



SASKATCHEWAN SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association

SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

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Notes on Spokane Congress

It has occurred to me that perhaps our readers would like a short sketch of what was said at a little gathering of the Saskatchewan delegates to the Spokane Dry Farming Congress. Eighteen men met in the beautiful Davenport Restaurant for a lunch, just at the close of the congress, which was presided over by the Honorable, the Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan.

During the lunch Mr. Hugh McKellar, who was for years deputy minister of agriculture in Manitoba, sprung a little impromptu speech on the gathering and called on the minister for his impressions of the big congress. The minister had no intention of speeches, but as word had just been received that our train was two hours late, advantage might be taken of it in this way. He had two objects in getting his institute speakers to the congress, viz., to get those who could speak in contact with those who could teach, that they might be able to carry the gospel of good farming to others. It would give them confidence and prestige. His department was helpless without helping men. All would be larger and more useful by being at the congress. Spokane development led us to think what our own country may be with our mines, timber, fisheries and land. Only one thing could hinder us—lack of enterprise.

Mr. McKellar then called upon the secretary of the Saskatchewan G.G. Association to open the ball for the delegates. He, on rising, explained that he was not a delegate, but had come to the congress to secure information for himself and his association. He found strong antagonism everywhere to any attempt at a united farmers' organization, and he could not really understand why, as every other trade, business or calling was organized. He would ask the question: "Do we need a farmers' organization in Saskatchewan?" The audience answered unanimously, "Yes." Then, said the secretary, we need the best men we have into that organization. Evils and mistakes must be remedied from within. A great work was before the men on the land in Saskatchewan. Any man who thought on the work of the associations of grocers, lumber dealers, boards of trade and the general state of politics could see something of our great work as citizens of the greatest agricultural self-governing province in the world. He had learned much at the congress and exhibition, and from coming in contact with his hearers.

Mr. Fraser of Qu'Appelle was the funny man of the hour and put every one in a happy mood. Mr. Mantle, deputy minister of agriculture, the man who furnished information and looked after the whole crowd, next spoke, and his remarks were received with evident satisfaction by all. Mr. Patton, the Regina Board of Trade representative, said: "Business men do not know everything. What kept Spokane up? Her geographical position, transportation system and cheap power." He would be a better man for the trip.

Mr. Millar of Indian Head reviewed the early history of the Saskatchewan G.G.A., and told of the Honorable, the Minister of Agriculture as first president of the movement, driving many miles on dark and stormy nights, 40 degrees below zero, coming to his house like Santa Claus; he being the secretary. In all movements such as the G.G. Association was, some one must sacrifice in the early stages. Mr. Motherwell did this. Mr. Ramsay of Bladworth was glad he came. We were here as teachers and preachers of a great province. He thought the department had made a wise move in bringing its institute speakers to the congress.

Mr. Mooney, described by Chairman McKellar as the Hercules of the party, addressed the gathering as "Fellow Nation-builders." The agricultural department foundation of our province

was being well laid. Its success was because the head of it was large enough to let his deputy and helpers have a chance to develop their individuality, and not small enough to fear they might rob him of his prestige. The trip would make him a better farmer and better satisfied with his Saskatchewan home. Mr. Abbott of Maple Creek was the oldest in the party, but said he had been sitting at the feet of Gamaliel. Eighty per cent. of our farmers, said he, do not know how to farm. Mr. Bell of Estevan was not an institute speaker, but did it every day. He was an observer and had greatly appreciated the things he saw and heard, and the fruit, wheat and machinery exhibits at the fair. One impression was that as we all had the information, we should carry it back and practice it.

Mr. Gibson, of Wolseley, said that it was his first speech, although grey-headed. The trip had put marrow in his bones. He had tried in '86 to leave the country, but could not get out. Now he wanted to stay in it. Mr. Smith, of Saskatoon, said each likely had different

are the men who are attempting to deceive the British workmen into thinking protection the only right policy.

We may rest assured that the Globe's vigorous Free Trade editorials are fully endorsed by the Liberal government. It is especially interesting to the West at this time to find out what the government's position on the tariff really is. For this purpose the Globe's leading editorial referred to is worth studying. It is entitled "Strange Tariff Delusions." It states the case for out-and-out Free Trade in a masterly way. But in the last paragraph is this discouraging sentence: "There is no prospect of such an advantageous change at the present time, for the plausible arguments of tariff beneficiaries have taken too strong a hold to be put aside by the clearest refutations."

What does the "Globe" mean? What does the government mean? What does Sir Wilfrid Laurier mean by that sentence?—"There is no prospect of such an advantageous change at the present time, for the plausible arguments of tariff beneficiaries have taken too strong a hold to be put aside by the clearest refutations."

In the paragraph preceding, the

A Call to Arms

During the summer we have been making a special effort to get all our local officers to correspond regularly with the central office. We felt sure that just as soon as the rush of harvest work was over many important matters would be on deck. For different reasons we have failed to get replies from several of our outlying organizations.

We have now matters of great importance to deal with. But only those who have recently communicated with headquarters, (that is, sent in returns asked for), will receive our letters. If your association is not receiving our communications and you want to take part in the greatest movement of modern times you should at once communicate with our head office.

