project in Prince Edward Island can be repeated in the West, where co-operation for self protection has become to be almost second nature, if the proper amount of interest and loyalty is shown by those who stand to benefit most, namely, the farmers.

In appreciating the generosity the farmers of the West are showing in their gifts thru the Patriotic Acre Fund, it should be remembered that they are doing this in spite of the fact that there is a law on the statute books (the tariff on wheat) which prevents them from