

The Guide Referendum

The Grain Growers' Guide believes that the will of the people should decide all questions of public policy. It believes that the Referendum is the best way to find out exactly what the people think. Accordingly The Guide will hold another Referendum this December, by which its readers, men and women alike, are invited to express their opinion upon eleven questions of pressing national importance.

What do the people of the Prairie Provinces think upon these eleven vital questions? That is what The Guide Referendum is being conducted to find out. This is the only opportunity any part of the Canadian people have of pronouncing upon these progressive measures, and we trust every man and woman entitled to vote will mark their ballot, to be published in the issue of next December 3. These questions concern the whole Dominion and not only the Prairie Provinces, so we want our

readers to combine to make the Referendum a full expression of their opinions, no matter where they live. Canadian public opinion must deal one way or another with the Taxation of Land Values, the system of Protection, the danger of Militarism, and the various other problems mentioned. By addressing themselves to these up-to-date issues, Guide readers will not only stamp themselves as the true Progressives in this country, but will also do themselves a lasting benefit.

The Questions

1. Are you in favor of having the Initiative, Referendum and Right of Recall placed upon the statute books of your own province, in such a form as to give the people complete control over all legislation and legislators?
2. Are you in favor of Free Trade with Great Britain?
3. Are you in favor of the complete abolition of the Canadian Customs Tariff?
4. Are you in favor of having all school, municipal, provincial and federal revenues raised by a direct tax on land values?
Note.—"Land" here is used in its economic sense to include all natural resources.
5. Are you in favor of placing a special surtax of \$25 per quarter-section upon all vacant farm lands?
6. Are you in favor of placing a special surtax of \$25 per quarter-section upon the land held by one individual or corporation above four quarter-sections?
7. Are you in favor of having all railways, telegraphs, telephones and express services owned and operated by the public?
8. Are you in favor of extending the franchise to women on equal terms with men?
9. Are you in favor of Dominion Legislation providing for the incorporation of co-operative societies?
10. Are you in favor of the nomination of Parliamentary candidates pledged to support the farmers' platform, regardless of the action of both political parties?
11. Do you believe that Canada, instead of spending millions for naval armament (either British or Canadian), should devote her energies and spend millions, if necessary, towards the establishment of universal peace and disarmament and the settlement of international disputes by arbitration?

RULES

1. The official ballots will be published in The Guide only once, on December 3, 1913. Extra copies of that issue cannot be secured, since this Referendum is for Guide readers only.
2. There will be a woman's ballot and a man's ballot, both exactly alike, so that the wives, mothers, and any woman 21 years of age may vote as well as the men 21 years of age.
3. Each question should be answered simply by writing "Yes" or "No" after the question.
4. The ballot will be absolutely secret. Readers must sign the ballot, otherwise it will be rejected as a spoiled ballot. No names, however, will be published, but only the total numbers voting "Yes" or "No" on the questions.
5. The ballot should be mailed to "Referendum Editor, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.," as soon after December 3 as possible.
6. Letters to The Guide are invited dealing with any of the questions in the Referendum. Letters opposed to The Guide's policy are just as welcome and will be published just as freely as those in favor, but all letters should be kept as short as possible.

WOMEN MAY VOTE

The Guide has always been a staunch champion of Woman Suffrage. In this Referendum it will give practical proof of its belief by having a woman's ballot as well as a man's ballot, allowing the women to vote on the self-same questions as the men. The only qualification needed is that of being a woman reader of The Guide, 21 years of age. This is the first time in the history of Canada the women have been invited or even allowed to express their views

upon matters of vital public welfare. The privilege thus thrown open to the prairie women carries with it a responsibility. Those who feel themselves poorly informed along certain lines have time to study the eleven questions in the time yet remaining before the voting will take place. Without doubt the democracy of the twentieth century demands the wisdom, sympathy and insight of woman for its full development, and Canadian women cannot set themselves too soon to the solution of the problems now affecting the economic and social well-being of the Dominion. Most men are free to confess that they have made more or less of a botch of trying to run the government by themselves. We look for a new moral impetus, a saner outlook and wider human sympathy to enter into the settlement of our public questions with the advent of women into public affairs.

AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

While we are anxious for as large a response as possible, the educational effect of the Referendum is still more important than the actual voting. Readers will be able to study all these questions at their leisure, discuss the doubtful points through the columns of the Mail Bag during the next few weeks, and make up their minds calmly and deliberately, free from all outside influences, such as party leanings or the personality of political candidates. No one knows everything about these eleven national questions. Here is a splendid chance for us to learn more about them from each other. By December 3, we hope that over 33,000 of our men and women readers will have come to their own conclusions on these questions and be ready to cast their ballots in The Guide Referendum.

Manitoba

This section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. C. Henders, President.

DELORAINÉ GRAIN GROWERS

The Delorainé Branch of Manitoba Grain Growers' Association held a meeting on Saturday, Nov. 1. A good representative turnout faced the chairman, George Weidenhamer. The first business taken up was the election of secretary-treasurer for the balance of this year, G. N. Stewart being appointed. Moved by A. Hainsworth, seconded by Wm. Servage, and carried: That the president and vice-president be a committee to draft and forward a resolution of condolence to Mrs. J. B. Stewart and family. A labor contract form submitted from the Association for approval was next discussed, and a committee of G. N. Stewart, Jas. Steedsman, and H. McKenzie were appointed to revise or add to the clauses to suit local or western conditions. Some views were next heard on the proposed Hail Insurance bill, but it was finally laid over for further discussion at the annual meeting, which takes place in December. Discussion on co-operative buying was next engaged in, and by the live interest taken in this subject we should say it meets with the hearty approval of the members of this branch—partly due no doubt, to the success met with so far in their combined purchases of some of the staple lines connected with their agricultural calling.

