

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, January 8th, 1913

THE LAST CALL

This is the last call for the marking of the referendum ballot which appeared on page 19 in The Guide of December 11. Some thousands have not yet marked the ballot and we feel that they are making a mistake by their neglect of this important matter. Those who are opposed to any or all of the questions on the ballot are just as welcome to vote as those in favor. It is the real, unbiased opinions of our readers we desire. The poll will close on January 18.

THE GUIDE TODAY

It will be pleasing to the many friends of The Guide to know that we start into the year 1913 with 26,000 paid subscribers upon our lists. It is estimated that magazines average five readers each, and on that reckoning The Guide reaches a field of 130,000 people every week. The Guide has a considerably larger number of paid subscribers than any other farmers' paper in Western Canada. This is a gratifying record when it is considered that the first issue of The Guide was published in June, 1908. For the first year The Guide appeared monthly, but since August, 1909, it has been published every week. Year by year public support has increased until to-day subscriptions are pouring into The Guide office faster than at any other period in its history. Those in charge of the publication of The Guide do not by any means take the credit for this accomplishment. It has been due to the most remarkable co-operative spirit that has ever developed in the history of Canada. But for the unselfish work of the friends of democracy and a square deal in the Prairie Provinces, The Guide could never have reached premier rank among farm journals in such a short time.

Many of the readers of The Guide to-day are not familiar with its history and struggles, so we will relate the beginning. More than ten years ago the Grain Growers' associations were organized chiefly as a protest against the desperate conditions prevailing in the grain trade at that time. Year by year the grain growers were forced to the conclusion that the only method of emancipating themselves from these conditions was by the organization of a company of their own to handle their own grain. The Grain Growers' Grain company was the result, now grown to be the largest grain company in Canada and owned and controlled by its 13,000 farmer shareholders. The Grain Growers' Grain company, though facing the desperate opposition of the big grain interests, was a success from the start. It was then realized that if the farmers of the West were to secure relief from the crushing economic burden under which they were, and are still, laboring, they must have a journal free and independent to present their views and to assist in fighting their battles, as well as to disseminate pure and unadulterated facts on economic, social and political questions. There were several purely agricultural journals in the field but there was no journal devoted to this phase of the farmers' problems. The result was that the Grain Growers' Grain company stepped into the breach and provided the financial assistance for the publication of The Guide. It was at once adopted as the official organ of the Grain Growers' associations and United Farmers of the three provinces, and has remained so since. In 1909 The Public Press was incorporated as the publishing company and a large printing plant was erected. Thousands of our readers have visited our offices and plant and have been pleased to see the position to which the only

paper on the continent owned by the organized farmers has reached. The policy of The Guide is the policy of the Grain Growers' associations as laid down at the annual conventions.

From the day of its birth strenuous efforts have been made to kill The Guide. It was not pleasing to the Elevator Combine to have their actions uncovered. The railway, banking and manufacturing barons resented any charge that they were not angels in disguise. The politicians very much disliked a journal that pointed out the blunders and neglect of the people's interests by both parties. These interests all have their agents scattered throughout the country and these agents carried on a campaign of misrepresentation of the grossest character. Farmers everywhere were told all kinds of falsehoods about The Guide, its ownership, its aims and purposes, with the result that many farmers withheld their support. Many of the big manufacturers joined in the attempt and withdrew their advertisements, and are still pursuing the same policy, with the object of crippling or killing the paper that dared to tell the truth about how and by whom the people were, and are, being robbed. The fight has been a vigorous one and is not yet over. It never will cease as long as Special Privilege remains fastened upon the necks of the Canadian people.

