

The Mail Bag

TEMPERANCE SITUATION

Editor, Guide:—As a matter of fair play, I shall be glad if you will kindly publish this letter in the next issue of your paper.

It has been stated in high places, and repeated elsewhere with a diligence worthy of a better cause: (1) "That if the proposed 'Banish the Bar' measure was submitted to a popular vote and defeated, then everything now under Local Option would be destroyed and go by default," and (2) "That if the measure were sustained at the polls then the wholesale traffic would take the place of the retail traffic, that the 'bottle' would be substituted for the glass," and that the last state of the traffic would be worse than the first." Thus, no matter which side of the penny comes to the top the Temperance cause would be discredited. It is very difficult to bring oneself to consider these statements seriously, but inasmuch as many honest people are being misled by them, they should not be allowed to go uncorrected.

As to the first it cannot be too plainly stated that Local Option is in no way on trial before the people of Manitoba at the present time. Local Option is the definite and fixed law of this province. It has been so for more than 15 years, and will continue to be so long after the forthcoming elections are a thing of the distant past. It was placed upon the statute books of Manitoba by a definite act of the legislature, and only by an equally definite act of the legislature can it be repealed. That ought to be sufficient to convince anybody that the Manitoba Local Option law is in no danger whatever, no matter what happens to the "Banish the Bar" propaganda.

As to the second of the above statements, all that is needed is a little information to show how groundless the assertion really is. There are now 153 municipalities in the Province of Manitoba. Of these 105 are rural municipalities, 18 are incorporated villages, 26 are incorporated towns and 4 are cities. In 1904 the Roblin government brought in and passed legislation, making it illegal to issue a wholesale license in any rural municipality. This law prevails today, and will continue to prevail, and thus 105 out of 153 municipalities in Manitoba are provided for. In 1905 the same government brought in and passed legislation, making it illegal to issue a wholesale license in any incorporated village in Manitoba. That law also prevails today, and will continue to prevail, and thus 123 out of the 153 municipalities are provided for. Of the 26 towns, two, namely, Birtle and Hartney, are under Local Option, and therefore cannot receive liquor in any shape or form. That leaves only 24 towns and 4 cities in all Manitoba where a wholesale license can legally be granted, and as a matter of fact, outside these 28 places there is no such thing as a wholesale in existence. Moreover these can be attacked at any time by Local Option. For instance, there is no reason why Local Option should not prevail in Deloraine or Warden, say, just as it does

in Birtle and Hartney. When once a majority of a community say that they want Local Option they can have it, and thus shut out the sale of liquor in all forms. How foolish it is, therefore, to say that should the retail traffic in intoxicating drink be destroyed you would simply flood the country with wholesale shops.

ROBT. AYLWARD, Field Sec.,
Social Service Council of Manitoba.

SALE OF MACHINERY

Editor, Guide:—The Saskatchewan Commission appointed by the Scott government to examine witnesses as to methods of machine companies in selling machinery to farmers, manner of collections of notes, harsh dealings, etc., will begin their sittings in a few days. There are quite peculiar ways and unjust methods in operation that mean coercion, tyranny, hardship to farmers and to many the loss of their farms. Any farmer who has been subjected to these things should appear at his nearest point to lay his case and his information before this commission. On the information thus obtained the Scott government will formulate a law that will give more of reason and justice to farmers in the matter of machinery notes and methods of collections, and enforcing trial of machinery before a man has it saddled on to him to pay for.

T. M.

Dundurn.

CO-OPERATIVE MORTGAGE ACT

Editor, Guide:—In a recent issue of The Guide I noticed a letter from District Director Lilwal of No. 13 re "Agricultural Co-operative Credit Legislation". As general secretary to the Biggar electoral division G.G. in the same district, I also would urge the need for immediate action being taken on proposed lines.

Premier Scott affirms the question of agricultural credit to be of paramount importance. The recommendations of the royal commission have been approved.

What is the present stage in the development of the agricultural co-operative credit system? As a mere grain grower I am seeking for information. Is it only a rumor that serious doubts are entertained as to the successful application of the proposed system? If so, might I again suggest, thru the medium of The Guide, the unbiased consideration of "direct state loans," as per New Zealand.

JOHN McNAUGHTAN,

Piche P.O., Sask.

MISAPPLIED MILLIONS

Editor, Guide:—Fifteen millions for militia purposes and \$1,000,000 for agriculture is hardly the right proportion of money for the Dominion Parliament to spend in these peaceful years of the twentieth century. Such appropriations might have been all right for young nations to have made fifty or a hundred years ago, but it doesn't appeal to the average citizen in Canada today. The likelihood of war in which we would be interested was never more remote. Nations today are not looking to jump at their neighbor's throat on the slightest provocation. They are turning their eyes to more peaceful pursuits in these later

days and looking to other methods of settling difficulties that may arise.

