

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, October 30th, 1912

## NO DEFENCE BUT DOLLARS

Seven weeks ago we published our reply and challenge to the Toronto News. But the organ of protection and plutocracy has not responded. If The News has no defence for the protected interests it is a pretty good sign that there is no defence. They evidently rely upon their dollars.

## WATCH CAR ORDER BOOK

Now that the annual car shortage season is upon us, it is necessary that the grain growers should watch the Car Order Book very closely. The Grain Commission has appointed travelling inspectors to see that the Grain Act is lived up to. But the grain growers themselves must also be on the alert. The farmers should not take unfair advantage of the Car Order Book and should see that no one else does. We have a report that merchants are helping out certain farmers by ordering cars for them. This should not be allowed. No one can put their name on the Car Order Book who is not at the time the owner of a carlot of grain. And no applicant is permitted to have his name on the Car Order Book twice at one time. Any person who discovers that the Car Order Book regulations are not being adhered to can take action at once before the local magistrate, and if a conviction follows the man who lays the information gets half the fine. If the farmers are on the alert they can prevent any abuse of the Car Order Book.

## PROTECTION IN GERMANY

Fervid, not to say frantic, appeals are being directed to the people of Canada and especially to the Western farmers to support Protection and thereby build up Canada. If only we are good and do not remove a stone of the sacred tariff wall or rather if we allow the patriotic manufacturers to build up a wall as high as their wisdom deems necessary, why Canada will become a "well rounded nation," and perhaps by 2000 A.D. we may have a home market capable of consuming our natural products. It seems a rather long time to wait for results, but if any doubt existed that the road to national greatness and happiness lay between sky-high tariff barricades the future gain might offset the present loss. But is Protection the way to make the nation great and the people prosperous? In Germany we have an object lesson of Protection carried out to its logical conclusion. Recent dispatches from Berlin tell of a meat famine, food riots and violent fighting between the poorer consumers in Silesia and the producers. Peasant women were as fierce as the men in venting their wrath on the heads of the retailers, and the police had to drive the enraged throng out of the market places at the point of their sabres. Now, what was all this tumult about? It is because the protective tariff has inflated the already high price of meat and other produce. Germany has a tariff which would make the hearts of the Canadian Manufacturers' association dance with joy. The German manufacturers, like our own, have persuaded their government that nothing should be allowed into the country—except what they themselves want in manufacturing—unless it is "made-in-Germany." In 1879 Free Trade in Germany was overthrown by a coalition of manufacturers and land owners. The manufacturers wanted heavy import duties on everything produced abroad, and if they could get this tariff concession from the government they promised to help the landown-

ers in getting import duties imposed on foreign grain. To this the landowners agreed, and since that time Germany has had the strictest kind of protection. Without doubt a great many manufactures have been built up. But in doing this they have almost crushed out of existence the independent middle class farmer, so that now much of the agricultural land is in the possession of business-like landowners who work their vast estates by paid help just as the manufacturers do with their factory hands. The small farmers still left are in a wretched plight, the high price of their produce not nearly compensating them for their heavy burdens in being unable to get cheap imported fodder for their cattle, and in the tariff taxes they must pay on all they buy. The cattle industry in Germany is a considerable one, but there is such a keen "home market" that German cattle cannot begin to supply the demands of the nation. But the bringing in of cattle from foreign countries to supply the people with meat is looked upon as a bad thing for home industry, so that heavy duties are levied to discourage this procedure. Yet in spite of a high tariff Germany exported in 1908 animals and animal products to the value of £9,616,000, while they imported to the value of £63,283,000. The import duty on meat is \$1.62 per 100 lbs., flour per barrel is \$2.17, wheat is taxed 22.7c per bushel from countries having special commercial treaties, while from the other countries it is 36c. The import duty on oats is 17½ cents per bushel, on barley 20½ cents and on rye 30½ cents. The butter coming into Germany must pay \$1.80 per 100 pounds and so on. Is it any wonder that the people have been driven to horse flesh as one of their staple foods? For the first six months of the present year Berlin alone consumed six thousand five hundred and fifty-six horses. Berlin owners are forced to keep a sharp lookout on their pet cats, for a great many of these are being killed this year for food. This is what Protection under most favorable conditions has done after thirty-three years for Germany. The Germans are leading the world in the new science of efficiency, in technical education for every young man and in alert business-getting in foreign countries. Yet all the fancied gains of Protection do not make up for the crushing out of the farmer. While the fertility and comparative cheapness of Western farm lands may disguise and make the burden of our protective tariff bearable for a while, the result is bound to be the same. Western farmers do not propose to become another object lesson of the oppression worked by a tariff framed to rob the many for the sake of the few. Do Canadians want the brand of protection that is "made-in-Germany?"

