



## 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.

## ANOTHER RED PARLOR SCHEME

Editor, Guide: The headstrong manufacturers, their allies the bankers, the railroad magnates, and other selfish interests are moving all their forces to retain the preposterous privileges of exploiting the people and the country. They would, if possible, move heaven and earth to thwart and defeat reciprocity. In Toronto these interests have projected a league which is broadcasting, in conjunction with Mr. Clifford Sifton's insidious speech against reciprocity, pamphlets of a dangerously plausible nature about "Canadian Nationality, British Connection and Our Fiscal Independence." This is another Red Parlor scheme to fool unwary electors. This fight to smash reciprocity is costing millions of dollars illegitimately stolen from the pockets of the people by the aid of a class legislated tariff—a most repugnant privilege. Why are these legalized, but none the less illegitimate interests incurring the big cost? To divide the farmers' votes. They recognize if they can divide they can plunder. If they fail to divide, if workers organize their own party and co-ordinate their votes, the plunderers' power to retain the reins of government is gone. If, with their fair spoken, but none the less deceitful sheets and speeches, they are able to fool us, then just as easily can they exploit all our labor. And these pamphlets—as they appear upon the surface—are so passably non-partisan and profess to be so awfully interested in the welfare of the people, and developing Canada, and trading with Britain, and so on, with volumes of such stuff and guff that just herein, with this perfidious appeal, is where the great danger lies in the farmers and other toilers being fooled once more. Reciprocity will give consumers relief from this high cost of living and remove the existing obstructions to trade with the huge United States markets for the benefit of the producers of natural products. It appears these perfidious sheets are franked out from the House of Commons by Clifford Sifton evidently with the intent to influence the triumph of the Conservative party at the approaching crisis if Mr. Borden sticks to his determination to fight the reciprocity issue to the bitter end.

Men of the West, let our slogan be with the illegitimate class tariff, yea, all class privileges, stand manfully up for the "thin edge of the wedge" of our own rights reciprocity. Consign these plausible, but none the less perfidious pamphlets, and Sifton's insidious speech to where they properly belong—Limbo. Electors, beware! The plunderbund are hable with the money stolen from you to fool you again. Beware! They divide your votes, then rob you.

Yours, with fair warning,

FREDERIC KIRKHAM.

Saltcoats, Sask.

## SOME DOUBTFUL ADVICE

Editor, Guide: The reciprocity controversy, which is now at fever heat, both in and out of parliament, has brought forward a great number of champions of this great and important question. The exponents of this question might be divided into two parts. The agricultural and mining interests, as for, the manufacturing and financial interests, as against. Now, how is the stand of these two interests at the polls?

The former 72 per cent., the latter 28 per cent. Now, with 28 per cent. the manufacturing interests have been able to dictate our tariff for the last forty years. Why? For the reason that the agriculturist has allowed himself to be divided on party lines, while the manufacturing interests have gone solid. They are neither Liberals nor Conservatives, but simply protectionists, pure and simple, and you should not wonder at the cry, "Hands off the Tariff Wall." That wall discriminates against the many in favor of the few, namely, the manufacturers whose reward is the golden egg laid by the tariff hen, that is fed by the farmers of this country. In 1896 the manufacturers experienced a similar fright to the one they are receiving now, but they were consoled by the fact that our American cousins were not prone to come to any sort of a reciprocal agreement at that time. That and the "foster industry," that old chestnut, were the two arguments used by the high tariff exponents. Now these two reasons are swept away, we find they are replaced by the cry, "Loyalty to the Empire." But this Empire of theirs is very limited, limited to a few Canadian manufacturers and financial people who are ready and willing to extract the last ounce of energy from the Empire builder (in reality the tiller of the soil) by loading him down with unscrupulous prices for machinery, and charging him the highest rate of interest known in any part of the world. Now Mr. Russell, former secretary of the Manufacturers' association, and who seems to be the mouthpiece of that organization, has sent some very unfair statements through the Canadian Century. After a flying trip through the West, he was able to go back to the East and pose as an encyclopaedia of Western facts, telling the Eastern people that the farmer out here was mining his land, not farming it, that he knew of men who would thresh one hundred thousand bushels of wheat. The Western farmer was becoming wealthy. They had organized a company known as the Grain Growers' Grain Co., with a capitalization of \$250,000. Not so bad for the poor, ill-used farmers. Mr. Russell also states that farm machinery and implements were cheaper on the Canadian side than on the American, and in attempting to prove this, he states that a threshing outfit can be purchased in Canada for \$1,600. Now let me say to Mr. Russell that I purchased a threshing machine in Canada and the purchase price was \$4,400, and that on a 20 horse power engine and a 32 inch separator. The prices run in my district all the way from \$3,600 to \$6,000, and taking the price of my outfit as an average, Mr. Russell would then be \$2,800 out in this item. But could it be that Mr. Russell meant that they should be \$1,600, and not the price they were? Now, Mr. Russell speaks of these 100,000 bushel farmers. I doubt very much whether there are five such men in all Western Canada, and it is fortunate that there are not, for it has never been known for such large farms to pay a profit. Now as to the mining of the land, which I am led to think means succession of wheat crops. That will right itself by more profit to the farmer in the way of cheaper implements and better prices for his grain, in which our only hope is free trade with England and reciprocity with the United States. Now as to that Grain Growers' Grain