CO-OPERATIVE BUYING POPULAR

Co-operative buying has taken a great hold upon our branches this year and not only are they saving themselves a considerable amount of money on each carload of stuff they handle, but are also getting others who are not members so interested that many of our branches are gaining a considerable number of new members, and are beginning to realize the truth of the motto "Help yourself by helping one another."

As an example of the above the secretary of the Keyes branch writes that

they have ordered a car of flour and feed and as a result have gained 13 new members. This branch was only organized this summer, and he expects to have another 30 members by the beginning of the year, as a result of saving on co-operative buying. The secretary of Binscarth writes as follows: Enclosed please find express order for \$22.00, half membership fees on a balance of 44 members, \$14.00 sent previously makes a total of \$36.00 for 72 members. This is a slight increase over last year, accounted for by a saving on handling a carload of binder twine. Trusting there are increasing memberships in many associations.

WM. L. JOHNSON, Sec.-Treas.

FOXWARREN BANQUET PLANS

The secretary of the Foxwarren Branch, R. J. Donnelley, writes that they intend holding their annual meeting and banquet in the near future and want a speaker from the Grain Growers' Grain Co., in addition to one from the Central Association, and are arranging to have Mr. White, manager of the co-operative department of the company, address them at that meeting. He also writes that they have at present 77 paid up members. The annual meeting of the Foxwarren Branch has for some years been a great social function in that district, as a banquet is held to which are invited all the people of the district, young and old. This banquet and social is looked forward to every year, and has been the means of cementing the residents of that district together more than any other thing.

Any farmer needing help for the winter should write in to this office, as we have some of the men we brought out for harvest applying for work for the winter or year, and we may be able to supply them with work if we knew of the farmers wanting men.

Lantern Lecture in South Western Manitoba

That the farmers of Manitoba are taking a keen interest in the work of the Grain Growers' Association and The Guide is being shown at every town at which the Grain Growers' lantern lecture is given. Large audiences are turning out at the different points along the route to learn all about what the organized farmers are doing to improve conditions.

The lecture is under the direction of R. J. Avison, of Gilbert Plains, director of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, and W. B. Meneer, of St. Louis, another prominent member of the Association. These two men are equipped with a splendid lantern and the lecture is descriptive of the rise and growth of the Grain Growers' movement. The lecture also shows that many improvements which the men on the land now enjoy were secured and brought about by the farmers themselves, through their organizations, and that further improvements and reforms which are very much needed will be secured in the same way. Every Western farmer who believes in freedom and the square deal ought to attend these meetings.

The lecturers show a large number of colored lantern views which are well worth seeing. Here are some of the more important of these:—

1—Appropriate cartoons giving a political history of the times from an independent standpoint.

2—Interesting photographs and views of the co-operative movement in the old country, showing how the people in England and Scotland are reducing the cost of living by co-operation and dispensing with the middleman.

3—Photographs of the terminal elevators at Fort William operated by the Grain Growers' Grain Company; the timber limit belonging to the company in British Columbia; the home of The Grain Growers' Guide and many others too numerous to mention.

Last, but not least, they show a number of comic pictures to amuse the young folks.

A large number of Western farmers do not realize the immense power for good the Association is. It is to help the

Association and to enlighten these men as to reforms for which The Guide and the organized farmers are fighting that this campaign of education has been planned.

Carroll

A very enthusiastic meeting was held at Carroll on November 14. H. Pettinger made a splendid chairman, and prominent among the audience were: G. F. Taylor, secretary of the Association; J. Turner, P. Dawley, G. W. Christie and C. F. Anderson, all of Carroll.

Souris

A representative gathering of farmers attended the lecture at this point on November 18, and great interest was taken in the lecture and the various cartoons and illustrations shown on the screen. About sixty farmers attended the meeting altogether and enjoyed the lecture very much.

Hartney

On the 20th about 150 farmers gathered at Hartney to listen to an able discourse, illustrated by lantern views, delivered by R. J. Avison. Great interest was taken in all the proceedings. W. Robson, president of the Association, took the chair for the evening. Much of the success of this gathering was due to the efforts of W. J. Jasper. Other prominent farmers present were: W. MacDonald, J. Aikenhead, Geo. Morrison, R. Jackson, J. Aikenhead, H. Galbraith and J. J. McBurney.

MEETINGS YET TO BE HELD

Whitewater	Nov. 25
Boissevain	Nov. 26
Ninga	Dec. 1
Killarney	Dec. 2
Holmfild	Dec. 3
Cartwright	Dec. 4
Mather	Dec. 5
Clearwater	Dec. 6
Crystal City	Dec. 7
Pilot Mound	Dec. 8
Snowflake	Dec. 9
Manitou	Dec. 10
Darlingford	Dec. 11
Thornhill	Dec. 12
Morden	Dec. 13
Plum Coulee	Dec. 14
Morris	Dec. 15
Emerson	Dec. 16

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