

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, August 7, 1918

Our Crop Report

Owing to the postal strike The Guide of two weeks ago containing the crop report forms will undoubtedly be greatly delayed in reaching our readers. We hope that every reader will fill out the crop report form and return it to The Guide just as soon as he receives it. Conflicting reports are steadily reaching The Guide office regarding crop conditions in the three provinces. It is important that an accurate survey of the crop conditions be made. The larger the number of reports we receive from our readers the more accurate will the combined report be. It will be possible as a result of these reports to give information which will enable the authorities to assist in taking proper action to provide for a maximum crop for next year.

Postal Strike Settled

The postal strike which tied up business in Western Canada for eight days was one of the most annoying and expensive strikes that has disturbed the country. It affected more people than any other strike that has occurred. Moreover, it was one strike that should never have taken place, but apparently nothing short of a disastrous strike would convince the government authorities at Ottawa that conditions in the post office department were rotten. The postal employees have been treated miserably and in going on strike they simply acted as real men would act under similar conditions. They called the strike off just as soon as they were convinced that there would be a real investigation of their grievances, and already the congestion of mail has been practically cleared up.

The investigation by Hon. W. J. Roche, chairman of the civil service commission is in progress and is promised to be complete and exhaustive. Everyone will agree that no strike in the postal service should ever be permitted to take place again, but this desirable condition cannot be guaranteed unless provision is made that the postal employees will get a square deal. The best way to ensure that the service will not be again interfered with is to have this present inquiry followed by a reorganization of the post office department and the inauguration of up-to-date business methods. The post office system is a huge business organization vitally affecting the people of Canada and coming closer to the individual than any other branch of public service. It is time to discard red tape and autocratic methods, and at the same time those officials responsible for this strike should be discarded. The investigation will only be partially successful if provision is not made to prevent a recurrence of the disastrous strike.

The Economic War

The proposal that the Allies will wage economic warfare against Germany after the military war is closed is receiving fresh attention from Premier Lloyd George and Andrew Bonar Law, the leaders of the two parties in Britain. "The longer the war lasts," says Lloyd George, "the sterner must be the economic terms we impose on the foe." The British premier also points out that it would be necessary for Britain to remain in complete accord with the overseas Dominions and the United States in this future economic policy. For the last three months Premier Hughes, of Australia,

has been stumping Great Britain in an active propaganda for Imperial trade preference after the war. In Canada some of our own protectionists have been beating the war drum pretty loudly to ward off attacks on the tariff. President Wilson has been extremely cautious in his economic statements regarding after-the-war conditions.

Undoubtedly it will be a new economic world and there will be readjustments necessary, but they should be made in the interests of humanity. Today we are fighting the military system and our sacrifices are being made to break down and destroy forever that military system which has threatened the world. After victory is achieved on the battle field and peace once more smiles over the world, it is hard to contemplate another warfare aimed at injury and destruction. True, it is that Germany must be made to pay so far as possible for the damage and destruction she has wrought, and punishment must be meted out to the German war lords. But economic warfare cannot be carried on without injury to the people of the Allied nations.

Tariff walls are more injurious to those on the inside than to those against whom they are supposed to be a barrier. Premier Borden, in England last week, in speaking on the subject of preference, is reported by cable to have spoken as follows:—

It should be clearly understood that neither the Imperial war cabinet nor the Imperial war conference has had under consideration this year the question of preference. The recent announcement on that subject was made on behalf of the British government, as a statement of domestic policy of the United Kingdom.

Continuing, Sir Robert declared that, as Canada claimed and exercised the right of absolute control of its own fiscal policy, so the representatives of Canada necessarily refrained from attempting any interference with the fiscal policy of the United Kingdom. Moreover, Canadians had not desired the people of the United Kingdom to shape or modify their fiscal policy for the sole purpose of giving preference to Canadian products, especially if such a change should involve any supposed injustice or should be regarded as unfair or oppressive by a considerable proportion of the people of the United Kingdom.

In this statement, Premier Borden reserves for Canada the right to frame her own tariff laws and not have them regulated by Imperial authorities. He also grants the same freedom to Great Britain and other parts of the Empire. In this he voices the opinion of the majority of the people of Canada. The free traders of Canada do not desire to impose any additional burden upon the working people of Great Britain and the Canadian protectionists do not want the tariff removed against British imports under any circumstances. The tariff must remain a domestic problem.

Canadian trade with the United States is bound to be steadily on the increase and trade relations with the republic to the south will remain of prime importance. The Canadian people are prepared to make any sacrifices necessary to the winning of the war but it will be necessary for them to watch carefully that economic readjustments are not made for the benefit of privileged classes in Canada under the guise of patriotism. Canadian export trade in the future, as now, will consist largely of the product of the farm, the forest and the sea.

These industries are all burdened by tariffs on manufactured goods. The tendency of the future must be to place all our industries upon a more even basis in order to develop to the utmost limit the great natural resources of the Dominion.

Good American Example

On the first day of August President Wilson assumed control of the telephone and telegraph wires of the United States. He has placed them in charge of postmaster-general Burleson. It is announced that the companies will continue to operate in the ordinary course through the regular channels until further notice. This was the same as the action taken by Secretary McAdoo when he assumed control of the railways of the United States shortly after the outbreak of the war. He left all the presidents and chief railway officials in charge of their work. He soon found, however, that complications arose which greatly reduced the efficiency of the railway system. For that reason a number of presidents and other high officials were dropped and it is probable similar action may follow in connection with the telegraph companies.

Great confusion followed the inauguration of government control of railways in the United States. Many advocates of private ownership hailed this as proof that government operation was not as efficient as private. But the chaotic condition was there with a vengeance before the government took over the roads and the improvement in the past year has been striking. Waste and duplication are steadily being reduced to a minimum and the United States government is saving enormous amounts in labor, material and time by the co-ordination of her great railroad system. Unquestionably similar saving will follow government operation of the telegraph system. The Canadian government should follow the example of the American government and take over the railroads and telegraphs of Canada.

Aerial Mail Service

Mail is now being carried between Washington, New York and Philadelphia by airplane. A regular service has been established and the postage on letters is 24 cents. The business is steadily growing and it is announced that the price is likely to be reduced to 16 cents. Remarkable possibilities open up for the future of postal air service. What will it bring to Western Canada? May we not reasonably look ahead to the day when we will have a regular postal service by airplane established across the prairie provinces. The American airplane postal service maintains a speed of 70 miles an hour. Airplanes on the field of battle have reached a speed of 180 miles an hour. The tendency of the times in commercial development is for speed. Surely the airplane is the last word in speed for postal delivery. At present it requires 30 hours to carry letters by train from Winnipeg to Calgary. Some time in the future we shall probably see letters delivered between these two points in 12 hours.

A German Peace

The advocates of peace by negotiation as a settlement of the war find little encouragement from a survey of those countries where a German peace already prevails. Brand Whitlock, the American ambassador in Belgium during the first three years of the war, has described the German rule after the conquest of that little kingdom. Thousands of Belgians were shot after trial by court-martial for no crime whatever. Thousands of others were flogged, imprisoned or fined, and the process still goes on. The outrages upon Belgian women are almost beyond be-