

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, November 12th, 1913

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

The agricultural colleges of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and the newly established Agricultural High Schools in Alberta, are now opening their doors to the farmers' sons and daughters, who desire to better fit themselves for their business in life, that of agriculture, and at the same time enable them to make farming a pleasanter and more profitable occupation. It is not so many years ago since the fathers and mothers on the farms viewed these institutions with distrust, and accused the colleges and schools of turning the young people away from agriculture. This and kindred accusations have all been exploded long ago. Time was when the boy who showed no genius or unusual ability was consigned to the farm while his cleverer brothers and sisters were sent to college, farming in those days being looked upon as a kind of hum-drum occupation and a means of livelihood for those who were no good for anything else. But "the old order has changed," science has revealed in farming possibilities never dreamed of, and we are beginning to realize that it takes a very high order of ability and education to bring out the full possibilities of the soil, and that agriculture is as great a science as astronomy, and that hitherto indifferent farmers have only been eking out a bare living from their farms simply because they did not know how to mix brains with the soil. The science of agriculture is fast becoming more appreciated, and is more and more regarded as a high and noble calling, a dignified profession. Luther Burbank says:

"The time will come when man will be able to do anything he wishes in the vegetable kingdom; he will be able to produce at will, any shade and color he chooses, and almost any flavor and any fruit; that the size of all fruits, grains, vegetables and flowers is just a matter of sufficient understanding, and that nature will give us almost anything, when we know enough to treat her intelligently, wisely and sympathetically."

The farmer's son at college will find himself face to face with an array of courses as intricate as those which face the medical or engineering student. He will have to work out the enigmas of science and physics and chemistry, he must know rotations and fertilizers, must spend time at the bench and forge, must be able to take the plow to pieces and repair the binder. He must know how to drive the tractor and fix the carburetor; he must know the points of live-stock and be able to judge them at a glance, and instantly detect any flaws and weak points. He must know the seeds, weeds, plants, insects, fungi, in fact he must learn in the short course of three or five years, more than the leading scientists of fifty years ago knew in a lifetime. If an agricultural student applies himself he will succeed. If he fails it is his own fault and not that of his college. The same remarks apply to his sister, who pursues a training in home economics. For those having a fairly good education and the gift of common sense, the agricultural colleges and schools of Western Canada will concentrate more into a few years than it took their fathers and grandfathers a lifetime to learn. The agricultural colleges will deliver the goods when they have the proper material to work upon.

ENEMIES OF THE GRAIN GROWERS

Last week, at the town of Holland, Man., in the centre of a very rich farming district, the Grain Growers' Illustrated Lantern Lecture was advertised to be held. It was suggested that the lecture be given in the school house, as it was not a profit making proposition. The editor of The Guide, who happened

to be in town that day, accompanied by the director of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association in charge of the lecture, called upon the chairman of the school board, who is a leading merchant, asking permission to use the school house. Mr. Merchant was not favorable to the proposition and volunteered the information that the Grain Growers' Association was a very selfish organization. "Why don't the Grain Growers go after reduced freight rates, instead of trying to break up every legitimate business," remarked Mr. Merchant. The Grain Growers' representatives expostulated mildly with him, and endeavored to disabuse Mr. Merchant's mind. His wife and son, however, came to his support, and all three simultaneously proceeded to deliver a severe indictment of the Grain Growers' organization in general. As a finishing touch, Mr. Merchant related a story which he, or somebody else, had concocted without foundation to the effect that "I remember years ago of a Farmers' Protective Organization in Winnipeg, the secretary of which skipped out with \$200,000 of the farmers' money. You fellows in Winnipeg are fleehing the money out of the farmers in the country, and I expect very soon the Grain Growers' organization will end up the same way as the Farmers' Protective Organization." The Grain Growers' representatives, naturally, made no further attempt to correct the viewpoint of Mr. Merchant, as it would have been easier to make water flow uphill. Enquiry, however, elicited the cause of Mr. Merchant's animosity to the Grain Growers. The local Grain Growers' Association had ordered a carload of apples from the Grain Growers' Grain Company, at a price never before heard of in Holland, and Mr. Merchant was sore because he was not getting any toll out of the farmers on this carload of apples. In return he is bitterly hostile to the Grain Growers' organization and opposing them at every turn. There are several other business men in Holland who are also attacking the Grain Growers, although not all, by any means, of the business men are quite so narrow minded. The same spirit is being stirred up in a great many of the smaller towns throughout Western Canada, which to a great extent is due to the action of the Dominion Retail Merchants' Association, which organization is fighting the spread of co-operation among the farmers.

