

the fact that too many are influenced to take a narrow view of the work now under way. The farmers' organization is undertaking to secure better returns to the farmers for their work. They have accomplished their purpose to a great degree. A great many farmers have refused to join because they could not see immediate returns for the dollar paid as an annual membership fee. When a farmers' mind gets reduced to such a condition that he will not join with his brother farmers in the work they are undertaking, unless he can actually see the dollar in return, then it is time for him to go away off somewhere by himself and think it over. Such men do not like themselves, and very few other men like them. They will never create much of a stir in this world, and will certainly not leave much of a vacancy when they leave. The man who lives his life without ever trying or planning to help anybody but himself, will hoe a lonely row and put in a miserable existence.

The western farmer is, as a rule, energetic, enterprising and broad-minded. Every individual who has the spirit of manhood in his make up, must take some pride in the fact that he is a citizen of this Great West, which is no mean country. The work that the organized farmers are doing is not only benefiting outlying communities and individual farmers, but its influence is felt in the uplifted moral tone of the province and in the production of more equitable conditions under which the farmers labor. The annual conventions draw farmers from every part of the province, who meet together and interchange thoughts, and who are thus given an advantage of benefiting from the experiences of others. Beyond even what any one province, or the farmers' organizations of one province can do, there is a splendid panorama of possibilities which unrolls to the eye as one contemplates the vast Canadian organization of farmers from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is one of the grandest conceptions that has ever appeared within the range of probability during the history of Canada. The day when the organized farmers of Nova Scotia and British Columbia will shake hands in sympathy across the golden prairies is not far away. Already the four leading provinces of Canada are to the front, and there is every indication that soon a Canadian Council of Agriculture will be formed.

Who is bold enough to predict what a national organization of farmers can accomplish? The aims, the hopes, the ideals of the farmers of Canada, from coast to coast, are, in the main, identical. They have been preyed upon without mercy by the capitalistic classes, and have been robbed by the manufacturers and the transportation companies from time immemorial. The party politicians have smiled at the farmers and have openly flouted them because they knew that without organization, the farmers were helpless. The farmers, when organized thoroughly in every province, will be able to speak to the governments in the various provinces, and at Ottawa, in a voice that will command attention at once. The politicians will cease to smile at them, and will get busy at once. When the farmers of Canada speak as one man, there will be a scramble among the members of the House of Commons to do their bidding. The day is coming, and near at hand, when the farmers as a whole will realize that party politics can do them no good and always works to their undoing. When a farmer considers the possibilities that the future presents, and realizes that even the little part that he can play will help in the great cause, it is hard to realize how he can take a back seat. If a man is not in sympathy with his work and proud of his profession, then he ought to make a shift at once. He is out of place. A farmer should not only be a farmer, but he should have some backbone and above all things, be a man. The time is ripe now, and the country needs every manly man. There are great things in store for the man

who hears the call and answers it in the right spirit.

DR. COOK, THE COLOSSAL FAKIR

The greatest fake of the twentieth century was exposed a short time ago when it was proven that Dr. Cook never saw the North Pole. There is now no question but that Cook's whole story was a hoax, and that his plans were laid and executed with consummate skill. The world was ready and anxious to hand him the reward due to such an important discovery. Commander Peary arrived a few days later but found himself forestalled by the energetic Cook. The two then presented their claims to the world. Cook's offhand and manly declarations won him immediate respect and admiration. While no person doubted the validity of Peary's claim, yet his nasty, selfish and domineering actions did not find favor. Cook, despite the fact that he is an imposter, perpetrated such a gigantic hoax that he excited general admiration. But Cook made hay while the sun was shining and he laid up a goodly pile of hard cash before the scientific societies sat upon him. Cook made enough out of his various enterprises which followed his alleged discovery to make him independent for the rest of his life. Various rumors are now circulated that he is either confined in an insane asylum, or dead. It matters very little to the world which. He has had his day. His career was meteoric and he set the world agog. But it is all past now. Peary's fame is now in the ascendent and his is the one shining star in the cluster of Arctic explorers. Peary deserves the fame he has won and it will reap for him something more tangible than the laurel wreath. He is now assured of a position among the world's greatest. It is to be hoped for his own sake that his disposition will improve.

