



THE GUIDE'S "MAILBAG"



Selections from a Mass of Correspondence Relevant
to the Purposes of "The Guide"

TO IMPROVE THE FRANCHISE ACT

Hamiota, Mar. 3rd, 1909.

Editor G. G. Guide:

Dear Sir,—The spirited and prolonged discussion in the local parliament house this present session over voters' lists, brings forcibly to our notice the absolute necessity for an improvement in the Franchise Act which will be more satisfactory to all parties. According to the views of the opposition members the present method of compiling the list is unsatisfactory because the registration clerks are too anxious to have their own party names on the lists and the other party left off.

This will apply no matter which party is in power.

The government in turn claim the present act is all right if the requirements are fulfilled, these, the opposition claim are almost impossible. Both parties admit that the present system is expensive on account of having to be done every year at a cost of \$20,000 to \$30,000.

In the resolution submitted at our Grain Growers' convention in Brandon (and spoken of by a number of delegates both for and against) a suggestion was made to have some property qualification required before a name could be placed on the list. This seemed to strike a number of the delegates as being unfair because it would disfranchise a number of the hired men, some of whom are quite intelligent. This argument appeared to influence a large number of the delegates who had given the matter no previous consideration, against the resolution, especially, we think, on account of the way Mr. Partridge and Mr. Scallion expressed themselves, and the matter caused such a commotion in convention that the mover withdrew the resolution.

A number of the sub-associations had discussed this matter at different times and a few had passed upon it and sent it in to the Central Association. Those sent in favored the adoption of the municipal list for both provincial and federal elections.

Now, Mr. Editor, although some of our best men oppose the adoption of such a franchise act, I think its good points would far over balance its poor ones, although a few good men might lose the privilege of voting for once. If they were at all anxious to vote they could easily acquire enough property to have their names placed on the list, while those who care nothing for the vote except for the cash value of it at election time, would be deprived of it.

The latter class are the ones who do the damage. They have no interest whatever in the government or legislation of the country, but can be bought up in sufficient numbers to turn an election against the wish of the majority who are really interested in and anxious about the legislation.

A claim is made by some who are opposed to the scheme, that many of the property holders can be bought up, too; but we think they are few in comparison, and it takes more money to buy them, consequently it would be much more difficult to turn an election.

Mr. Partridge says, give every man his franchise and endeavor to educate him to vote right. But we cannot conceive of ever attaining to a condition where we could educate a man to refuse money held out to him for what he considers of no value to him if used otherwise.

The chief objection to the adoption of the municipal

list outside of the property qualification seems to be the inclination which it might lead to by the two political parties striving to elect their own supporters to the municipal offices. But we think the said officers, who would be chiefly interested in preparing the lists, viz., the assessor and the clerk, would be so near home and so well known they would be much less apt to resort to questionable practices than the officials who are at present responsible for that work. We also think there would be more strict attention paid to the lists and not so many mistakes made. And last, but not least, \$20,000 per year saved to the province.

We would like to see this matter thoroughly discussed through the columns of the Guide before next convention and some reasonable improvement arrived at which could be agreed upon, when we feel satisfied it would be adopted by the government and made law before next election.

Yours truly,

H. A. FRASER.

Hamiota, Mar. 3, 1909.

Youth will never live to age unless they keep themselves in health with exercise, and in heart with joyousness.—Sidney.



The Kramer Rotary Harrow

We are agents for Northern Alberta

What Farmers Say

Spruce Grove Centre
Feb. 9th, 1909.

Dear Sirs—The Kramer Rotary Plow Attachment which we purchased from you has given perfect satisfaction. We find it does good work and fills a long-felt need for conserving what moisture is in the ground. We found it added very little to the draft, and four horses handled the plow and attach-

ments quite handily in deep plowing. Yours truly,
THE WINTERBURN FARM CO., LTD.

Horse Hills, Feb. 3rd, 1909.

Dear Sirs—The Kramer Rotary Harrow appears to me to fulfil the primary conditions of proper soil tillage; for the ploughing and harrowing are done simultaneously, so that a perfect dust mulch is made, and no chance given for the escape of moisture. My land looked like a piece of velvet, so well was the pulverization done.

Yours truly, FREDERICK SAEGERT.

It fits any Sulky or Gang Plow. It saves all
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It puts the ground in good condition. Keeps the moisture in
the ground.

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