The contemplated mammoth Ottawa delegation, district conventions being arranged, and the great gathering of Saskatchewan farmers to be held this coming winter at Regina, makes it necessary that you should be an active member of our association. We suggest that all Saskatchewan readers of THE GUIDE make it an important part of each day's work to swell the numbers of our association. Wake the sleepy ones. Be a physician to the diseased. Raise the dead. Be a worker. Things will be as we make them.

Write us and let us send you some information as to how you may co-operate with us in the unfinished task of the ages.

FRED. W. GREEN, Secretary.

Moose Jaw, Sask.

views of the congress. Sectionalism was to be avoided. We should strive to educate, not dictate, to our people. Mr. Gillespie, of Abernethy, who became a life member of the Saskatchewan G.G.A. on this trip, noticed that about half the people in Spokane were Canadians, and that Canadian women were the best looking, and that the delegation compared favorably with others at the congress. All would go home larger and more contented men.

Mr. Brennan, of Indian Head, stated that he had attended the first Dry Farming Congress held in Saskatchewan in 1885. Nearly all we had heard had for years been practised in Saskatchewan. Why not try to grow more head on our wheat and less straw? Mr. Dickson, of Maple Creek, said that this meeting was to him the best of all the congress. All would be better men for the trip. Mr. Rougall, of Maple Creek, said the great problem in Saskatchewan was good country roads. He had enjoyed himself.

FRED. W. GREEN

ON THE TARIFF

The Toronto Globe of Oct. 4 might be called a Free Trade issue. On the front page is an account of the strong Free Trade address of Sir Wilfrid Laurier before the Canadian Club of Toronto. The leading editorial is a clear free trade refutation of that pet argument of protectionists, that "if the tariff were removed Canadian industries would be destroyed." The editorial, "The Real German Peril," shows powerfully that the men who deceive the German workmen into believing that protection is a benefit are enemies, as

writer of the editorial has given one of "the clearest refutations" possible, of the corner stone arguments of protectionists. The writer knows his ground and handles facts like a master. He knows every fallacy of protection and has given "the clearest refutations," but his words fall on deaf ears, and he knows it. "There is no prospect of such an advantageous change at the present time," he says sadly, "for the Canadian manufacturers have fooled the Canadian people into believing protection a good thing, and as long as the Canadian people are simple enough to believe the smooth talk of every commercial man who gets on the platform, there is no prospect of such an advantageous change as Free Trade." Is that not what the editorial means? Isn't it right? As long as we suck our thumbs and don't look farther than the ends of our noses as long as we let 3,000 manufacturers siphon the millions out of our pockets every year by the smooth talk that makes us believe the fallacies of Protection, as long as we are well pleased to be like the old hen, Mr. F. W. Green told us about last fall, who goes on laying eggs and contents herself with wondering why the nest doesn't get full, as long as we are this kind of a simple fool, will we ever get Free Trade? Never!

But there is more than that in that sentence of the Globe's editorial. What some men mean but don't say is more important than what they say. It seems so in this case. In the mind of the man who conceived that leading editorial was this thought unquestionably: "When the Strange Tariff Delusions that now cloud the sight of the people

of Canada are swept away, the time will have come for the advantageous change to FREE TRADE."

The mind that conceived that powerful Free Trade editorial is the mind of the man who holds the helm of Canada. It was written with a two-fold purpose. First, to show the economic absurdity of Protection; second, to show that our colossal folly in quietly submitting to the extortions of protection prevents any government from dealing effectively with it.

The day that the voters of Canada say "Free Trade," they will get it. Until they do say so, they won't get it. Let us get to work to ensure the sending of such a strong Free Trade delegation to Ottawa in December that Free Trade will become the dominant issue from East to West. Aren't the people of Canada tired of paying \$60,000,000 a year in customs duties? Indirect taxation, protectionists call it. And several times as much in the increased cost of home manufactures, the increased cost of living? Don't we pay the revenue now? Doesn't it come out of our pockets as much now as it would under Free Trade, only more so? Under Free Trade we would save enough in one year on the goods we buy to pay twice over the revenue necessary for the expenses of government.

Aren't we going to take a hand in getting Free Trade? Can't we discuss it in our association meetings? Can't we write to our local papers about it, and can't we see to it that a delegate to Ottawa is sent from every Grain Growers' Association in the West, with his expenses paid, so he will realize his neighbors care enough to dip into their pockets? The manufacturers think it pays to dip into their pockets to send big delegations to Ottawa. DON'T WE?

DAVID ROSS.

Strassburg, Sask.

LIFE MEMBERS COMING

The Life Membership ball has started rolling. Hanley reports three and Durdurne one. Now, boys, get busy. The dark horse often wins the money.

THE SASK. G.G.A.

HANLEY HEADS LIST

Our association held a meeting on the 15th to try and do some business for the good of the order of Grain Growers. After some slight and pointed remarks from a few of the members they elected three delegates to join the large delegation that should be sent to Ottawa to meet parliament to get some of our wrongs rectified. I secured three Life Members for the Grain Growers. You will find enclosed money order for \$36 to pay for life membership certificates to D. M. Dilley, A. L. Wunch and Jas. A. Kellar, all of Hanley, Sask. This makes four I have secured. It would be nice if your executive could get this western country to send fifteen hundred delegates to Ottawa and arrange for a special train, as we would have a chance of getting acquainted with each other going.

THOS. LAWRENCE

Hanley, Sask.

FAVOR OTTAWA DELEGATION

Mr. Shier, our secretary, called me up on the phone the other day in reference to a district conference at some