

The Guide Referendum

The Grain Growers' Guide is a firm believer in the Referendum as the best means of ascertaining the true will of the people in law-making, and is going to give its readers their first opportunity of expressing their opinion upon eight questions that are agitating the public mind at the present time

Every one will admit at once that these questions are of vital importance in the development of the Canadian nation, and undoubtedly each one of them will some day in the near future have to be settled by the people—the ultimate source of power.

Readers of The Guide will not be asked immediately to vote upon these questions. There is no desire to secure a snap verdict. Ample time and opportunity will be given for the full discussion of each and every one of them before anyone is asked to vote. This full page announcement will appear quite frequently in

The Guide for the next two months, and in the issue of December 11th these questions will be published in The Guide in the form of an official ballot. Every reader will be asked to cut this ballot from the paper, mark "yes" or "no" opposite to each question and mail it immediately to "The Referendum Editor, The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man."

No one except a reader of The Guide will be able to vote on this question, but The Guide has a large number of readers outside of the Prairie Provinces, and it is hoped that each and every one of them will mark the ballot in this referendum.

REGULATIONS

1. The official ballot will be published in The Guide only once, on December 11, 1912.

2. Each of the eight questions are to be answered simply by "yes" or "no."

3. All men over 21 years of age (whether naturalized or not) are entitled to vote.

4. Where there are no men over 21 years of age in the home the ballot may be marked by any woman over 21 years of age, and will be accepted.

5. Special copies of the issue containing the official ballot cannot be secured. This referendum is only for Guide readers.

6. From the present time until the end of December every reader of The Guide is invited to write letters to The Guide expressing opinions on these questions. Any reader is welcome to write for information and other readers will answer. Those opposed to any question are invited to express their views and their letters will be published with the same freedom as those in favor. All letters must be kept as short as possible and the questions should be dealt with by number.

8. Lady readers may take full part in the discussion in The Guide. We would be glad to allow them to vote, but it is the opinion of voters that is sought. By urging the men to vote "yes" on Question 8 the ladies may help their cause greatly.

9. The ballot will be secret. No names will be published. Results will be published just as soon as received.

How Will You Answer ?

These Eight Questions

1. Are you in favor of having the Initiative, Referendum and Right of Recall placed upon the Statute Books of your own province?

2. Are you in favor of having the Canadian customs tariff on goods imported from Great Britain reduced gradually so that there may be complete free trade with the Motherland in five years?

3. Are you in favor of the immediate acceptance of the standing offer of the United States for reciprocal free trade in natural products?

NOTE.—This is the agreement that was defeated on September 21, 1911.

4. Are you in favor of the immediate acceptance of the standing offer of the United States for reciprocal free trade in agricultural implements?

5. Are you in favor of having all school, municipal, provincial and federal revenues raised by a direct tax on land values?

NOTE.—"Land" here is used in its economic sense to include all natural resources.

6. Are you in favor of having the Canadian customs tariff reduced gradually so that it will be entirely abolished in ten years?

7. Are you in favor of having all railroads, telegraphs, telephones and express services owned and operated by the public?

8. Are you in favor of extending the franchise to women on equal terms with men?

BOOKS ON THE SUBJECT

Undoubtedly the questions in The Guide will be discussed at a great many Grain Growers' meetings and farmers organizations throughout the West before the ballot is marked. Many readers of The Guide will wish additional information, and will wish to secure books dealing with these questions. The following books may be obtained from the Book Department, Grain Growers' Guide, postpaid at the prices given:

"The Initiative, Referendum and Recall," by R. L. Scott.....5c

"The City for the People," by Parsons (paper)50c

"Protection or Free Trade," by Henry George4c

This is a large book dealing very fully with tariff questions. Orders for this book are filled direct from the publishers in the United States, and it requires three weeks for the reader to receive his book. It is necessary therefore for orders to be received early.

"The Tariff and the Trusts," by Franklin Pierce\$1.50

"The Tariff in Our Times," by Ida M. Tarbell\$1.50

"Canadian National Economy," by J. J. Harpell50c

"American Railway Problems in the Light of European Experience," by Vrooman\$2.00

"Problems in Railway Regulation," by Haines\$1.50

"History of the Canadian Pacific Railway," showing how much public money the railway has received and how it can afford to reduce freight rates10c

"Progress and Poverty," by Henry George20c

"Taxation of Land Values," by Louis F. Post30c

Educational in Effect

One great advantage of this referendum is that the person who votes on it will have an opportunity of studying each question carefully in the quietness of his own home and will not be influenced by loyalty to his party, nor by flag flapping or self-seeking politicians, nor any of the familiar devices of Canadian election campaigns. If any man has changed his mind from previously expressed opinions here is the place to give his present opinion. This election should be educational in effect. The names of the voters will not be published. The Ballot will be a secret in every sense of the word and the gross results only will be published in The Guide. It is the aim to make this referendum a true record of the opinions of 28,000 or 30,000 Canadian citizens who will mark the ballot in The Grain Growers' Guide on December 11, 1912.