



## NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

This department of The Guide is maintained especially for the purpose of providing a discussion ground for the readers where they may freely exchange views and derive from each other the benefits of experience and helpful suggestions. Each correspondent should remember that there are hundreds who wish to discuss a problem or offer suggestions. We cannot publish all the immense number of letters received, and ask that each correspondent will keep his letter as short as possible. Every letter must be signed by the name of the writer, though not necessarily for publication. The views of our correspondents are not of necessity those of The Guide. The aim is to make this department of great value to readers, and no letters not of public interest will be published.

## FROM OLD ONTARIO

Editor, Guide:—Enclosed find subscription for The Guide for 1912 (\$1.00). I have now had The Guide on trial for some time and find that I could not very well do without it. You are doing a noble work for the farmers of this country and I extend the hand of fellowship to you and my brother agriculturists across the rocks and offer my hearty co-operation in this fight for freedom from these monopolists who are sucking the life blood out of the nation in order to make an easy living.

Though reciprocity was defeated by our province, it is not dead as some claim. It is simply as the good seed sown in the ground which will eventually bring forth something more abundant in the shape of absolute free trade, not only in natural but in manufactured products as well. This I feel confident will be the case if producers and consumers will diligently study such papers as The Guide and the Weekly Sun of Toronto, four years hence, if indeed this Borden-Bourassa alliance will hold out for that time, as the tail is already wagging the dog. I also thank you very much for the Cockshutt exposure and hope you will refer to it in every issue for the next year. There are also other combines that should have a little free advertising in the same way.

GEO. P. SEEBACK.

Sebringville, Ont.

## ADVOCATES A STRIKE

Editor, Guide:—It is evident that a large quantity of grain has been, and will be, sold on the Western market this winter at and below the cost of production. This ruinous state of affairs is due to three causes, each closely allied one to the other. Firstly, a restricted and uncompetitive market; secondly, inadequate transportation service; thirdly, over production and congestion due to these facts. The Grain Growers of the West are engaged in a strenuous and costly experiment of endeavoring to pay off their mortgages and purchase the necessities of life by trying to force into every cubic foot of space available, two cubic feet of grain. An effort was recently made to enlarge our market and relieve the congestion and incidentally procure better railway competition, but owing to the wise, or unwise, counsel of those who really believed that a wider market would be injurious to us, together with those who were guided by selfish interest alone, the effort was defeated.

The farmers of the West are now in a position similar to that of the boy in the fable, who having filled his hand with nuts was unable to withdraw it from the jar; and the advice given on that supposed occasion would fill the bill in this, viz., let go half, or in other words, produce only the amount capable of passing through the neck of the jar—the channels of transportation. We are engaged in a frantic effort to do the impossible, and having failed to break the "neck of the jar," our only alternative is to curtail production, to reduce our output to the requirements of the market and the ability of the railways to move our produce at the time we desire it moved, which, naturally, is when we see a margin of profit, not a loss.

But by adopting this course we are merely temporizing. We are doing absolutely nothing to force the hands of the Dominion government to grant our demands laid down at Ottawa last December. We hear a great deal in one way and another about the "siege of Ottawa," and rightly so, but now it is time we

heard something about its capitulation. We have resorted to nearly every reasonable constitutional and legitimate way to get justice, but to no avail. There is yet one more plan which, if adopted by the Grain Growers of the West, would bring the Canadian government to its knees, and make the capitulation of Ottawa an accomplished fact. We can make the grass to grow in the factory yards of Canada and between the rails of the C. P. R. The plan is simplicity itself. The move I suggest is not to move at all, in other words, Strike. What could possibly be easier and entail less loss (conditions taken into consideration) to the Western farmer than to sit down and do nothing? At present he is nothing short of a slave to the manufacturers and corporations. Picture to yourself the consternation of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association:

the prospect of no machinery being wanted in the West this year." And of the C. P. R. at "no grain to be shipped from the West this year." What a wholesome comedown there would be in C. P. R. stock, at present forced away up above 200 as the result of robbing the farmer in freight and express rates; shunting his grain into the nearest gravel pit where it remains at the will of the railway officials, and by the time it gets to its destination, hardly paying the freight. The farmers having stopped work the factory hands in the East would be out of a job. That silly goose stopped laying those golden eggs! How preposterous! Ogilvie milling shares down! Terminal and initial elevators empty and the combine broke! Grain exchange out of business! Every institution in Canada depending, directly or indirectly, on the work of the Grain Growers, demoralized! In the meantime what are the Grain Growers doing? Taking a well earned rest, conserving their resources looking after a number of little details which is much to their interest to do, experiencing a tremendous reduction in "running expenses" and confidently looking for the "capitulation of Ottawa" in the passing into law of the farmers demands made on the 16th of December, 1910.

