

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, January 7th, 1914

## THE NEW YEAR

We have now embarked upon the New Year with all its wonderful possibilities before us. It is important that every individual citizen of Canada should devote very careful thought to the possibilities of 1914. Each and every citizen will, of course, be making certain calculations as to what he will do in his own private business during the present year. Even in the restricted field of his own business there is much of what is new to consider during the year. Each man in his ordinary activities will find himself brought into touch with, and dependent upon, more and more of his fellow citizens than in any previous year. This mutual intercourse is the outstanding feature of the present trend of civilization. It has been recognized and turned to great advantage in all lines of commercial activity, and it is time that it should be fully recognized by the farmers generally. There are untold benefits, not only in a business way, but socially and politically, to be gained by the farmers, by getting more closely in touch with each other. In no other way can suspicion and mistrust be allayed, and in no other way can the farmers profit by the experience of their fellow farmers, which is absolutely essential in the development of agriculture to its proper place. Let us make the slogan of 1914 for the farmers of the West: "Let us get together." Let us advise with each other; let us work with each other, and let us progress together. By so doing, we can make 1914 the brightest, the happiest and the best New Year we have yet seen.

## AN INVESTIGATION IS NEEDED

We have recently received a report from Alsask, Sask., which seems to indicate a miscarriage of justice, and to demand an investigation. John W. Moore, a farmer and thresherman, was sued before local Magistrate Quinn, by some of his employees for unpaid wages to the extent of \$300. Judgment was given against Mr. Moore, and because he was unable to make the payment the magistrate committed him to jail for five months. It appears from the evidence that Mr. Moore bought a threshing outfit from one of the large machine companies, and agreed to give the company the lien notes secured from farmers for whom he threshed, in return for which the company was to protect him in the payment of his employees. Evidence was also given to the effect that Mr. Moore signed an agreement to mortgage his homestead to the machine company just as soon as he had obtained the patent, which is contrary to the homestead regulations. The company, according to the evidence, did not fulfil its agreement and Moore, when our informant wrote, was still in the Prince Albert jail. This matter has been brought to our attention by the local Grain Growers' Association, who claim that Magistrate Quinn entirely overstepped his powers by committing Moore to jail, and they ask that the Attorney-General of Saskatchewan investigate and see that justice is done.

## CANADA AND THE C.N.R.

One of the questions that is continually being asked by those who are interested in public affairs is "What is the government going to do with the C.N.R.?" Mackenzie and Mann and their associates in the company it is reported, will ask parliament at the forthcoming session for no less than \$25,000,000. In 1912 they were given \$6,300,000 from the public treasury, last year they got \$15,600,000, and naturally they are looking for a larger handout this year. Will Parliament

stand for it, and if so, what will the people say and do? Those who know most about the C.N.R. and its finances are saying the least, but it is common knowledge that the last gift of the public money to Mackenzie and Mann was put through the House by the circulation of a statement among members of Parliament that very serious consequences, not only to the C.N.R. but also to certain financial institutions, and to the credit of Canada herself, would result if the government did not come to their aid. How long is this going to continue? If the C.N.R. cannot exist without Mackenzie and Mann having the privilege of dipping into the public treasury every time they feel like it, the government had better take over the railway and run it as a publicly owned line, and if financial institutions in which the public have confidence, and which have been entrusted with the savings of the people, are dependent for their own safety on the C.N.R. it is time they readjusted their affairs so that the confidence of the public may be justified. Considering the extent to which the provincial and federal governments have assisted the C.N.R. with bond guarantees, land grants, and gifts of cash, it is astonishing how little the public has been informed as to what has been done with the money. It has been publicly stated on many occasions that the cost of constructing C.N.R. lines has often been less than the amount realized from the bonds guaranteed for the purpose by the federal and provincial governments, and that the balance of the money has been diverted to other enterprises of Mackenzie and Mann, who have enormous holdings in street railways in South America, Mexico, Toronto and Winnipeg; coal mines in British Columbia; iron works in the Maritime Provinces; timber limits, sawmills, lumber yards, grain elevators and hotels throughout Western Canada; and steamships on lake and ocean. It is well known that before Mackenzie and Mann went into the railroad business through a deal with the government, they were both poor men. The one started business as a school teacher and the other as a lumber jack. No one objects to a poor man making a successful career, but the question is, did Mackenzie and Mann make the millions which they now control out of the people of Canada through Special Privilege granted by our governments and legislatures? Before any further action is taken by the government with regard to the C.N.R. this and many other questions should be answered, and when the people know the real facts about the C.N.R. and its financing we do not believe the public will for one moment submit to being taxed to provide gifts for Mackenzie and Mann or their railway.

