



NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

This department of The Guide is maintained especially for the purpose of providing a discussion ground for the readers where they may freely exchange views and derive from each other the benefits of experience and helpful suggestions. Each correspondent should remember that there are hundreds who wish to discuss a problem or offer suggestions. We cannot publish all the immense number of letters received, and ask that each correspondent will keep his letter as short as possible. Every letter must be signed by the name of the writer, though not necessarily for publication. The views of our correspondents are not of necessity those of The Guide. The aim is to make this department of great value to readers, and no letters not of public interest will be published.

TO OBTAIN JUSTICE A NEW PARTY IS NEEDED

"Any combination of men taking up the practical working of government i. e. making laws and administering them should represent every interest in the community for the reason that only as each interest is represented can justice be done."—GEORGE LANGLEY

In THE GUIDE of 21st. Sept.

Editor, GUIDE:—I welcome the above view, also some other statements of said date. While some of Mr. Langley's questions are, in the inherent nature of our present position as a class, needless. Some also are mere assertions which if space permitted could be shown up as unreasonable, but every fair minded reader will endorse the sentiments of the aforesaid extract. But alas! What is the record of the "combination of men" of the Liberal and Conservative factions ever since confederation but a black history of created monopolies, mergers, hydra headed graft, and political bribery and corruption of every known species; which said parties agree regularly to saw off? I ask Mr. Langley, have the interests of the largest element of voters who are engaged in the chief industry of Canada (the farmers) or the chief interests of the other element of consumers been fairly dealt with; have they been "represented" or misrepresented? The obvious answer is "maladministration" or Mr. Langley would not have become a member of the Grain Growers' Association.

But if the Grain Growers' Association, of which George Langley is a central officer this long while, can through their executives, do anything further to better represent the farmers' interests it is their duty to do all they can. Are not the members of our various executives elected for this very purpose? Is nothing going to be done but send in petitions, memorials to premiers and delegates to coax those who tinker and monkey with our rights? Surely there is a time to call a halt that will give us a square deal.

It is as great a necessity for us as a farmers' organization to co-operate and consign our votes to our own interests, as it is to consign our grain to our own grain company. And also as individual members of our organization it is an equally great necessity, if we do really want our whole rights, to as carefully have our political as our individual potato patches. We cannot afford to go on voting for two factions who persistently ignore us after every polling day. It is long past time for a farmers' and workers' party, or some better governing body to be inaugurated; and so much is gained that Mr. Langley exclaims he shall wish it God-speed.

It is a very curious fact, but everybody who has fully followed the history of the past thirty years of the two political parties i. e., two nominally, but only one in reality—hence the \$7,000 a year special indemnity to Borden—must see that 95 per cent. of the people of this country have no one representing their interests. Hence the rights of the people—every farmer included—have been entirely ignored. It is not a case that he has been overlooked or neglected, but has been so well looked after that every worker in Canada, man, woman or child is made to slave for the other five per cent. of the special and grafting class. This has been accomplished by our allowing the two bluffing factions to kill our votes, by dividing us with the simple device of two names that profess opposite policies but virtually have carried out identically one and the same policy for thirty years, viz., that of privilege and favors to the

special few, graft to the leading politicians and purses to Laurier and Fielding.

Now Mr. Langley and those of his school of action (I have only mentioned one out of many curious political facts, and only very briefly touched upon it), if you are willing that we and our sons should remain indifferent and willing to neglect and overlook our best interests, is it any wonder that the community at large is so brutally misrepresented and meanly made to pay tribute to the few? It is the people's political ignorance more than their indifference that has kept them back from their just rights. The special few have grasped this curious situation and seized the opportunity to plunder the toilers and their public domain, and the two factions have alternately grasped their opportunity of a

Sixty Years of Protection in Canada, 1846-1907

By Edward Porritt

Western farmers at the present time are intensely interested in the tariff, and are anxious to secure information upon tariff matters. The above mentioned book by Edward Porritt is the best work on the subject. Mr. Porritt is a British Free Trader and was for two years a lecturer in Harvard University, on political economy and Canadian constitutional history. In 1903-6 he travelled with the Canadian tariff commission and has devoted a great deal of study to the Canadian tariff and the abuses which have followed protection. Mr. Porritt's book is entirely non-political and is a study of the tariff history of Canada for the last sixty years. It is written in a most interesting manner and at the same time contains exact information on trade and manufacturers and the methods by which tariffs are made. Every farmer who is interested in tariff reduction will find Mr. Porritt's book the most valuable one that he can secure. He will also learn how the manufacturers lay aside politics in their efforts to have the tariff burden increased. If every farmer in Canada would read Mr. Porritt's book, the "system of legalized robbery" would come to an end inside of one year.—The book contains 478 pages and is fully indexed. It will be sent to any reader for \$1.50 postpaid.

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long innings wherein to suck the sweets of office. It will soon be time for the outs to go in again for another base of the plums. Mr. Langley, it is time you were alive to this game of ins and outs, and to set your face like a flint against this deep planned political duplicity.

The time is opportune to inaugurate a strong political insurrection, a real mutiny against such political leaders as Laurier and Borden. The insurgents of the United States are out in full force against their plundering Republican party, while our executives tamely bear our unbearable exploitation without any effort of political revolt. It is time every member of our associations turned rebels in place of being Liberal or Conservative partisans, for as politics go, to be a rebel to Laurier and Borden as to be a patriot. To be an adherent of theirs is to be either an ignoramus or a traitor to the general welfare, for neither of them have any desire nor will they ever represent our interests; and Mr. George Langley knows this is so.