## WOULD RECIPROCITY HELP

On the front page of the Winnipeg Telegram on the afternoon of October 19, appears the following dispatch:—

"Calgary, Alta., Oct. 19.—Eighty thousand dollars for 800 head of Alberta beef steers is the price which George Lane, who has just returned from Chicago, received for topping the market. Mr. Lane will make several large shipments of cattle to Chicago this fall and estimates that the total amount of duty he will pay the United States government will be \$50,000."

Yet the Telegram says the farmers would gain nothing by reciprocity. That \$50,000 that goes into Uncle Sam's treasury would go into the pockets of Canadian farmers if reciprocity were in effect.

## TREASON AND REASON

The war just declared against Turkey has drawn from a prominent Toronto banker anxious forebodings as to the safety of Canadian bank credits placed in both Turkey and Greece. Our bankers are paragons of loyalty, yet they are prepared to finance Turks on better terms than they will help the Canadian farmers, the ultimate source of the bulk of their revenues. Similarly the rampant Toronto Imperialists prefer to develop Mexico, Brazil, Porto Rico and Trinidad rather than extend reasonably cheap credit to the grain growers of the West. The Canadian Pacific Board of Directors are simon-pure patriots, yet they hand out a juicy \$60,000,000 "melon" to Dutch, French, German, American and other foreign shareholders, said \$60,000,000 "melon" having been grown on the Western prairies, watered with the sweat and blood of the farmer and individual shipper through long years of extortionate freight rates. The Canadian Cannery combine want the government to admit American tomatoes duty free (to canners only) to enable them to can and sell them as Canadian goods. During the last four months the imports from the United States amounted to nearly \$142,000,000 or about two-thirds of the total imports, a large proportion of these goods being brought in as raw materials for our manufacturers. The Canadian manufacturers frankly admit that they place hundreds of millions of dollars insurance with American companies simply because it is cheaper than with Canadian or British companies. All these are the patriotic acts of true-blue loyalists—of loyalists who have reached the lofty plane where they do not allow their loyalty to interfere with their business. But if the farmer wants to sell his grain in the United States, that is treason, and the combined forces of provincial and Dominion governments feel called upon to work tooth and nail, to turn courts of justice into courts of injustice, in order to stamp out this "treasonable talk." What we want for a change is to hear less treason and more reason.

## WILL OUR REPRESENTATIVES FIGHT?

One of the important matters to be settled by the representatives of the people when Parliament meets is whether the C.P.R. is going to run Canada or Canada control the C.P.R. The C.P.R. by their latest issue of stock in defiance of the statutes of Canada have become too arrogant for the public good. They have also made a defence against any reduction of freight rates. The largest portion of the \$45,000,000 or \$60,000,000 (according to market price) melon cut by the C.P.R. a few days ago came out of the pockets of the Western people. Is this extortion to continue? Will our Western members permit it? The power of the railway magnates must be broken. The ultimate solution will be found to be that of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa—public ownership. But someone says there will be too much graft. The answer is that all the graft that could possibly be made through public ownership would not be a fraction of the extortion practiced by the railways. And further, the day is not far distant when graft will be eliminated from public administration. It will be far better to have publicly owned railways than a railway owned public—and owned by foreign millionaires at that.

It must be fine to be as patriotic as the Canadian Manufacturers' association, especially when it costs nothing.