

# The Mail Bag

## DREADNOUGHTS

Editor, Guide:—In discussions about the necessity of a navy and its dreadnoughts, it is forgotten that God told us to put our trust in dreadnoughts, but of a far different sort to those of man's making. God used the same word: "Dread not, neither be afraid of them. The Lord your God which goeth before you, He shall fight for you, according to all that He did for you in Egypt." Deut. 1, 29, and in many similar passages, where it is either "Dread not," or "Fear not." So also did He fight for us against Sannacherib, when our case seemed quite hopeless, so again did He destroy the Spanish Armada, and so He will do again if we only use His kind of "dreadnought." The Bible tells us that He will rescue us from destruction at Armageddon, which is soon coming. Let him that readeth understand. Yours truly,

"FAITH"

## ANOTHER ESTIMATE

Editor, Guide:—I beg leave to ask a question: Is the condition of the farmer in Saskatchewan any better today than it was ten years ago? I have been told that the condition of the farmer was then so serious that some of the deep-thinking grain growers banded themselves together and formed what we now know as the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and when I think of the good work which that Association has done I confess I can scarcely conceive how grain growing here could have survived without that Association. A neighbor and myself figured out the following cost of production of the three principal grain crops. I wonder if other farmers figure out what it costs them to produce grain? If they don't perhaps some of them would say these figures are not correct, but I believe the women on the farms will agree with me, for in

reading the Country Homemakers' page I find that many of them keep the home together with the butter and egg money. If the people had a chance to vote on those eight questions in The Guide Referendum and the answer to each of them was "yes," in my opinion we would find we had the remedy.

Cost per acre of producing grain in Estevan, Sask., district, Township 3, range 8, west of 2nd meridian.

|                                                              | Wheat  | Oats   | Flax   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. Preparing the ground for seed—Plowing                     | \$1.75 | \$1.75 | \$1.75 |
| 2. Seed—Twice harrowed                                       | .50    | .50    | .50    |
| 3. Planting or seeding                                       | 1.50   | 1.50   | 1.00   |
| 4. Cultivation—Once harrowed                                 | .50    | .50    | .50    |
| 5. Harvesting—Includes stacking and twine for wheat and oats | 1.10   | 1.10   | .75    |
| 6. Threshing—Wheat 10c, oats 7c, flax 2c                     | 1.80   | 2.80   | 2.50   |
| 7. Cost of haulage to elevator—Six miles                     | .90    | 1.20   | .50    |
| 8. Interest on money invested in land and equipment          | \$ .25 | \$ .25 | \$ .25 |
| 9. Wear and tear on implements                               | .75    | .75    | .75    |
| 10. Total cost per acre                                      | 13.30  | 14.60  | 12.75  |
| 11. Average yield per acre—Bushels                           | 18     | 40     | 10     |
| 12. Average grade—2 NW, 3 W, 1 NW                            |        |        |        |
| 13. Average local market price per bushel this season        | .65    | .23    | 1.10   |
| 14. Market value per acre                                    | 11.70  | 9.20   | 11.00  |
| 15. Loss per acre                                            | 1.60   | 5.40   | 1.75   |

Referring to item 8:  
Land is valued at \$30.00 per acre.  
Equipment at 5.00 per acre at 10% = \$4.25.  
Horses and stock at 7.50 per acre.  
Buildings not included.

## FARMERS' FLOUR MILLS

Editor, Guide:—In a recent issue of The Guide it is stated that the retail price of flour in some towns is \$3.75 per bag, while the Grain Growers' Grain Company was selling at \$2.80 per bag by the car lot. It is also stated that at the present prices of wheat flour can be manufactured at \$2.20 per bag at a good profit. Now, in that case, I think it is time the farmers of the West

owned their own flour mills. If it was only for the sake of helping the car shortage it would more than pay the farmers to own and operate large flour mills in each province of the West. But look at the profit on the flour. Some of these days we farmers will wake up to find that some other large corporation is building large flour mills all over the West, and with the farmers' money, too. But the farmer will not share in the profits. Why should not the farmers do it themselves and share in the profits? We grow the wheat—why not make the flour?

The Grain Growers' Grain Co. is the proper company to take this matter up and I would suggest that they sell shares to the farmers for the milling purpose. It is simply up to us farmers to help ourselves. I would suggest large mills as they would be needed if once the start was made. I would also suggest that working men in the cities and villages be given a chance to take shares and that the working men be allowed to pay for their shares on monthly payments. There will never be a better time to start than now, and one share for each farmer to start it would not be much. There is no question about the mills paying, it is only getting them started.

ED. HORSLEY.

Winnipeg.

## INTERESTS AMENABLE TO REASON

Editor, Guide:—I read The Guide with great interest, and have the greatest respect for its opinions. I agree with it that there are many wrongs and hard conditions which the farmers and other people of this country are laboring under. I believe that some of the things complained of in The Guide are incidental to the development of a new country, and in time will be remedied.

There are other things, however, which need attention at the present time, and I believe The Guide is doing a great work in educating the people along democratic lines, for, after all, any great improvement in the government will have to start with the people. Some of the most important matters that need attention from the government are: A better system of agricultural credit, to provide cheaper capital; cheaper freight and express rates, and a lowering of the tariff all around, as the States are doing, which would, or at least ought to, greatly help to reduce the cost of living. Indeed, it seems to me that the tariff as a means of raising revenue will soon be doomed. Given these reforms other changes would follow; for instance, with a better agricultural credit system the farmers would be in a position to go more into mixed farming, dairying, and stock raising, which many of them are unable to do under present conditions. This would put the prosperity of the country on a sound basis, we would be able to use a great deal of the grain here in the West and produce finished products, which command a good price here, instead of shipping out all our grain and having to take whatever price is going. I believe the farmers' associations are a grand thing, and I think some effort should be made to organize them in the East also. I believe the associations at their conventions should welcome and invite representatives of the railroads, banks and manufacturers, as they will thereby be able to discuss their differences in a businesslike manner and come to a better understanding of each other's needs and conditions, thereby promoting harmony and good will among all classes. It is one thing to preach about injustice, but it is another thing to have that injustice made right. I believe it is a

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## THE PROCESS OF EVOLUTION

Constant use shapes the beaks of vultures to make them most suitable for the desires of their owners.

## HOUSE

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