

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, October 6th, 1915

## SEAGER WHEELER'S VICTORY

The people of Western Canada have reason to be proud of Seager Wheeler, of Rosthern, Sask., for the splendid work he is doing to improve agricultural methods. Last week at the International Dry Farming Congress, in Denver, Colo., he captured for the third time the first prize for wheat in open competition with the world. He has thus amply demonstrated that he is the world's champion wheat grower, and that his success is in no way due to accident but the result of proper cultural methods and infinite painstaking in selection and care in his work. Mr. Wheeler is writing articles descriptive of his cultural methods and giving fully his experiences in growing wheat. These articles are published only in *The Guide* and those that have already appeared have attracted widespread and favorable attention among our readers. In the light of Mr. Wheeler's recent success his articles which will appear in *The Guide* in the future will be of even greater interest to our readers.

## THE WHEAT SITUATION

There certainly is no improvement and no more cheerful news for the farmers from the wheat market. Pretty nearly everything is going up but the price of wheat. The ocean freights have gone as high as 35 cents per bushel, and now the owners of the lake freight boats, realizing that there is a chance to line their pockets, have raised the freight from one and a half cents (as it was before the war) to six cents. Last year, in November, they charged three cents, while this year for November they are demanding double. What the Dominion Government has done to help the transportation situation nobody has been able to find out. Down at Ottawa a number of the statesmen are wringing their hands and shedding tears over the situation, but seem powerless to relieve it. In the meantime the farmers are being robbed of twenty-five cents a bushel on their wheat by the two shipping combines and the toll is steadily increasing. We have never had a Government at Ottawa for the last twenty-five years that has made any real effort to help the farmers of this country, and we never will have until the farmers send down to Parliament men who will really represent their interests and not play the Grit and Tory game. The rainy weather is increasing the losses to the farmers. Tough wheat is going thru Winnipeg by the hundreds of cars, and the discount on tough wheat is about five cents per bushel under straight grades. This is a loss which cannot be remedied by anyone, but, when unfavorable weather causes such a loss, it is all the more reason why the "powers that be" should get busy to improve the transportation rates. If the manufacturers, the railway magnates or the bankers were suffering anything like the loss today being sustained by the farmers the Dominion Government would remedy the situation, even if it were necessary to buy a whole fleet of boats. But because it is the farmers, who have no campaign fund and who in the past have been relied upon to vote against each other at the polls, no action is taken to prevent this highway robbery. It is strange that the business interests of

Canada cannot realize that the \$30,000,000 (which will probably increase to \$40,000,000) being taken out of the farmers' pockets in excess lake and ocean freights is a loss to the whole country. It is strange that all the business interests are not up in arms, standing side by side with the farmers and demanding that action be taken to save this tremendous loss to the country.

## THE WAR HAS BEGUN

It is said that a London society lady asked Lord Kitchener last fall when he thought the war would end, and that Kitchener replied, "I cannot tell, madam, when the war will end, but it will begin in May." Whether or not Kitchener actually made the famous remark attributed to him, it is quite true that the Allies did not and could not expect to make a serious offensive against the Germans until their war munitions were sufficiently plentiful and their armies recruited and drilled. The "Great Drive" against the Germans, which was expected in May, was delayed until last week, when the enemy were shown how the Allies could fight in defense of their homes. War has really begun. Last week saw tremendous successes on the part of the English, French and Russians and steady progress on the part of the Italians. The Germans were driven from long lines of their trenches and thousands and thousands of their soldiers were taken prisoners, while greater numbers were left dead on the battle field alongside those of the Allies who lost their lives in the struggle. Every indication now is that the Allies are well equipped and ready to force the war upon the enemy. Nowhere is there the slightest doubt but that victory will crown the efforts of the allied armies, and for Canada there is pride in the knowledge that our own soldiers have nobly upheld the honors of our country. Despite the great success of the last few days the war will still be long and hard, because the enemy is powerful, well organized and splendidly equipped. But the time draws near when the German people will be freed from the rule of their war lords and be permitted again to return to the arts of peace, when Belgium and Poland will be restored, when the "Unspeakable Turk" will be driven out of Europe and democracy again have opportunity for growth.

## THANKSGIVING

Next Monday, October 11, has been set apart by the Dominion Government as a day for national thanksgiving. The institution of Thanksgiving Day is very appropriate for any nation claiming to be Christian. In the midst of our struggle for existence and the merciless competition in our commercial life, it is well that for one day, at least, we should call a halt, and consider our blessings, which, in a greater or lesser measure, we all enjoy, and from whence they came. This year when the war cloud hangs heavy over our land and thousands of our homes are saddened by deaths on the battlefield, the heart of the people is stricken with sorrow. But "behind the clouds the sun still shines" and there is still left great cause for thanksgiving. We should be thankful that our own land is not being devastated by war and our people being driven from their homes

like those of Belgium and Poland, and many others in the war zone. In Western Canada nature has been bountiful to a degree unparalleled in the history of this country, and as a result comfort will come to thousands of farm homes where scarcity and want have been known for several years. Our land has been free from the ravages of disease and our children are enjoying steadily improving educational facilities. There is a greater and more general dissemination of knowledge than ever before, the past year has developed a stronger and more pronounced public opinion in favor of better conditions, and the spirit of democracy is rapidly spreading throughout the land. For all these things there is abundant cause for thanksgiving.

## THE BUDGETS CONTRASTED

The Budget presented to the British Parliament two weeks ago by Right Hon. Reginald McKenna is one of the most remarkable evidences of British pluck and determination that has been furnished by wartime. It is a budget that will produce an enormous sum of money, and will take it almost entirely from the rich and the powerful. The increase of the income tax and the surtax, together with the taxation of war profits, will fall almost entirely upon the land lords and manufacturers. The working men and working women whose incomes have been considerably increased by the great demand for labor caused by the war, will only be reached by a small addition to the duty on sugar, tea, coffee and a few other articles. This policy of taxing the rich provides a striking contrast to the system of taxation adhered to by the Ottawa Government. Instead of taxing large incomes our Finance Minister made a vain attempt to increase his revenues by adding to the taxes upon the necessities of life and the implements of industry and production. The increase in the Canadian tariff enacted last March was an absolute failure so far as increase of revenues was concerned. Its only effect was to increase the burden upon the poor and raise the profits of the manufacturers. The reason for the adoption of opposite policies by the British and Canadian Governments is not hard to discover. The British Government, which is a coalition government, composed of the ablest and most trusted men of both political parties, is solely concerned with the welfare of the nation and the cause of the Allies. The Canadian Government, which is a party administration, is composed of men of mediocre ability and is concerned more with its own political future and with the advantage of its most powerful supporters, than it is with the welfare of the people as a whole.

## MANITOBA SUFFRAGE PETITION

The success of the suffrage petition being signed by the women of Manitoba is now assured. Seventeen thousand is the number of signatures required by the Government as a sufficient indication of the desire of the women of Manitoba to exercise the franchise, and this number of signatures with several hundred to spare is already in the hands of the officials of the Political Equality League at Winnipeg. The women, however, are not going to be content with a petition of this size, but will continue