

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, July 23rd, 1913

## DEBATE WITH MANUFACTURERS

Our readers will notice on page 7 of this week's issue of The Guide we have extended a cordial invitation to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to debate the tariff question in The Guide. There is little doubt but that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association will be glad to avail themselves of this opportunity to place their views before the Western farmers. From time to time accusations have been made that The Guide presented only one side of the question, though this accusation is not true, as we have always presented the strongest protectionist articles we could find. This time, however, we are going right to the fountain head and expect to get the protectionist doctrine pure and unalloyed. We believe that if protection is a good thing we all want it, and further, if it is good for all the people the Canadian Manufacturers' Association should be able to prove it in this debate. We would ask every reader to interest their protectionist friends in this debate and get as many of them as possible to subscribe for The Guide in order to read these articles. We would also ask our readers if they ever heard tell of any protectionist paper throwing open its pages to the use of free traders? We sincerely trust that the Toronto News and the Montreal Star will arrange to publish these articles.

## THE NAVAL QUESTION

Speaking on the naval estimates in the British House of Commons on July 17, according to cable despatches, Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty referred to the death of Mr. Borden's naval policy in the Senate. Mr. Churchill intimated that the lack of the three Dreadnoughts from Canada would have to be supplied by "sacrifice of the British taxpayer" if the British navy were to be up to the requirements of the Admiralty in 1915. The Tory papers of Canada are splashing this statement all over their front pages to prove the disloyalty of the Grits and the treachery of the Senate. Mr. Churchill, however, said it had been decided not to build three new warships, but merely to accelerate the building of those now in progress. The Grit papers in Canada are flourishing this statement to prove that Mr. Borden's "emergency" was a fake. Thus both our political parties derive some consolation from Mr. Churchill's remarks, and both are smoothed down somewhat by his further statement:

"Although the Naval Aid Bill was rejected the question of Canada participating in her own defence and in that of the Empire is by no means dead. Whether we read the speeches of members of the Government or of the Opposition, we see that although there were differences of principle and method, and although the matter is one of party dispute, there is an overwhelming consensus of opinion that action should be taken, and that soon."

"The position is not yet clear, and I am very much inclined to think that harm, rather than good, may result from our attempt to debate it much in public. Canada is absolute mistress of her own destiny. Although I cannot attempt to forecast the course to be finally decided by Canada, I think that the speeches taken by themselves, apart from all public and private information, plainly show that the question of Canada taking effective part in the general naval defence of the Empire is by no means closed, and we have no right to assume at present that we are to be left to face the emergencies of the future unaided and left to bear the whole burden alone."

It will be seen that Mr. Churchill gets his views on Canada from the speeches of the two political parties. He is not aware that neither the Grit nor the Tory naval policy has ever been referred to the people, but were both cooked up by a handful of men in each party and then unloaded upon the

public. Neither of these policies could be endorsed at a referendum, as we believe that there are far more Canadian voters opposed to both policies than in favor of either one. The great drawback is that the independent voters have no representatives and no newspapers to support them. The party papers, like the party politicians, will support anything that is sent out from the party headquarters. Canadian political standards are about as low as they can go and neither party seems desirous of improvement. But there is an ever-increasing murmur of discontent throughout the country which indicates a smouldering revolution such as has overtaken the Big Interests and the crooked politicians in the United States.

Mr. Churchill's reference to the "sacrifice of the British taxpayer" requires some correction lest it mislead. The British taxpayer has never been taxed to provide naval protection for Canada, as Canada has never needed any, does not need any now, and has not asked for any. However, this talk may serve the purpose of keeping the British taxpayer quiet while his burden is increased. When the British and German taxpayers wake up to the fact that they are being taxed almost to death simply because the politicians and militarists of both countries refuse to get together and make a treaty of peace, then they will demand a change. Because the European nations continue to bleed their taxpayers white simply to gratify the ambitions of diplomats is no reason why Canada should be drawn into the maelstrom. Canada's destiny should be for peace. Let us spend the \$35,000,000, all of it if necessary, to aid in bringing Britain, Germany and United States into an agreement for world peace and arbitration. The Grain Growers have been criticized because of their attitude towards naval expenditure, and it has been charged that they are so engrossed in wheat raising that they know nothing of world problems and fail to get the viewpoint of the maritime peoples. We would just point out that among the most vigorous opponents of the naval expenditure are men born in Britain, who have felt the force of the burden and seen the folly of it, and they are trying to save Canada from the same course. Others in the West come from every country on earth. Surely they know as much of the needs of a navy as the people of any other part of Canada, hundreds of thousands of whom have never seen salt water. And further, the Grain Growers are Canadians, as loyal as any Imperialist and as patriotic as any of our jingoes; they are quite as intelligent and have just as much at stake. Put the two naval policies to a referendum where the people can decide upon the expenditure of their own money and let us be free from the Grit and Tory machines.

