

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, June 9th, 1915

THE GUIDE CROP REPORT

For a number of years past farmers have complained that crop reports have been published each summer with the deliberate object of manipulating grain prices. Naturally prices have never been manipulated to the farmers' advantage and hence there are grounds for complaint.

Farmers thru the West are now widely organized, they have in The Guide their own journal in which to express their views so that the time is opportune for them to publish their own crop report. The Guide is anxious that the reports may be a success, but it cannot publish any more information than is supplied by its correspondents. Accordingly the responsibility rests largely on the farmers. The plan followed in compiling the first report, which appears on another page, was to send out blank crop report forms to be filled in and returned by the secretary of every local of the Grain Growers' Association or United Farmers of Alberta in the three provinces. Replies were received from nearly seven hundred different secretaries. For convenience these reports have been classified according to the federal electoral divisions. While in some cases this may occasion a variety of conditions being reported, on the whole reports in the separate divisions have corresponded in a remarkable degree. Several secretaries followed the plan of discussing and filling in the crop report at a regular meeting of their association, thus insuring a comprehensive report. It would be well to follow this plan whenever possible in filling out future reports because it is essential that each one is accurate in every detail. A boost in the acreage under crop now will mean a corresponding decline in yield in the fall. If every Guide reader will take a personal interest in these reports, as many as fifteen hundred different localities will be heard from.

With this number of correspondents covering every locality in the three provinces, in a short time the report will be recognized as a correct record of actual crop conditions and thus every possible chance of grain price manipulation will be done away with. The Guide wishes to thank the local secretaries who have so promptly responded to this initial effort in producing a crop report and hopes that they will continue to make possible the publication of a complete report by filling in the blank forms which will be sent out from time to time during the summer.

THE LIVESTOCK SITUATION

The prospects of the livestock industry are growing steadily brighter. During the past ten months events have occurred and conditions have been created which have been very discouraging to breeders. Prices of all kinds of feed went up and there was not at the time a corresponding increase in the market price of stock. Feed was so scarce in many districts that farmers were forced to throw their hogs on the market in poor condition with the usual result that the bottom dropped out of the prices. But such conditions cannot long continue and, in fact, are righting themselves steadily. The heavy demand for food by the allied armies is already producing its effect on food prices on this side of the water. Grain prices are very high and will no doubt remain high until peace is declared and for a short time afterwards. These high prices, however, will not be permanent and farmers should be careful not to make the mistake of reaching for the present high prices of grain and not providing for the certainty of continued high prices in livestock. The demand for pure-bred stock is steadily growing more

brisk and those who are fortunate enough to have some available may be certain of good prices. Those who intend purchasing will undoubtedly find it wise to do so as soon as convenient as the demand is not likely to lessen nor the prices to fall. The heavy demand for army horses is steadily draining the country and horse breeders are certain of a good market for some years to come.

DIRECT LEGISLATION PROSPECTS

There is now in power in Manitoba a government pledged to the enactment of a bona fide Direct Legislation Act. Upon the accession to office of the new government the Direct Legislation League sent the following letter to Premier Norris and similar letters to the other members of the cabinet;

"The executive committee of the Direct Legislation League desires to convey to you its congratulations upon your party's accession to office, and your assumption of the Premiership of the province, because of the opportunity these circumstances afford you of putting into effect the principles of Direct Legislation which you have so valiantly championed in the past. As a league, we have always appreciated the progressive lead you have given the province on this question, and desire to assure you of our support and cooperation in putting this important reform upon the statute books.

(Signed) "S. J. FARMER,
"Secretary"

The following replies were received from the Premier and the members of his cabinet;—

"I want to acknowledge and thank you for your very kind letter of the 22nd inst.

"Yours faithfully,
"T. C. NORRIS."

"I desire to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, embodying the compliments of your league. I am looking forward with pleasure to the prospect of having some small part in putting into practical form the principles for which we have been contending for many years. Undoubtedly one of the very first matters of importance to be taken up will be the one in which your league is vitally interested. Thanking you again for your kind message.

"Yours very truly,
"THOS. H. JOHNSON."

