

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, August 4th, 1915

THIRD GUIDE CROP REPORT

By the time this issue of The Guide is read the third blank crop report forms will have been received by all the local secretaries of the Grain Growers' Associations and United Farmers of Alberta. The response to the former reports has been very gratifying and there is no doubt that in time they will attain the object in view and these farmers' crop reports will be recognized as accurately describing the condition of Western crops. This last report will be a particularly important one. From it a reliable idea will be obtained as to the probable yield of all grain crops. This being the case, it is hoped that all secretaries will make a special effort to send in a report. Time at this season of the year is precious, but the value which a report on crop conditions coming from over 1,000 representative farmers will have will more than repay the time expended on this matter. The Guide deeply appreciates the support which the local secretaries have given to this crop reporting scheme in the past, but it should be remembered that the value of the report depends directly both upon the number of districts heard from and upon the number of farmers in each district who assist in compiling each report. It is hoped that every reader will take a personal interest in this final crop report and that every member of a local association will do all he can to assist the local secretary to fill out the crop report form and dispatch it on Aug. 14.

THE MANITOBA ELECTIONS

A provincial general election is being held in Manitoba on Friday, August 6, and on that day the voters of the province will have the opportunity of endorsing or rejecting the new Liberal government, headed by T. C. Norris, that has come into power as the result of the parliament buildings scandal and the consequent downfall of the Roblin administration. A remarkable feature of the contest is the progressive platform on which the re-organized Conservative party, led by Sir J. A. M. Aikins, ex-M.P. for Brandon, is appealing to the electorate. This platform includes prohibition, woman suffrage, the abolition of the patronage and spoils systems, the repeal of the Coldwell amendments, public abattoirs, compulsory education, the advancement of agriculture and the amendment of the election laws so as to ensure the compulsory hearing of protests and to expedite and simplify court procedure. This advanced program is the very opposite of what is usually known as Conservatism, and practically every plank which it contains was condemned by the Conservatives at the last election just over a year ago, and voted against by the Conservative members of the legislature in February and March last. Nevertheless, this is the policy adopted by the Conservatives in a provincial convention held in July, and there is a good deal of comment as well as some amazement at the sudden change of opinion which has come over the party in the few weeks since it was forced to drop the reins of power. The new Conservative party has taken pains to repudiate the late government and its manifold misdeeds, but the public cannot forget that the leaders of the new

party and all its active members were strong supporters of the Roblin government right up to the time of its resignation, and a large number of its candidates sat behind Sir Rodmond Roblin in the last legislature and voted against the reforms now included in their program and did everything in their power to prevent an investigation into the parliament buildings contracts. Under these circumstances it is not likely that the Conservative party will have the confidence and support of the majority of the electors on Friday next. The people apparently feel, and rightly so, that the Liberals, after demonstrating the guilt of the old government, should now be given an opportunity to show what they can do and to put into force the progressive platform which they formulated prior to the elections of July, 1914. This platform contains practically everything which the Conservatives now promise, with the addition of Direct Legislation, which must be regarded as the most important plank in the Liberal platform, inasmuch as once this reform is adopted it will enable the people to get whatever other measures the majority may desire. Six independent candidates are running in Winnipeg and district, and at least three of these are likely to be elected. The return of Premier Norris to power seems to be a certainty; the only danger, apparently, is that the Conservatives will not secure sufficient seats to form the strong opposition that is necessary to keep the government on the alert. A good, strong opposition is necessary to good government.

POLITICAL SUMMERFALLOWING

A more careful adherence to natural laws in the political world would result beneficially to the country at large. A proper rotation of political crops accompanied by regular summerfallowing and seed selection would put our political field in excellent shape to produce a better average crop than past records show. The best rotation would be Grits and Tories alternated in four year periods, with a constant nurse crop of Independents. Such a rotation would prevent the exhaustion of the country's resources which always occurs where the same crop of politicians is allowed to remain in the field over four years. This rotation would also serve to prevent the deterioration which is the regular accompaniment of longer crop periods. It has been found that there is heavy economic loss to the country in every way by allowing either the Grit or Tory crop to remain in any field long enough to go to seed. The crop should be cut regularly and properly cured before it is fit for further use. A good nurse crop of Independents would develop stronger and more reliable plants in both the Grit and Tory crops and by a judicious use of the Independent nurse crop a much higher quality of product would be secured than if either crop were grown exclusively.

Summerfallowing, that has proven the salvation of the western wheat growers would bring equal advantages in the political field. Noxious weeds develop faster in the political field and attain a much more luxuriant growth than in the natural world. During the four years that either the Grit or Tory field lies fallow it should be vigorously culti-

vated by public opinion so that all the noxious weeds will be killed. The cultivator should be kept going continually as this is the best time to kill them, when they have no opportunity to feed upon the resources of the country. If, however, there still remains a crop of weeds at the end of four years, it is well to subject them to deep plowing, which generally completes the clean-up. Seed selection always results in a stronger plant, a larger yield and a better sample. In the political field there is no selection and the haphazard methods followed are largely to blame for the weak members and the many poor samples produced. If only the strong specimens were projected into the political field the fruitage would be far more prolific and the product would be infinitely more valuable upon the market. We hope that more attention will be given to natural laws in the political world henceforth, and we feel certain the result will justify any labor towards this end.

USE ONE POST OFFICE ONLY

Thruout the Prairie Provinces there are a great many farmers who live about the same distance from two and sometimes three post offices. In such cases they sometimes give different addresses to which their correspondence should be sent. The result is bound to be confusion and a constant source of trouble and inconvenience to themselves. We find very frequently that our subscribers in writing to us have given us two distinct addresses, with the result that we do not know where to address them and they consequently miss copies of their paper. Grain companies and others dealing largely with farmers have found the same difficulty. It would be better for the business world if every farmer would use one post office address constantly. Another point that farmers should remember is to sign their name always the same. We have seen letters come to our office from the same man signed "Wm. B. _____," and the next time "W. J. B. _____," the result being that we treat the letters as coming from different people. Sign your name always the same and use one post office address and you will keep your business in better shape.

BORDEN IN LONDON

It was an excellent scheme of Premier Borden's to visit the Canadian soldiers in the trenches and in the hospitals. Undoubtedly a visit from Canada's ruler would cheer the boys in their struggle against the forces of militarism. The knowledge that the premier knew the actual conditions under which they were fighting would give them assurance that their needs would be more intelligently cared for. Premier Borden will be better equipped to conduct the Canadian campaign as a result of his visit, and will undoubtedly return with the determination that Canada shall do her very utmost for the cause of the Allies. In London greater honors have been conferred upon Sir Robert than upon any previous Prime Minister of Canada. He is well qualified to carry such honors with the dignity befitting his high office. As he himself said in London when receiving the freedom of