In the Montreal Witness of July 10, John Dougall and Son, the publishers, announced that, while the Daily Witness had been sold and would be merged with the "Daily Telegraph," beginning on July 12, the "Weekly Witness" would continue to be issued by the same publishers. We trust the Weekly Witness will retain all its old-time vigor and independence, for it will be more sorely needed in Montreal than ever before, now that the Herald and Witness have been acquired by other interests, and a new jingo organ, the "Mail" is being started.

The Triple Alliance supports both the political parties and both political parties support the Triple Alliance. Between them they plunder the people, and if the people are foolish enough to stand for it they deserve to be plundered.

## MISCHIEF IS BREWING

Several times we have mentioned the journal which travels under the name of "The Canadian Countryman," organized for the special purpose of combating The Grain Growers' Guide and the organized farmers, and financed by Sir Edmund Walker, Z. A. Lash and, no doubt, other protectionists. In the Wingham Times, of Wingham, Ont., we noticed this advertisement recently, by a general merchant:

## Are You In On This?

We are giving a free subscription of "Canadian Countryman" to our customers. It's a bright, newsy magazine, and here are some of the contents of last week's issue:

- "The Grain Grower and the Farmer."
- "The Money Value of Immigration."
- "Care of Lawns and Gardens."
- "Investment as a Fine Art."
- "Parliament and Caucus, or a Historical View of Self Rule."

And a host of other subjects including some choice fiction. Come in and get a sample copy and let us tell you about it.

## KERR & SON

This shows some of the circulation methods adopted by The Canadian Countryman, and we understand that the same thing is being done here in the West. This method of obtaining circulation by giving it away, or by having it donated in wholesale quantities by interested parties, is strictly against the postal rules of Canada, but we presume that when the interests of the Protectionists are at stake, the postal rules are suspended. Has anyone any doubt as to the reason of this feverish haste in getting the organ of the Triple Alliance into the homes of the people? There is some mischief brewing.

## CO-OPERATORS ARE FRAUDS

According to the following dispatch in the Winnipeg press, the Retail Merchants' Association is mobilizing its forces and preparing to fight the co-operative movement in the West to the bitter end:

Saskatoon, Sask., July 13.—E. M. Trowern, secretary of the Dominion Retail Merchants' Association, at a meeting of the local association, held here last night, made a strong attack on co-operative trading societies, saying "they are the greatest frauds that ever struck the community. The Grain Growers know no more about running a co-operative business than a cat knows of its grandmother. I make this statement publicly, and wish the press to make special mention of it. We have gone to the government from time to time opposing co-operative societies. I have never seen an honest co-operative store yet, and there has not been one found in Europe. They are a fraud from top to bottom. We have asked every wholesaler in the Dominion by letter what he thinks of the co-operative societies, and if he sells to them we will cease doing business with him."

Mr. Trowern opposed strongly city markets, saying that it was an unfair competition to the merchants.

This Mr. Trowern, secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association, must be a most remarkable individual. At one swoop he condemns as dishonest the whole co-operative movement in Great Britain, which numbers now 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 people and transacts business to the extent of more than \$500,000,000 annually. In Ireland the co-operative movement has spread, as well as throughout Germany, France, Italy and nearly all the countries of Europe. Yet all these co-operative institutions are dishonest and we come to Canada to find the model of honesty in Mr. Trowern and the Retail Merchants' As-