"I am pleased to receive your congratulations and good wishes. The cause of Direct Legislation may now be expected to take a different standing than that which it has assumed in the past. My allegiance to the principle is not less than it was as a member of the opposition, and personally, I will be glad to see it enacted into legislation at the earliest opportunity.

"Yours truly,
"J. W. ARMSTRONG."

"I wish to thank you for your letter of congratulation and good wishes.

"Yours very truly,
"R. S. THORNTON."

"I have to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 22nd inst. and appreciate very much indeed your good wishes. The cause which you represent has always had my sympathy and is one which I shall be glad to forward in any way possible. I have the honor to be, sir,

"Your obedient servant,
"EDWARD BROWN."

"I wish to thank you for your letter of the 22nd inst. and for the very kind references therein. I hope that at the next session of the Legislature we shall be able to enact legislation in accordance with the principles of our platform.

"Yours sincerely,
"A. B. HUDSON."

"I am in receipt of yours of the 22nd and appreciate the sentiments contained therein. As Direct Legislation is one of the planks of the Liberal party, I for one shall do my utmost to see that not only that plank, but all other planks in connection with our platform shall be carried out.

"Yours sincerely,
"V. WINKLER."

These replies certainly indicate that the new government intends to live up to its pre-election pledges. In Alberta and Saskatche-

wan neither of the governments kept faith with the public in their pre-election pledges in favor of this great reform. In Alberta the Legislature enacted a bill but rendered it ineffective by a "joker," demanding that the petitions be signed by a fixed percentage of electors in nearly all the constituencies. In Saskatchewan the bill was enacted and then killed by a deliberately "loaded" referendum. Neither of the two was an honest fulfilment of the platforms on which the parties were elected. The people of Manitoba have faith that the new government in that province will give them a real honest Direct Legislation Bill, and by so doing they will not only solve many of the problems which would otherwise trouble them, but they will show that they are among the very, very few governments in Canada that have fulfilled their pre-election pledges.

SEEING THE LIGHT

An influential Toronto newspaper has been devoting a great deal of space during the past six months to a discussion of what must be done after the war to bring prosperity to Canada and build up a nation worthy of the Dominion. Well known men in almost every walk of life have contributed short articles to this discussion and the newspaper has recently published a number of editorials summing up the situation as it is seen in the light of the opinion of all these men. In one of these articles it says;—

"We have no fear for the people. The danger is that the representatives of the people will fall short of the high duty to which they are called. The time is not for craven plodding in the old paths, but for breaking new trails. We must change our ways in Canada. Railroads and industry have had more than their share of attention. It is time that we did something more for the people and the land. There is no brain in Canada so great today that it would demean itself by spending all its power in the treatment of our colonization problems.

"The first great statesman of this Dominion has come down in history as the builder of a railroad. It was mistaken and unoriginal for a second to attempt to follow in his footsteps. The second great statesman of Canada will be the man who takes the people to the land and lays the foundation of the nation's greatness on the solid rock of the people's contentment."

This extract is not from a farmers' paper or a Single Tax organ, but from our old protectionist friend, the Toronto Daily News. Surely the News is beginning to see the truth at last. Truly the railroads and the manufacturers have had more than their share of attention. The trade policy of both political parties at Ottawa for many years past has been one designed to build up the cities at the expense of the country and to make a few railroad magnates and manufacturers rich and keep the people poor. And now the cities are full of men who cannot get employment, while delegations, including the Mayors of Canada, are waiting upon the Dominion Government urging the necessity of some scheme to enable men to go back to the land, from which they have been forced by the national policy of protection. We hope that the Toronto News will concentrate its powers of thinking upon this question of getting the people back to the land. If it does so, we believe it will eventually come to the same conclusion that the thinking men in the organized farmers' movement came to long ago, namely, that in order to induce more people to go upon the land in Canada and develop the great natural resources of this Dominion, it is not necessary to offer bonuses or grants or special privilege of any kind, but simply to remove the artificial burdens which have been placed upon the backs of the farmers and other producers by the protective tariff,

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