

HISTORY OF THE GRAIN GROWERS

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Through The Guide Window

This month The Guide reaches the ripe age of ten years, and in celebration of the occasion we are publishing this anniversary number. It happens to be the largest issue ever turned off our presses and we have devoted it entirely to historical articles on the Grain Growers' Movement in general. We hope it will meet with the approval of the 40,000 readers to whom it will be sent, and that it will furnish them with information and inspiration to bear fruit in even greater achievements.

Annual events naturally give rise to reminiscences. For ten short, but strenuous years The Guide has chronicled the news and views of the Grain Growers' Movement and assisted to the best of its ability in making that movement what it is today. Ten years ago the Grain Growers' associations in the prairie provinces were just beginning to realize their own influence. Of the present great commercial organizations which the

organized farmers have developed, none was in existence ten years ago save the grain commission business which was conducted by The Grain Growers' Grain Company. In this brief period the Grain Growers' associations have increased their membership to nearly 70,000 members. Their educational program has been broadened to include practically all subjects which make for a better rural life. Their influence has profoundly affected for good the entire national fabric. On the statute books at Ottawa and in the three prairie provinces are many laws partially or completely moulded by the organized farmers. In tribute to the Grain Growers it must be said that their power and influence has never been used to take from any individual or class that to which they were justly entitled. "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none" is the motto which has been their guiding star.

In the ten years which we now survey the

farmers' commercial organizations have spread out and covered the prairie provinces and reached out to the Pacific coast on one side and the Atlantic on the other. The magnitude of their transactions places them among the largest commercial institutions in Canada. Like all commercial developments they have encountered great difficulties and no doubt have made errors. But errors have been corrected and obstacles surmounted and the watchword has been "forward." Men from the farm have been trained to conduct the huge commercial business which is linked up with the occupation of agriculture. In the language of the street, the farmers' organizations and their leaders have "made good." The little plant put into the soil only a few years ago has been carefully watched and cultivated. Today it is a full-grown tree and on its branches are fruits of the organized farmers' achievements. In its shade the farmers may review the record of their past and lay their plans for the future.

The Road Ahead

The record of achievements of the organized farmers as told in this issue of The Guide should make every Grain Grower feel proud. There is danger, however, that some of the organized farmers may feel that enough has been accomplished and it is now time to rest upon their oars. We must not allow such a dangerous policy to receive even casual consideration. What has been done is only a small portion of what is yet to be done. The Grain Growers should determine that the record of the future shall be in keeping with that of the past. They should look upon it as the poet has said:—

"But grand as are these victories
Whose monuments we see,
They are but as the dawn
Which speak of noontide yet to be."

Many of our Grain Growers who were valiant in the early days of the struggle and who bore the burden in the heat of day, have grown weary and some have gone to their rest, but in their day they laid the foundation that has been built upon by

others. The foundation is broad and substantial. Upon it there is room to erect a structure nobler than has yet been constructed in this young and growing country. The young men and young women must be trained in the organization, educated in its history and its program, and enthused with its ideals. There is today no organization in this broad Dominion which has a prouder record to its credit. No organization has a greater opportunity of serving this present generation and to aid in moulding the future nation that will populate the country. The responsibility resting upon the leaders is great. No one recognizes this more fully than the leaders themselves. They are men and women of wide experience who have given years of thought and study to the great problem which confronts this country. They should receive, as they have received in the past, the whole-hearted support of the great rank and file of the Grain Growers' army.

Like the great army of Canadian boys who are giving their lives in France and Flanders

for the safety of their loved ones at home, the future depends not only upon good leaders but upon the loyal support and faithful service of the private soldiers. We have the leaders in the farmers' organization and we have an ever-growing army of members. Let us increase that membership until it includes all the adult members of the farm population of the prairie provinces. As the strength of the Grain Growers' organization increases, so will there be a growth in the spirit of responsibility which devolves upon the organization. This country can be made one of the finest upon which the sun has ever shone. To make a country what it should be, and what it can be, will be the task to which the organized grain growers, men and women, must give themselves in the generation now before us. As the organization marches forward, keeping its eye on the future and being guided by the past, it might well bear in mind the words of the old philosopher: "May we have the wit to discover what is true and the fortitude to practise what is good."