Now, as you, sir, say, "we must get together." We must co-operate our votes, we must become insurgents at the polls, before we shall get proper legislative attention. In other words we must take our rights. Heaven can't give us them, if we refuse to reach out for them.

Will Mr. Langley permit me to suggest—just as a start—the holding of a conference of a joint committee of every farmers' association in Canada, to consider if they can do anything to consolidate our votes so as to be able to overturn the power of the exploiters. It will if attempted require united campaign work of every subordinate Grain Growers' Association.

Such a committee can go into the matter thoroughly and find out the best way to organize our voting force in our own interest. For remember it is the only possible defense to put class against class, combine against combine, and party against party. Mr. Langley, Canada's law making, and administering of them, is thirty years of wholesale class legislation, with a few crumbs thrown beneath the people's table just once in a green moon.

The sooner our executives take some such strenuous action, and the sooner the farmers all make up their minds to abide by their committee's recommendation, the better it will be for us as a class. We must unite our votes. We must reverse our past political conduct by some organized action.

What is our Canadian Council of Agriculture organized for but to propound the co-operative action to be followed up by every individual local association, and by each member individually, as though we belonged to a class-conscious organization?

There must be a committee of management to educate us as a class to discharge our political duties before we can even begin to receive our whole political rights.

Let us not act hurriedly, but don't let us ignore facts. Our political duty is to we farmers the most vital of all facts. Yet let our executives get an active, aggressive move on. An organization that overlooks or timidly neglects this most important function, is scarcely worthy of the name of an association. There must be more executive management in our organization. If it is too long neglected or overlooked, it is only reasonable to expect the gradual but ultimate deterioration of our present strength. If we

low that hindrance to continue. If the company is called by our own name it should deserve our confidence and get it.

I see that this matter has already been discussed by several of your correspondents, and their suggestions generally run in the line of my views, and it is to give their views and my own concrete shape and a practical application that I write this letter.

Everybody knows that complaints and speculations amount to nothing unless followed by action. Action, action is what is wanted. All readers of history, at least all Scotchmen, know how Sir Archibald Douglass got the name of "Archibald 'Bell the Cat,'" and there has to be some one to play 'Bell the Cat' in this case.

I think it was the year before the last that it was said the company had made something over eighty thousand dollars clear, and last year on the sixteen million bushels their legitimate charge of a cent a bushel would give them one hundred and sixty thousand dollars, and if the management have not been imitating the officials of insurance companies a few years ago in the United States, where the exposure of their stealing came to light, and some resigned and others committed suicide, the greater portion of the hundred and sixty thousand dollars must be clear profit and still to the fore. What was made in the intervening year, I cannot say. In any case it is the men who raise the wheat and consign it to the company who enable it to make these sums of money, and I think the feeling is general that these are entitled to share in the profit. That they have not been sharing up till now is the principle reason why the Grain Growers' Grain Company has only been getting a miserable twelve per cent. of the trade, and the question confronts them square in the face, are they willing to reorganize this company and let every member of the Grain Growers' Association be an equal partner with those who are now members of the company, and share pro rata in proportion to the quantity of their wheat handled by the company.

I meet every possible objection to this plan when I say to the company, "Keep all that you make hitherto, and divide it amongst yourselves, and move into a wider sphere, a more generous interest; instead of working for yourselves, work for every man who grows wheat and sells it. Not like the man who 'made for a nation confined his talents to a party.' It becomes agriculturists to become generous and general as the Providence on whom he so immediately depends for his crop. 'Who sendeth His rain on the just and the unjust.' Above all, do not try the good old robber plan: 'Let him take who has the power, and let him keep who can.' That is what we accuse the Grain Exchange of Winnipeg of doing. Let no suspicion enter into any Grain Growers' mind that in taking the one, it is only six of one and half a dozen of the other. The Grain Growers' Grain Company has reached a crucial point and its future largely depends on the spirit in which it will meet the demands of its natural clients. If it meets it generously, wisely, as I suggest, its future is assured. If on the contrary, narrow, selfish views prevail and dominate its counsel, then it will assuredly be a short lived, dishonorable affair.

Knowing as I do something of what the elevator and the Grain Exchange did to the farmers so long as they could, and knowing something also of human nature, that selfishness is a common failing of humanity, as Burns says:

"When self, the wavering balance shakes,
It's rarely, right adjusted."

So while I would counsel the members of the Grain Growers' Association to act energetically, and as one man, to assert their rights to a share in the profits and a part in the management of the sale of their grain, I would warn the company of the fate that awaits it, if it should delude itself into the notion that it can turn a deaf ear to the complaints of the men whose grain they hope to handle.

JAMES FINLAY.

Dinsmore, Sask.

FUTURE OF FARMERS' COMPANY

Editor, Guide:—That the existence of the Grain Growers' Grain Company has been of material advantage to the Grain Growers of these provinces cannot be denied, but that it has failed to secure the confidence of the Grain Growers to the extent that one would have expected, you made very clear in an issue of The Guide some time ago where you showed that from over a hundred and twenty millions of bushels "inspected" only sixteen million bushels were consigned to your company for handling and sale, a petty twelve per cent. of the whole. As there must be a cause for every effect, this showing is not without its cause. As I wish to see this cause removed without blaming anybody, I will not be more explicit just now, but proceed on my plan of redress. For it were suicidal both to the Grain Growers and to the Grain Growers' Grain Company as well to al-