

# The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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.

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## THE WINNIPEG TELEGRAM

After a nine day's silence the Winnipeg Telegram has again attacked THE GUIDE and reiterated the same untruthful statements which it published previously. We have, therefore, no reason to devote much attention to the Telegram. We are glad to know that the Telegram recognizes the importance of THE GUIDE sufficiently to devote to us the attention of its corps of editorial writers. The Telegram gives us credit for being fair enough to publish the Swan River letter and to state fully the history and ownership of our paper. The only thing we have to say in reply is to ask a few questions.

Will the Telegram kindly tell its readers the story of its ownership and who holds the stock in the Telegram Printing Company?

Will the Telegram kindly tell its readers where it gets the largest amount of money to support it in the work it is carrying on in favor of the elevator combine and against the organized farmers?

Will the Telegram kindly explain its silent joy in watching Mackenzie & Mann gobble the natural resources of the country and the railways at the expense of the people. What causes this friendship and approval of a course that is condemned by the farmers all over the West?

If the Telegram will answer all these questions in the nice gentlemanly language which it adopts towards THE GUIDE its readers will be satisfied probably, and will not require any further explanation of the attitude of the Telegram towards the organized farmers and their work. We would also suggest to the Telegram that it need not consider our feelings at all for we feel perfectly able to take care of ourselves.

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## OPPORTUNITIES TO BE GRASPED

During the past year the profits made by the dealers upon the Western farmers' grain, amounted to about one million dollars. That was the legitimate profit and the illegitimate profit probably amounted to still more. Of the legitimate profits only twelve per cent. was retained in the hands of the farmers, and this was only accomplished through their own organization, namely, the Grain Growers' Grain Company. If the farmers of Western Canada had marketed all their grain through their own company, they would in one year have been able to remedy the great majority of the defects of the present system of marketing grain. Their profits would have been very close to one million dollars, but as it was

the profits of the farmers' company were less than one hundred thousand dollars, while \$800,000 or \$900,000 went into the pockets of the other grain dealers. Undoubtedly a great part of the work of these dealers was the legitimate work of middlemen, but it was very expensive work. No portion of these profits went back to the farmers. Why should not the Western farmers as a whole realize the benefits which they can secure through doing their own business? Every farmer of the West should be a shareholder in the Grain Growers' Grain Company, and the \$25 that such a share would cost will be returned to him in a very short time in the saving that he will make in marketing his grain. There is no good reason to advance why the farmers should not conduct their own business. By so doing they are merely securing to themselves a larger portion of the legitimate returns of their labor. They are robbing no person. Some critics might advance the argument that if the farmers marketed all their own grain, they would thus form a dangerous combine and by so doing would be able to rob the consumer, but when it is considered that the grain crop of Canada is not more than five per cent. of the world's output the weakness of such an argument can be seen at once, because the farmers of the West would have to sell their grain in open competition with the world. But the financial gain that would accrue to the farmers through handling their own grain is the least of the benefits they would receive. The educative and the humanizing influence to be secured by thus working together and in harmony, would more than outbalance the financial benefits. A portion of the profits secured could easily be used for educative work such as would uplift our farming communities into a higher standard and give them a broader outlook upon life and happier and more contented homes in which to live. It has been done in other countries, notably in Denmark, where it is claimed that the farming population is more intelligent and more prosperous and contented, than in any other part of the world. All this has been done by the farmers themselves, simply through working together. Legislation in Denmark is in the interest of the farmers because the government is composed of farmers. By working together the farmers of Canada can secure equally as favorable conditions in this country.

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## WHAT DO THE FARMERS MEAN?

The demand of the Western farmers for a lower tariff is by no means a local matter. It is in line with a similar agitation now going forward with amazing rapidity in all high tariff countries, notably in the United States and Germany. It is a political movement of the deepest significance, but it is not a party demonstration. Western farmers are not animated by an opposition to the present Dominion government because it represents a political party. The farmers are protesting against the system whereby special privileged classes and large interests control our Ottawa government now and as they did and would do, no matter which party was in power. As a general rule it is not wise for the people to allow any government to remain in power for more than two terms, but in the case at point, both parties stand upon a platform which is equally obnoxious to the farming interests of the West. No doubt both parties stand upon this platform because, for political purposes, they believe it to be the best. It is hardly conceivable that either R. L. Borden or Sir Wilfrid Laurier could believe that a high protective tariff is the best thing for the farmers of Canada, but both of these gentlemen are anxious to be premier of Canada and of necessity have to be opportunists. The big interests of the East have immense revenues at their disposal, and are willing to use them to secure further privileges. No person would believe that the money of these special interests would buy men of the stamp of either Sir Wilfrid or Mr.

Borden, but some men they can buy and every man is susceptible to influence in one way or another, either tangible or intangible. In the end it is the voting power of the people that counts. In Canada, the farmers have never acted together in their own interests. If they would do so and disregard political parties the system of government at Ottawa would change at once, and both political parties instead of favoring special privileges would favor the people. The Western farmers together with the Eastern farmers should make it thoroughly understood at Ottawa that henceforth they are determined that legislation shall be in the interest of the people and they should elect representatives whom they can trust and who cannot be influenced to betray them. We hope to see not less than five hundred farmers go to Ottawa this fall to meet the government and while there to register a determined protest against the present system of legislation.

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## THE POWER OF THE WEST

As a result of the repeated representations made to Sir Wilfrid Laurier all over the three provinces, he has awakened to the realization that in the West at least, the farmers are beginning to stand together, and demand their rights against the forces of special privileges in the East. Sir Wilfrid has become more frank in his statements as he has travelled Westward. He now practically admits that the tariff is framed by the eastern manufacturers, and says it will be very hard for his government to reduce the tariff, while the eastern interests still demand protection. He admits that his government cannot operate public utilities in a business-like manner, and therefore he does not favor government ownership and operation of the terminal elevators or of the Hudson Bay Railway. He believes there is some other method by which these two utilities can be operated in fairness to the Western farmers. In regard to the chilled meat industry, Sir Wilfrid has come to believe, since he has met the Alberta farmers, that there is need for some assistance and he will take it up on his return to Ottawa with the Minister of Agriculture. In regard to the co-operative legislation asked for the premier has practically promised that it will be passed and if he means business it will be passed. Thus far the Western farmers have done remarkably well. They have taken hold of their own cause in a manner that is entirely new to Canada. They have awakened the Dominion government to a sense of its duty, but there still remains much to be done. Sir Wilfrid has said that he will ask the Grain Growers to meet him in Ottawa upon his return, and work out a scheme for the improvement of conditions at the terminal elevators. He has also suggested a tariff commission. The Western farmers should present their case strongly to the government at Ottawa this fall and reiterate their demands for a square deal to every member of the cabinet. It would be of the utmost value for a very strong delegation of the organized farmers of the West to go to Ottawa in October and spend one or two days in conference with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the members of his government. Once in there the farmers could make out their case. It would probably be beneficial to have the leader of the opposition present at the conference, that he may realize that the tariff views of his party are no more satisfactory to the Western farmers than the tariff views of the government. There is no doubt but that the Ontario farmers will support the Western farmers in their demand for tariff reduction, and this is the time when the case must be made. There is no election in sight and these vital issues will not be obscured by the excitement that prevails at election time. To-day the Western members are practically all favorable to tariff reduction, as well as to the settlement of the problems of the farmers on the basis of a square deal. The membership from the West is not large but when the