I am not submitting this suggestion of a "Grain Growers' strike" to you with the idea that such a stupendous undertaking could be put into operation under present state of organization! It may never be possible, or necessary. But I do say, that if the manufacturing and corporate interests refuse to yield after being appealed to on the grounds of common justice, and if it is considered desirable in the interests of the country at large that the farmers' demands as presented to Parliament should be acceded to, then such a strike as I have outlined to bring about the capitulation of Ottawa, would be justifiable. But on the other

hand, if the farmers' bill of rights is to remain in cold storage; then it would be directly in the interests of the Western Grain Growers to curtail their output, and incidentally their expenses, so as not to more than meet the requirements of our market and the ability of our railways to give us adequate service.

But the chief cause, in fact the whole cause, of the trouble is, the wild rush for material gain; first, by the corporate and selfish interests; and secondly, by the working classes mainly to meet the demands of the former; all alike forgetful that none of these things that we "need" are rightly gained unless "added" to us.

W. G. FITZGERALD.

Grenfell, Sask.

## OPEN LETTER TO MR. GREEN

F. W. Green, Esq.  
Sec-Treas., Grain Growers' Association,  
Moose Jaw, Sask.

Dear Sir and Brother:—

I understand that it is now in order for farmers to make suggestions regarding resolutions, etc., that might be introduced and discussed at our next provincial convention of Grain Growers. I am of the opinion (and that strongly) that we are not nearly radical enough in our demands, and I have talked to other farmers who likewise agree with me along these lines. In a letter I wrote some time ago to The Guide, I stated that for over thirty years I had advocated "reform" and when we struggled some "reform" through, we had shortly to begin and reform the "reform." But I am now candidly of the opinion that Socialism offers the only logical solution of the grievances that confront us as producers of wealth today. Some may think that farmers are independent workers, but I do not think that among all classes of workers there are any who are greater slaves to capitalism than farmers. I mean those who are actually living and working on their farms. Why, we simply have no independence at all. The time may have been (and in warm countries may be yet) where the farmers could eke out an existence without having to bow to capitalism, but not so in this country owing to the necessity for expensive implements and the price we get for what we sell in comparison to the prices we have to pay for what we want to buy. We have to take the other fellows weights both ways. We have to sell at his price and buy at his price, and if we make any kick at the price offered us, just as likely as not we are "boycotted" and in some cases cannot sell at all. This picture is not overdrawn for I can give concrete cases of just such. Now I will be brief and come to the point of what I have to say. If the Grain Growers of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta in their annual conventions will come out boldly and endorse the Socialist party (as they will have to eventually), the two old parties will soon be falling over each other in their haste to give us all the reforms we have asked for, and more too, for they will do anything before being compelled to get off our backs. I have been in this fight for over forty years and I am sick and tired of palliatives.

The elections in the United States show that the people are investigating the merits of Socialism. The enemies of Socialism can no longer scare the people with such phrases as "anarchy," "free love," etc. Those lies have run their course and are relegated to the political nuisance ground. Let any sensible person take Webster's unabridged definition of Socialism, or the Encyclopedia Britannica, and he will find no such phrases as mentioned above. The ministers of the gospel in the States are coming over in great numbers to Socialism. We have three of them elected on the Socialist ticket to very important positions, to wit, Mayor Duncan, of Butte, Montana; Mayor Wilson, of Berkeley, California; and a few days ago Mayor Lunn, of Schenectady, N. Y., besides a goodly number on the Socialist lecture platform. Witness the Rev. Alexander Irvine, and such able writers as Charles Edward Russell. No, I for one do not intend to fool away any more time, begging the old parties for reforms, but shall give the few remaining years of my life battling for the principles enunciated by International Socialism.

Fraternally,  
WM. NESBITT, Sr.

Tessier, Sask.

## Important Announcement

Many of our subscribers, when forwarding their renewals, omit to fill in their name and address on coupon.

Others, when notifying change of address, neglect to state where they formerly resided.

Will our readers please note to give all particulars, and write their name, post office and province as plainly as possible to save disappointment?

Several of our patrons also state that they do not get The Guide regularly. We would like to mention that every issue leaves Winnipeg each week without fail. If you miss any number, communicate with our Circulation Department at once.

## Woman's Home Companion and American Magazine

## GUARANTEE TO SUBSCRIBERS

The enormous rush of subscriptions during the past few weeks, and the great amount of mail matter passing through the mails at this season, is causing a delay in the delivery of

THE WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION  
AND  
THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE

If any of our readers have not yet received their magazines, we would ask them to be patient, with the assurance that they will be absolutely sure of receiving their periodicals at the earliest possible moment.

## ADVANCE IN PRICE

The other week we announced that, owing to the postal tariff, we were obliged to increase the price of these magazines fifty cents. We are still receiving a large number of subscriptions at the old rate. We would ask our patrons who wish to take advantage of this combination offer to carefully note the advanced prices:

|                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| The Grain Growers' Guide | Special Offer for Twelve Months, |
| Woman's Home Companion   | \$2.25                           |
| The Grain Growers' Guide | Special Offer for Twelve Months, |
| American Magazine        | \$2.25                           |

## A Good Suggestion

SEND THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE  
TO THE OLD FOLKS AT HOME

Forward us \$1.00 and we will mail The Guide, post paid, 52 times to any address in Canada or Great Britain

DO IT RIGHT NOW!