## THE D.L. VOTE IN SASKATCHEWAN

Evidence is accumulating that the electors of Saskatchewan are not satisfied with the manner in which the government disposed of the Direct Legislation question. There is a feeling that there was a lack of sincerity on the part of the opposition as well as the government members in declaring their faith in the principle of the Initiative and Referendum. The following resolution was passed unanimously at the meeting of the Tantallon Grain Growers' Association, on December 23:

"Whereas, we, as Grain Growers, have endorsed the principle of Direct Legislation time and again at our annual conventions;

"And whereas Direct Legislation was a plank in the platform of each of the political parties at the last general election for the Province of Saskatchewan;

"And whereas, believing that if returned to power the Government would pass such a law, many of us supported the government candidates, whom we had no share in putting in the

field, for the first time since the province was erected, thus contributing to the return of the Scott government with a very large majority;

"And whereas the said government, not taking this endorsement of their platform as sufficient authority to put the principle of Direct Legislation in operation, thereby admitting of the indirect operation of the Party system of government, and proving to us more than ever the value of direct action, after passing such act in part ill-advisably did refer the said act to the people at a very inopportune time, when it was impossible to get the news of the said vote to all the people before polling day, and impossible for those interested to hold meetings in support of the act without great sacrifice at such a busy season, also at a time when the Legislature was in session and no meetings could be held by our members, and as no other question was involved or the election of any candidates, all party heelers of either of the parties remained as mum as oysters in the deep blue sea, on the question, thus looking as if the fact of this reform being placed in the platform of the two parties was simply there for the purpose of catching votes;

"Be it resolved that we request the government to fulfil their pre-election pledge without further delay."

This resolution undoubtedly reflects the feeling of many thousands of Saskatchewan voters, who fully expected that Direct Legislation would be put into effect. It will be difficult for any member of the Saskatchewan legislature to explain to the satisfaction of the people why the Direct Legislation Bill was not put into effect. The only thing left for the Grain Growers is to agitate and educate public opinion so that the legislature will no longer ignore the wishes of the electorate on this question.

## IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION

It is to be hoped that during the session of Parliament which will open next week, time will be found in which to discuss the enormous increase which has taken place in the last few years in the emigration of Canadian residents to the United States. It is only natural that there should be some interchange of population between two countries lying alongside each other, as Canada and the United States do, and it has been a source of great satisfaction to all who are interested in the progress and development of Canada to find increasing numbers of Americans, and especially American farmers, being attracted to this country by the fertile lands of the prairies and the opportunities offered by the growing towns and cities. While the "American invasion," as it is sometimes called, is widely advertised, however, the public rarely hears any mention of the movement in the opposite direction, the emigration of Canadians to the United States. The startling fact, however, is, that in the last fiscal year, the number of people leaving Canada for the States was larger than that which came to this country from the republic. A booklet issued by the direction of the Hon. W. J. Roche, Minister of the Interior, entitled "Immigration Facts and Figures," shows that in the year ending March 31, 1913, the immigration from the U.S.A. totalled 139,009, while the United States Immigration Commissioner at Montreal, reports that in the year ending June 30, 1913, the number of persons leaving Canada to reside in the States was 143,578. This is the first year since 1909 when the balance of emigration and immigration to and from the United States has been against Canada. Below will be found the figures for the last six years. In the case of persons moving to the United States from Canada, the figures are taken from the report of the United States Commissioner of Immigration, and represent the years ending June 30, while the figures of immigration to Canada are from "Immigration Facts and