

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, September 4, 1918

Guide Makes Him Sick

We are glad to publish herewith a letter just received from M. J. Beatty, of Beatty Bros., Limited, Fergus, Ont., one of the well-known protected manufacturers—

BEATTY BROS. LIMITED

R.T. Complete Barn and Stable Equipment, Pumps, Churns, Washing Machines, Ladders, Grain Grinders, Etc.
Head Office: Fergus, Ont.
Branches: Winnipeg, Man., London, Ont., Edmonton, Alta., Montreal, Que., St. John, N.B.

Fergus, Ont., August 22, 1918.

Editor of The Grain Growers' Guide,
Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Sir:—

Why do you continue to lie, lie, lie, in your Editorial columns? Do you think that any policy or any programme or reform, can finally succeed, that has to be bolstered up by continual misrepresentation and lying?

I recently remarked to our Winnipeg manager, that I would be willing to bet \$5.00 that you did not issue a copy of your paper in the last 12 months, in which I could not point out a direct falsehood, which would be acknowledged by an honest individual, no matter what party in Canada he belonged to.

Your paper comes on my desk each week, and I look over the Editorial columns, and it makes me sick to think Canadians, supposed to be intelligent, are circulating broadcast through Western Canada, such continual gross misrepresentation, and that those to whom this misrepresentation is made should have no means of knowing the facts. You may be able to prejudice their mind, and to get their support, but I don't think that any programme which has to be built up on falsehood and Deceit will finally succeed.

I will give only one example. I could give hundreds from Editorial columns, and no one knows this better than you. In your issue of August 14, you stated "When a person buys goods made in Canada, none of the tariff duty goes into the public treasury. When the same person buys foreign made goods, all the duty goes into the public treasury." This is a straight falsehood as you well know, for there are no goods manufactured in Canada, but more or less of the raw material used in them and some of the machinery used in their manufacture is imported and duty is collected on same. Further you know that the people employed in making them pay taxes that go into the public treasury, and with part of the money import goods on which duty is paid that goes into the public treasury.

If the policy you advocate is sound, why does it have to be supported by misstatements and lies? Why can't you stay with the facts?

Yours truly,

M. J. BEATTY,
Of Beatty Bros., Limited.

M.J.B./A.G.

Mr. Beatty, we understand, is an honor graduate of Toronto University, where he specialized in political economy. No doubt it was at the university he developed his delicate style of letter writing. Judging by this product, we would imagine that the correspondence department of Toronto University must be highly efficient.

In the first place we would like to accept Mr. Beatty's bet, but we have no anticipation of earning the \$5.00 because it is only a few months ago that we called a similar bet by the president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association for \$100, but we have not seen the \$100 yet. However, we would like to get Mr. Beatty's \$5.00, so we ask him to make good or produce the money.

We are sorry to hear that Mr. Beatty gets sick every time he reads The Guide. This must be due to the fact either that Mr. Beatty has a weak stomach or that the editorial columns of The Guide are pretty strong stuff. We imagine, however, that the real cause of Mr. Beatty's sickness is due to the fact that the general public is being awakened up to the inequality and inequity of the protective tariff.

In the article from The Guide which Mr.

Beatty quotes, he would be correct if he did not overlook the fact that Guide readers as a rule have a certain amount of common sense. They all know that under the new war tariff tax there is a small duty paid on raw material, mostly five per cent, and seven-and-a-half per cent, which in most cases is small compared with the duty on the finished products. It does not affect however the truth of the statement that comparatively a small amount of revenue goes to the Dominion treasury on made-in-Canada goods, while all the duty of imported goods goes to the government treasury. This is quite true in Mr. Beatty's own line of business, and no one knows it better than himself. The protective tariff enables him to charge the Canadian farmer higher prices for his goods than he could charge if there were no protective tariff and he were compelled, like the farmer, to face open competition. Mr. Beatty prepared to do his business on the same basis as the farmers of this country have to do theirs? We should like to hear from him on this point.

