

AN EDITORIAL HIT

Hamiota, Jan. 4, 1909.

Editor Grain Growers' Guide.

Dear Sir,—I must compliment you on your able editorial in the December issue of the Guide, headed "The Farmer in Politics."

In this article you have set out very clearly existing conditions of the agricultural class in the political arena of to-day. It should certainly be considered a slur on the intelligence of any farmers' audience to admit that they could be taught anything that should be a benefit to them either in the past or future, by a law student who is simply in the game for personal benefit. But we are compelled to admit that the farming community are the most gullible class of individuals in existence to-day, and have been all along. It is simply deplorable how little interest the average farmer takes in the public questions of the day or how little importance he attaches to the privilege of the franchise.

In this respect we believe he is worse than the laboring classes. They value the franchise for what they can get out of it. But with the assistance of the Guide, the G.G.A. and the G.G.G. Co. we have good hopes of being able to educate the bulk of the farming community in time, first by getting them to join the association, then to take the Guide, and then to join the Grain Co. This should not occupy very long if properly undertaken by the local associations, assisted by other factions. But the question of selecting candidates for political elections is another matter altogether.

Under the present franchise act, which extends the franchise to every British subject over 21 years of age, there is such a large number of individuals who have no interest whatever in the result of the elections but merely to sell their vote to the highest bidder. We cannot expect to elect farmer candidates, who are in many cases handicapped for money, which makes it impossible to elect him when pitted against money on the other side. But let the Association take up the question of the franchise act and endeavor to have it amended by cutting out the floating population who have no interest in the government or legislation of the country, and allow the franchise only to property holders who can qualify for a vote in a municipal election, or at least use the municipal lists to compile the other lists from.

This is not by any means a party question, as neither parties are willing to take it up until it can be shown that a large number of the electors are in favor of it; hence there should be no objection to discussing it in the Central Association. We would very much like to have the question not only introduced and discussed, but passed by that body. It could then be taken up by the Union of Municipalities, and if adopted by that organization too, the rest would be easy.

The only clause in your article to which I could take exception is the last one, in which you state the Grain Growers' Association has no place for the agitator. The difference of opinion seems to be in the definition of the word "agitator." My idea of an agitator is a man like yourself and Mr. Partridge who can stir up public opinion to a realization of the conditions we are laboring under and show them how they can better their conditions. I think if it were not for the agitator we would be no better off to-day than we were five years ago. All good reforms are started by the agitators. Therefore I would say all honor to the agitator who is working for the benefit of his brother farmers. Let us hold up his hands; he is an absolute necessity to educate the farming community. Keep up the good work; we are gaining ground slowly but no less surely.

Faithfully yours,

H. A. FRAZER.

READY REPORTEE

Dorcas—"The operation was successful, but the patient couldn't survive the shock." Mr. Dorcas—"Gracious! How careless to let a poor man in his condition find out what the operation cost."

"Miss Rosina," said a young and ardent lover to a fashionable lady, "I have loved you ever since you were a beautiful school girl. Ah, I remember when your golden hair used to cluster about your shoulders, and—" "That will do, sir," replied Miss Rosina, coldly. "When I was a school-girl my hair was brown; its golden hue now is due to peroxide of hydrogen!"

When the Honorable Artillery Company were being entertained by a club at Boston, the commander of the Fall River Naval Reserves was tracing with great earnestness his ancestry and descent from a well-known family in England. One of the English guests remarked, with a decided drawl, that his father was born in the Highlands and his mother just across the border, so that he was half Scotch and the other half— Here a waiter interrupted with "Soda?"

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