Co. that was capitalized at \$250,000. That great amount of wealth carried by the Western farmers was a sign of our prosperity, according to Mr. Russell, but he failed to tell his hearers that this Grain Growers' Grain Co. represented 100,000 farmers at an average of two shares each, at \$25 a share, and Mr. Russell seems surprised to think that the farmers could, after ten or twenty years of steady work, be in a position to invest \$50 in a company that was formed for their sole protection, and was forced into existence by the most barefaced manipulations in our grain trade, and was responsible for putting the old Exchange out of business, and is now one of the largest exporters of grain in the West, and bids fair to control the entire output within a short time. But Mr. Russell is not the only one who is so kindly disposed to give advice to the Western farmer. We have the president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce taking a flying trip through the West, going back to Montreal and telling his associates he saw weeds in this part of the world, and he strongly advised the members of his organization to interview the members of the different local governments and see that the farmers of the Western provinces eradicate the weeds. Well done, little czar, come again. But as a Western farmer, I may say that some of the worst weeds we have in these Prairie Provinces are certain of our banking institutions with which Sir Edmund is familiar. These gentlemen have not only an eye on our tariff wall, but our local government as well, and it seems to gear fruit, at least in Alberta, for the opposition brought down a measure dealing with cheap money to farmers and was at once sat upon by the premier, the Hon. A. L. Sifton, on the grounds that it would put out of business the financial institutions already established within the province. It is high time that novices like these two I have been dealing with would assume a little modesty and deal with questions they might have a chance to know something about. But I might draw this bank president's attention to another weed that has caused and is causing the Western farmer a great deal of unrest, and that is the mixing weed, commonly known as the terminal elevator. From this source the Western farmer has lost ten millions of dollars. But there is no word or suggestion from this bank president to appeal to the powers that be to eradicate this sort of evil from our grain trade. No. It is possible they might need a little financing in this work. Farmers, wake up! Become your own bankers and commission men. Follow your produce to the consumer and fight for free trade, and in so doing you will be loyal to yourself and your country.

D. L. MUDIMAN.

Macleod, Alta.

## POSTAL SURCHARGE

Editor, Guide: There is a little scheme practised by the Dominion post office department which ought not to escape condemnation because of its petty nature. I refer to the surcharge on magazines mailed in the United States. This was imposed because the American magazines contain a lot of exposures of the grafters and interests who control their governments and the Canadian government thus protects our own grafters as much as possible. Anyhow, it has been a flat failure, for the exposure has gone on with a vigor and success in Canada, much greater even than in the United States. The government will be foolish to continue this contemptible fine of five cents on everyone who buys an American magazine. It has failed in its intentions and only succeeds in causing a little exasperation at regularly recurring intervals in the breasts of the most intelligent citizens of Canada.

JOSEPH R. TUCKER.

Shoal Lake, Man.

## REAL REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

Editor, Guide: I think we are within measurable distance of a general election. Might I suggest that the executive take prompt action so that the Grain Growers will be prepared to go in and win a sufficient number of representatives to command attention and force a fair measure of justice to the common people? Some definite line of action should be evolved at once and the different branches throughout the West be ready to assert their rights effectively. No sane person

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## ATTENTION FARMERS!

At a meeting of Independent Electors of the Dauphin Constituency after Borden's meeting in Dauphin, July 6, a committee was appointed to take such steps as they deem advisable and to call a Mass Meeting of Independent Electors of this constituency in the Municipal Hall at 7.30 p.m. on August 8, the first day of Dauphin Fair, to take action, or not, as the meeting decides, in regard to the next election for the Dominion parliament.

All Independent Electors are earnestly requested to be present.

FRANCIS KILTY, GAVIN STRANG,  
Chairman. Secretary.

would suggest that the people are represented in Canada's Parliament. On Saturday night we were addressed here by a certain gallant colonel (who has been specially imported from the East) accompanied by the member who misrepresents Dauphin constituency, to warn us of the dire disaster that will befall our fair Dominion if we are allowed to cross the boundary with a basket of eggs on which the consumer will not be obliged to pay a handsome duty, and further that it will open blue black ruin if ever we should be able to purchase a dollars worth of any commodity on which some special interest may not be able to appropriate a fair margin. Although a fairly intelligent audience was present not one seemed able to grasp the grand truth. The member more than once suggested that we were not now so favorably inclined to reciprocity as formerly. I admit that interruptions were frequent but considering the provocation through deliberate mis-statements and common twaddle the thing passed off quietly enough. One of his typical assertions happened to be challenged, which was, that Argentine would flood our country with wheat and leave our own province a drag on the market as she raised more wheat than both United States and Canada combined. When fairly faced he admitted he knew no more about the matter than the man in the moon. Had he not been challenged some might have thought there was some truth in his statements. After addresses were over the writer asked the member what he considered his duty, whether to act and vote as he chose, or as his constituents wished. He was frank enough to admit, that he would use his own judgment so long as the electors sent him to the house. We can have no quarrel with him after his explicit avowal. No private member of either party can have any individuality. On only one species of legislation are they a unit. On any proposal to favor the rich interests they invariably join forces. It seems to be the law that the common people are the sheep to be shorn. I have never yet heard of one instance where both parties joined together to ease the masses of one of the many flagrantly unjust burdens imposed on them. Even now when a very small portion of our just demands are being grudgingly offered we have the "outs of office" as a unit deliberately opposing that small measure of relief and have the hardihood to dictate to those who pay their wages and boast that they will use their own judgment and the people may "be damned." The brazen effrontery of our nominal servants is enough to cause any honorable man to blush with shame. Will the people always love to be fooled? I think not.

T. H. STEVENSON.

Minitonas, Man.