But throughout the country men recognized The Guide as presenting the facts and they subscribed and got their neighbors to subscribe. Steadily The Guide has gained ground as men have come to know it. They realized that there was no Special Interest behind The Guide and that it had no personal axe to grind. To-day The Guide is established on firm ground and has won the honest and sincere support of a large body of intelligent farmers, all of whom have a ballot which they desire to use for the best interest of the country. Never has The Guide been in so strong a financial position as today, though it is not yet on a self-supporting basis. But there is much to be desired yet in this respect. We want to publish a larger paper; we want to publish cartoons every week; we want to illustrate The Guide better; we want to send men to investigate conditions and publish the results for the benefit of our readers. We are not by any means satisfied with The Guide, but hope to make it better year by year until it has not a peer in the field of journalism. Many have asked us to publish more news and more agricultural information. We have tried both, but find that we cannot expand until the finances are in better shape. There is no intention that The Guide shall be a big money maker. It has never yet paid a cent of profit or dividend and will never pay more than small interest on the capital invested. Any money ever made will be used to improve the paper. But the period of dividends has not yet been reached.

We have thus set forth the position of The Guide as it faces the New Year full of hope and courage. The experimental stage has passed and now it is forward steadily. If the readers of The Guide will just continue the support they have given it in the past it will forge ahead and continue in the struggle for justice for all.

Now that the editor of The Toronto News has been knighted, that protectionist organ will be more "benighted" than ever on tariff matters.

The cost of living has been going up in recent years, and now we have a coffin combine to raise the cost of dying.

PAYING FOR THE DREADNOUGHTS

Assuming that Premier Borden's naval proposals are carried into effect, the payment of interest at 4 per cent. on the initial contribution of \$35,000,000 will involve the raising of an additional \$1,400,000 of revenue annually. This is a considerable sum, but nevertheless it can be raised without imposing any new burden upon the common people of Canada if the Minister of Finance will adopt a suggestion. Everyone will agree that a reduction of duties on manufactured goods would result in large importations and it is quite reasonable to suppose that if the reduction were made on the right articles and to the right extent, imports could be so increased that a lower rate of duty would actually bring a larger total of revenue. Take clothing for instance, and cement, which now bears an almost prohibitive duty, agricultural implements, and manufactured food products. If the duties on these goods were cut in two, there is little doubt that imports would more than double, and thus the revenue would be increased, and the burden upon the consumer lessened at the same time. It may be argued that the money will have to come from somewhere, and that if the Dominion Treasury and the consuming public are both going to gain, someone will lose. This does not necessarily follow, for the lowering of artificial trade barriers would have a beneficial effect upon industry. If any one would be the loser, however, it would be those manufacturers who use the tariff to maintain exorbitant prices and pay dividends upon watered stock. If patriotic speeches and flag flapping are any indication no class of people in Canada are more anxious to aid the Empire by building dreadnoughts than the manufacturers. If their patriotism is genuine they should surely be willing to make some sacrifice. They can afford it a great deal better than the farmers and other consumers upon whom the great burden of taxation will fall as long as revenues are raised by means of a customs tariff.

PEOPLE MUST HAVE VOICE

Mr. Scallion's very outspoken and courageous letter on the naval question in this issue will give food for much thought. Mr. Scallion has given years of study to the affairs of the world and is the type of citizen of which Canada is proud. He believes it a great mistake for Canada to be forced into carrying the crushing and inhuman burden of naval preparation under which the nations of the old world are staggering. He realizes that the present \$35,000,000 proposed by Mr. Borden or the greater sum proposed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier is but the beginning, and that if the taxpayers do not now protest it will be but a few years until the burden will be increased until it becomes \$100,000,000 or more annually. Mr. Scallion will find a great deal of support for his opinions throughout the West. Out of the hundreds of letters which we receive daily many mention the naval question and by far the majority are opposed to any navy. But all those who are opposed agree with Mr. Scallion that the majority should rule and that the question should be put to a real referendum where, and only where, the actual voice of the people can be secured. There are hundreds and thousands of Canadian citizens who know just as much about the naval question as do the 221 members of the House of Commons. And, further, not one of those 221 members has any authority from the taxpayers who elected him to cast his vote in favor of taxing the people for