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THAT all the festive preparations so lavishly planned at this Season of the year are unsubstantial unless

### CHRISTMASSES TO COME

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## Question Drawer

This department of The Guide is open to all readers, and it is hoped that they will take advantage of it. All questions relating to the problems of the farmer of Western Canada will be answered in this department. Write questions on one side of the paper only, and send on y one question on one sheet of paper. Join in making this department of the greatest value.

### MUST HAVE NAMES

Questions sent in without the name of the sender attached will not be answered. The name will not be used if not desired, but it must be sent in as a guarantee of good faith.

### MUST BE PAID

C. G., Man.—Would you kindly give me advice regarding this case? I bought 60 acres of land more or less six years ago and have got same all paid for except \$165.00. The gentleman I bought it off told me all taxes were paid up to date and I have been paying my taxes regularly since on or before the first day of December in each year, for which I can show receipts. Forty-five acres of said lands have been sold for arrears of taxes, and I fail to see where the arrears come in. I had no notice whatever for sale of same and quite ignorant of the fact that my land had been sold until I received this notice on the 29th of November, 1911, addressed to Rathwell. Can the municipality sell land without giving any notice to the owner whatever, even although there had been arrears of taxes? Will you please advise what steps to take in such a case as I have never heard of such a thing before?

Ans.—The only remedy is to pay amount necessary to redeem land.

### FREIGHT CHARGES

W. H. S., Sask.—A homesteader came from Ontario during the year 1910. Had a car of settlers' effects for which he paid \$112.00 before it was shipped. He unloaded car without any objections or claims being made by the C. P. R. About six months after he received a letter from the C. P. R. agent claiming some \$60.00 for over weight of car. Can the company collect same? and if so, is it not an injustice for cars of settlers effects going west of Moose Jaw to be weighed at Moose Jaw, after several hundred pounds of water and manure are added to the weight of the car? In justice should not this be weighed at the nearest weighing station to point of shipment, and a copy of the weight bill be given to the shipper at the time of weighing? The C. P. R. are continually mulcting settlers in this way.

Ans.—The question is was the \$112.00 accepted in full payment for freight or merely on account. If accepted by the C. P. R. in full, then no further claim could be made.

### SALE OF LAND

B. S.—B. bought a quarter section of land from A. on the instalment plan of payment, and after B. had two payments made, the C. N. R. Co. built a grade through the farm. B. made a settlement with the C. N. R. for \$30.00 per acre, and when the transfer was sent to B. to sign, B. had to send it to A. to sign because A. held the title deed. A. signed the transfer and sent it to the company, and demanded the money to be paid to him. What should B. do in such a case? B.'s payments are paid up to date.

Ans.—A. is entitled to payment crediting it on account of B.'s agreement. B. cannot sell the land and pocket proceeds, neither could he sell a portion of it until A. is fully paid.

### A GAS TRACTION COURSE

A gas traction engineering school has been opened by the Hart-Parr Company, through which farmers and others may study the theory and practice of gas engine construction, operation and repair by means of a correspondence course of twelve illustrated lessons. When the student has mastered the written lessons, fourteen practice schools are open to him without extra charge. Here he will apply practically what he has studied—on paper; here he can handle and operate the actual tractor under the direction of experts. The

practice schools are located at the principal cities of the northwestern States, and at Portage la Prairie, Regina, Saskatoon and Calgary.

### MANITOBA FEDERATION FOR DIRECT LEGISLATION

The Manitoba Federation for Direct Legislation held its first annual meeting on the eleventh inst. in the Oddfellows' Temple, Kennedy Street, Winnipeg.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. J. N. Hutchison, the president, and there was a very gratifying attendance of members both from the city and outside points. Among the visitors from places outside of Manitoba, the members were very pleased to welcome Mr. E. A. Partridge, of Sintaluta, who during the evening favored the gathering with one of his pithy heart-to-heart talks.

The secretary read a report on behalf of the executive committee, setting forth the work which had been accomplished during the year. Mr. F. J. Dixon, gave some particulars of the propaganda work carried on by him as official organizer and lecturer for the federation. Mr. Dixon's report showed that over two hundred public meetings had been addressed during the year, most of them being at country points in Manitoba. A large increase in membership was another pleasing feature of these reports, also the figures showing the inquiries for information and literature, and the quantities of the latter which had been distributed. Of Mr. R. L. Scott's pamphlet on Direct Legislation over ten thousand copies have been disposed of by the Federation and publishers of The Grain Growers' Guide, and it is still in great demand.

Mr. R. L. Scott, the treasurer, reported a good balance at the bank, and a very satisfactory number of promises of subscriptions for the ensuing year. The treasurer made a strong plea for co-operative effort on the part of all members to increase the subscription list, as with the amount of work to be undertaken during the next twelve months, there will be considerable increase in the expenses.

### Draft Bill Approved

After short addresses by Mr. E. A. Partridge and Mr. D. W. Buchanan, the meeting entered into consideration of the draft bill for the establishment of the Initiative and Referendum in Manitoba. Copies of the bill had previously been mailed to all the members. With one or two amendments the bill was approved of, and the printing and distributing of same left in the hands of the literature committee.

Considerable discussion ensued as to the most effective means of having the question re-introduced in the legislature, and the matter was finally left in the hands of a special committee formed to draw up the necessary resolutions, etc., and to confer with members of the House known to be in favor of the principles of Direct Legislation.

All the officers were re-elected, as follows:—Honorary president, Mr. J. H. Ashdown; president, Dr. J. N. Hutchison; first vice-president, Mr. Donald Forrester; second vice-president, Mr. John Kennedy; treasurer, Mr. R. L. Scott; secretary, Mr. S. J. Farmer.

The four affiliated organizations, namely the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the Royal Templars of Temperance, the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council and the Manitoba League for the Taxation of Land Values, will be requested to appoint six delegates to the federation instead of two as formerly. Two from each organization will still sit on the executive committee, the others making it possible for these bodies to have better representation at general meetings.

On the advisory board the following were elected:—For Winnipeg, Messrs. T. A. Cramer, R. L. Richardson, H. MacKenzie, A. W. Puttee, G. F. Chipman, M. J. Finklestein, D. W. Buchanan, W. S. Archibald. For Manitoba, Messrs. L. S. Stubbs, Birtle; H. L. Montgomery, Deloraine; N. P. Evans, McCreary; Robert Cruise, M.P., Dauphin; G. H. Malcolm, M.P.P., Birtle; J. W. Scallion, Virden; J. S. Wood, Oakville; C. D. MacPherson, M.P.P., Portage la Prairie.

The secretary announced that he had received a number of applications from Grain Growers' Associations for Mr. Dixon's services as lecturer, and that he was engaged in drawing up programs for the season.

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### SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST LAND REGULATIONS

ANY person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. The applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for the district. Entry by proxy may be made at any agency, on certain conditions, by father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of intending homesteader.

Duties—Six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres, solely owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.

In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter section alongside his homestead. Price \$3 per acre.

Duties—Must reside upon the homestead or pre-emption six months in each of six years from date of homestead entry (including the time required to earn homestead patent) and cultivate fifty acres extra.

A homesteader who has exhausted his homestead right and cannot obtain a pre-emption may enter for a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price, \$3.00 per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate fifty acres and erect a house worth \$300.00.

W. W. CORY,

Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.  
N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.

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References  
Grain Growers' Guide—Bank of Toronto

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