Finally, we think it unwise to deprive our readers of the information possessed by Mr. Beatty. We therefore would request him to prepare a 2,500 to 3,000 word article on the protective tariff, showing its advantages, or discussing it in any way that he thinks would be of advantage to the farmers and the country at large, and we shall be glad to publish it. If, in the article, Mr. Beatty can convince our readers that the policy of the organized farmers is wrong and that the protective tariff is a good and helpful and righteous institution, he will be doing good missionary work.

Political Housecleaning

The outstanding political event in Western Canada in the last few days has been the shakeup in the Alberta government. Premier Stewart has just returned from a trip to the battlefront in France and Flanders. Upon his return he asked his Attorney-General, Hon. C. W. Cross, for his resignation, which was not forthcoming. He therefore discharged him from his government, and took in to fill the vacancy Hon. A. G. McKay, member for Athabasca, and some years ago leader of the opposition in the Ontario legislature.

The general impression in Alberta seems to favor Mr. Stewart's action. Mr. Cross has been regarded as the practical type of politician who looked after his own political interests first, the interests of the party second, and public welfare third. Mr. Stewart is a practical and hard-headed farmer, who by the process of selection has come to the premiership of Alberta. He is not a flowery orator, nor is he a finished politician; but he seems to possess a rugged honesty of the kind that is needed in politics these days. We have had enough of political tricksters and born orators, and all that sort of thing. What we want now is business honesty and common sense.

A Practical Move

The following statement recently put out by F. Hedley Auld, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, possesses a good practical idea:—

There is already a tendency in evidence on the part of farmers whose crops were practically a failure to engage for the fall and winter months with farmers who have a winter's work for them, either in marketing grain or in caring for livestock. This is a tendency which should be encouraged, and

farmers in a position to employ a married man and make provision for his family should communicate with the Bureau of Labor of the Provincial Government at Regina, and application should also be made by men who have made insufficient revenue to keep them for the winter if they are in a position to leave their farms and hire out.

If those without crops can secure remunerative labor for the fall and winter, it would help to tide them over and get in shape for production next year. Thousands and thousands of successful farmers in these prairie provinces in the years past have worked out during the fall and winter, and so got their start for the next season.

Guide Posts to Direct Taxes

Each succeeding war budget is a guide post, with larger and more striking figures on it, pointing out to the Canadian people the uses of direct taxation, the justice of it, and the increasing necessity of more of it. The estimate of revenue which will be collected for the Dominion treasury during the fiscal year which began on April 1 last is, in round figures, \$300,000,000, of which total about one-third, it is expected, will come from the taxation specially imposed for war purposes. This will be a notably larger proportion of the Dominion revenue than was raised by such taxation during the fiscal year which ended March 31 last. The total raised during that year was \$261,125,454, of which the amount raised by special war taxation was \$76,073,000, and of this about \$45,000,000 came from increased customs levies. From the profits taxes came \$21,275,000 and from the increased postal charges \$5,800,000.

It is figured that during the current fiscal year the taxes on profits will yield nearly \$30,000,000, and about an equal amount is expected from the new taxation on incomes and on certain selected commodities on which new war taxation is being levied—matches, tea, coffee, tobacco, automobiles, jewelry, etc. Current imports are declining, and the customs' revenue will, it is anticipated, be less by \$10,000,000 or \$15,000,000 than it was last year. Nothing can be plainer than that the revenue requirements as the war goes on and after the war is ended, will necessitate increasing application of the principle of direct taxation.

The Ownership of Newspapers

There are more things needed to make the world safe for democracy than that German military might be put out of business, which is the first thing essential. What is democracy, after all, but public knowledge and public opinion in action? To make democracy safe, there must be public enlightenment. Public opinion must be based on the truth, not on falsehoods and deceptions. "Ye shall know the truth," it was written of old, "and the truth will make ye free." The power of the press in shaping public opinion is mighty and subtle; and it can work in many ways. To say nothing of actual falsifying of news and the printing of editorials designed to serve not the public welfare but some personal or party purpose, a newspaper can color the news it spreads before its readers. By an omission here and a skillful emphasis there, by suggestion and by insinuation, it can so present the news about public affairs, which is the raw material of public opinion, as to mislead its readers into false thinking. Surely it should be regarded as a primary essential of the safeguarding of democracy that nothing be left