NO OPPOSING ARGUMENT YET

The chief topic under discussion by business men in the cities and towns throughout the west to-day, is that of government owned elevators. No matter where they meet, whether it be on the street, in the office, on the street car, the most popular query is, "What do you think about this elevator question?" On the whole, the opinion of the fair-minded portion of the public, outside the farming profession, favor the acquisition of the elevators by the government. Some say that it is class legislation, which, in principle, is pernicious. Some others, again, contend that the farmers in their strength, will become dangerous to the vested interests of the country. Still again, there is the cry that the farmers are not sufficiently intelligent to know what they want. Even in addition to all these we hear it occasionally said that the farmers look upon all other classes of people, who do not sow or reap for a living, as robbers. The number of reasons that people can produce to show that the government should not acquire the elevators is simply amazing. The capitalists say that such a move would frighten capital from the country.

Let us look over these views. Class legislation may be bad in principle but we have had a great deal of class legislation in the past and some of the capitalistic classes in Canada are so well fortified by class legislation that the only way by which the farmers will get a square deal is by some of the same so called "class legislation." The organized farmers will never be a menace to any right cause, but they certainly will always stand for reform and for the righting of wrongs that have been committed in the past. They will always regard the rights of others and stand for equal rights for all and special privileges for none. The claim that the farmers are not intelligent has been made so often and has been made the excuse for so many nefarious schemes that it is not worth while

to discuss it. The farmers may not all have university educations, but most of them have been graduated from the school of Hard Knocks and Bitter Experience and are capable of taking care of themselves if given a chance.

The farmers do not look upon all other men as robbers. But they have been stung so often and have been skinned to the right and to the left, and are still being beaten in many ways, that there is some slight excuse for the feeling that much of the world is out with the light finger. But the farmer well knows that there are honest people, and a great many of them, in all other walks of life and it is to them that he looks today for sympathy and aid in the great work that he is trying to do. The bugaboo which people have tried to raise that the organized farmers will frighten away capital, is worthy of some attention. There is no truth in that statement and it is being used for a purpose. If capital will be frightened away because the farmer is coming into his own and getting a square deal, then it had better stay away. But when 70,000 farmers came in from the United States this last year and settled on the western prairie and brought with them \$70,000,000 in hard cash, we see the other side of the story. Such men are worth more than the capitalists that come into the country. If a capitalist will not come to Canada simply because he cannot prey upon the farmers, then we do not need him. There is absolutely no danger of capital remaining away from Canada. Opportunities are too good and the flow of capital year by year will be heavier. Of all the reasons that have yet been advanced against Government ownership of grain elevators, there are none which we have heard that raise any serious obstacle in the minds of unbiased and intelligent business men.

Every farmer must do his duty toward the great issues that are now before him. Study and thought will make the solution right.

The day of right is at hand and the day of might is waning. This is the right course of progress.

No person pays attention to still water; it takes motion to bring respect. The organized farmers are moving.

What is needed in this great western country is cheap money. If the farmer could get his money at six per cent. instead of ten and twelve per cent., it would mean much to the progress of the land.

The annual convention of the United Farmers of Alberta will be held next week and the deliberations of that body will be that of serious and sincere men who have the welfare of their country at heart.

Every farmer who has a good farm should send a photo of his buildings and stock to THE GUIDE for publication. Join with us in showing what the west is capable of doing.

In our issue of December 29, we published an editorial on "Control of Terminal Elevators," which dealt with certain manipulations in terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur, which did not work out to the benefit of the farmer who grew the grain. It has been brought to our attention that our remarks could not apply to elevators owned and operated by railway companies, that is, by companies having no financial interest in the grain passing through the elevators. We are glad to make this correction. Such elevators are purely handling houses in which the grades of grain are maintained strictly, as there is no inducement for manipulation.