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THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

Equal Rights to All and Special Privileges to None A Weekly Journal for Progressive Farmers

Published under the auspices and employed as the official organ of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and the United Farmers of Alberta.



The Guide is absolutely owned and controlled by the organized farmers—entirely independent and not one dollar of political, capitalistic or special interest money is invested in it.

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Authorized by the Postmaster General, Ottawa, Can., for transmission as second class mail matter. Published weekly at 275 Sherbrook St., Winnipeg, Man. VOL. X July 25 No. 30

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ADVERTISING

Published every Wednesday. Subscriptions in the British Empire \$1.50 per year, except Winnipeg City, which is \$2.00 per year. Foreign and United States subscriptions \$2.50 per year. Single copies 5 cents.

Advertising Rates

Commercial Display—20 cents per agate line. Livestock Display—15 cents per agate line. Classified—5 cents per word per issue.

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A POSSIBLE ORIENTAL INVASION

Not least among the peculiar local conditions created by the war is a strike of Galician women working for the market gardeners around Winnipeg. These have been patient laborers for years at \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day, now they are demanding up to \$2.50 and their board. The tendency seems to be to import Chinese labor to take their places and there is said to already be a considerable trek of these Oriental laborers from the Pacific Coast where the news of the strike has spread.

The invasion of Chinese market gardeners is almost certain ultimately to mean control of this industry by the Chinese and the ousting of white men from the business. The Chinese are thorough organizers, hard workers and cheap-livers. They know this branch of agriculture as few white men do. As a result they are in control at Vancouver, Victoria and in American coast cities. In Calgary too they have secured control of the vegetable business to a larger degree.

The methods pursued by the Orientals in the market garden business at Vancouver is very interesting. They own or lease large areas on Lulu Island in the Fraser Delta, some few miles from Vancouver. In the handling of these farms they form companies or organizations in which one man looks after the farm management or production end. Another administers the distribution business in the city, another acts as financier and perhaps another is in control of all the labor employed. The whole affair is carefully organized and the division of labor well carried out.

When a new laborer is wanted permanently, the company goes to the head Chinaman in Vancouver. There is a large colony in the city under more or less of a Sui-Chinese administration of its own. The Consul is consulted and the \$500 head tax put up. The imported laborer is then brought over, sent out to Lulu Island and there he works in what amounts to virtually a system of slavery until his head-tax is paid. Not until then is he a free man. He is poorly paid and slaves from early morning till late. The Orientals have no conscience in this matter, any more than plenty of whites, and the result is a state which is certainly not credit to this country. They have completely ousted the whites in the vegetable business.

There does not seem much doubt but Winnipeg and other western cities will have its Oriental district and problem in a few years. So far our Chinese immigrants have largely been of the laundry man class. This war, if it continues much longer, bids fair to present us with this as one of its results. Already, it is reported, Oriental labor is being used in large numbers in France. Our coal mine operators are advising its imposition to replace strikers. Certain American interests are also pleading for Chinese labor. The Japs have for some years been virtually in control of the fishing industry in British Columbia. The Hindus have made great inroads in the dairy industry about Victoria and Vancouver. Large numbers of Chinese, Japs and Hindus have been regularly employed in construction work, lumbering, and timber mills at the coast. Indeed wherever the interests of capital demanded lower wages, capital has not failed to demand free trade in labor.

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