Another characteristic attack on the Grain Growers was unearthed in the same town. A comfortable looking gentleman in the hotel proceeded to explain to the Grain Growers' representatives that the Grain Growers' Grain Company had never done anything to improve conditions for the Grain Growers in Manitoba. His story was something as follows: "I know a farmer living near town who shipped a car of wheat to Winnipeg and got 1 Northern, 1 per cent. dockage for it. The balance of his wheat from the same bin, 600 or 700 bushels, he hauled to the local Grain Growers' Grain Company elevator and got 1 Northern, but was docked 7 per cent. for dirt. I know this because I hauled some of the grain to the elevator myself, and this shows how much the Grain Growers' Grain Company is doing for the farmers."

The Grain Growers' representatives immediately proceeded to enquire and located the actual farmer in question, and the facts turned out to be that the farmer had shipped two carloads of wheat, both of them through the Grain Growers' Grain Company's local elevator, and they had gone to Winnipeg and got government grade and dockage in each case. The first carload went 1 Northern, 1 per cent. dockage, and the second carload,

2 Northern, 7 per cent. dockage, showing that the Grain Growers' Grain Company's elevator had nothing whatever to do with grade or dockage in either case, and, therefore, was entirely innocent of the charge being circulated by the Comfortable Gentleman.

Throughout Manitoba today there is being made a more vigorous and also more vicious onslaught upon the Grain Growers' Association, the Grain Growers' Guide and the Grain Growers' Grain Company than ever before in the history of the Grain Growers' organization. Absolute falsehoods are being circulated with the greatest of energy, and everything possible is being done to draw the farmers away from the support of their own organization. There is no doubt that this campaign is having a certain effect, and some farmers are allowing it to draw them away, while, of course, other farmers are being added to the Grain Growers' ranks every day. The local Grain Growers' Associations will have to become more active and push their organization harder if they are going to be able to stand up against the combined forces that are working against them. Some members of the Grain Growers' organization itself have simply used the Grain Growers' Grain Company to get a higher price for their grain out of some private company. This can frequently be done. But is it right? The farmer with a car to ship can very often get one-eighth or one-quarter of a cent. per bushel more for his wheat out of some private company or from some of the milling companies. These other concerns that are outbidding the Grain Growers' Grain Company have sources of profit that the Grain Growers' Grain Company does not have, and where they meet the competition of the Grain Growers' Grain Company they pay the farmers a higher price. But where they do not have to meet the competition of the Grain Growers' Grain Company they give the farmers a lower price and heavier dockage, very very frequently. Every farmer now certainly knows that no person is making any private profit out of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, but that every cent. of profit is used to improve conditions surrounding the grain trade and also in reducing the price which the farmers have to pay for their necessities of life. If the farmers will be led away from their own company by from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per car higher price, then they cannot expect their own company to make the progress that it should, and be as effective in improving conditions. The Old Country co-operators always were loyal to their own stores, regardless of the bait held out by private concerns, and the result is that they now have the greatest co-operative institution in the world. They buy their goods from their own stores cheaper than anywhere else, borrow money from their own concern cheaper than from any bank, and have become one of the greatest commercial organizations in Great Britain. If the farmers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta hope to free themselves from present unjust conditions, they must certainly stand by their own Grain Growers' Associations, and The Grain Growers' Guide and their own Grain Companies.

FLEEING FROM FREE TRADE

The Toronto News devoted most of its editorial columns, in a recent issue, to a letter from a workingman to an English magazine. "A Cry of Woe" the News calls the article, and without question the recital of this worker's life story, and his struggle against poverty and unemployment, is extremely sad. But the News cannot resist winding up the editorial with a typical Protectionist preachment. "The