How much more valuable it would be to Canada if the purposes for which these amounts have been appropriated were reversed. Some of the uncultivated area of Canada could be made to add to our national wealth and mankind would receive a permanent benefit from it. Not so with that expended in powder and shot and the many other things required by our militia loving friends. It is not a sign of national decay if money is not provided to aid in the destruction of our fellowman, but rather the opposite. Governments today are more concerned in building up a strong citizenship along other lines than that of training for war. It is only the benighted nations who are today resorting to physical force. Real progress cannot be made in the twentieth century if we are keeping before us the idea of a possible war. We are far more apt to keep out of the war business if little attention is given to it.

Canada does not require much expenditure for war equipment, nor has she money to spare for that purpose. Our chief aim should be the development of our natural resources and of our people, educationally, socially and morally, thus building up a virile manhood and refined womanhood. Too little attention to these things has been given in the past and we will have a rude awakening some day and realize that some of those people we are apt to despise are far beyond us in these respects.

We are admitting to our shores people of many nations and we should ask ourselves how much are we doing to bring them up to our standard and make them loyal and worthy citizens of their adopted country. These people have looked upon Canada as their Mecca. Has it proven to be such? We have made good use of these people while there was a big demand for manual labor, but now this is almost absent, what is being done to help matters? "Back to the land" is the cry today; keep people from rushing into slum quarters in our cities. But these people are helpless. Their wages have been all required for current expenses and they have nothing to draw from. Doubtless many would welcome a home on a few acres of land if it could be secured. This is something our government can do and should do. It seems not only a shame, but a disgrace, in a country like ours, where there is plenty for all, to have men unable to secure enough to supply their daily wants. There is much that can be done, and while there is money to spend let us spend it to some good and wise end.

J. W. REID,

Regina, Sask.

FLOUR PRICES

Editor, Guide:—In your issue of April 29 you have an editorial on prices of Canadian flour at home and abroad in which quotations from the market reports of The Northwestern Miller are used by way of illustration. These figures, as used, require some qualification and explanation. As they stand they convey an impression which is unfair to the Canadian milling industry and since the quotations are ours, we presume you will be glad to have them properly related to each other by the authority from which they were obtained.

It is a mistake to compare the price of first patent flour in Winnipeg as given by our correspondent there with the price of Canadian flour quoted in our cables from leading British markets. The flours are not the same—"First patent" in Winnipeg is a very high quality of household flour which is hardly ever exported in quantity, while "Canadian spring patent" Glasgow or London is a strong bakers' grade which is sold to the baking trade. Both are called patents, but they are not the same. This confusion is extremely common among those who are not familiar with the technicalities of the flour business and arises from the unfortunately too promiscuous use that millers have made of the word "patent" as a descriptive term for flour.

Further, I should like to point out that besides this confusion of grades, your editorial confuses the terms and conditions under which these quotations are made. The price you name at Winnipeg is the local jobbing price for mixed carlots on an open account to city and country buyers, while your British price is that at which flour is sold in large quantities in vessels' hold at the dock side, cash on presentation of documents.

To arrive at a proper comparison of prices for Canadian flour in Winnipeg and Glasgow, you should take as your basis the grade known as strong bakers. This is the flour described in our British cables as Canadian spring patent. It is sold mostly to bakers and is, therefore, the kind in which consumers of bread are interested. This grade in Winnipeg in straight carlots at \$4.00 per barrel delivered, while the same flour is worth in Glasgow today about 25 shillings per 280 lbs. c.i.f. terms, which means in vessels' hold. This price is exactly equivalent to \$4.20 per barrel. To land the flour and deliver it in a Glasgow bakeshop would cost another 40 cents per barrel, including importer's profit, which makes the delivered price Glasgow \$4.60, as against \$4.00 Winnipeg.

To sell this flour in Winnipeg the miller must send out a salesman to solicit the order and he must later, in many cases, send out a collector to bring back the money. To sell the flour in Glasgow he pays for one or two cables and the money is credited to his account as soon as he deposits his draft and bill of lading in his bank.

By looking at this matter in this way, you get a fair comparison of domestic versus export prices for Canadian flour and it will be seen from the figures given that the Canadian miller is not discriminating against his domestic customer so outrageously as some have thought.

Yours truly,

THE NORTHWESTERN MILLER.

Per A. H. Bailey, Canadian Manager.

Note—We are always glad to publish authoritative information on any subject which may be discussed in our columns and will be glad to have it demonstrated conclusively that Canadian millers are not discriminating against Canadians in the sale of their flour. We have, however, been informed by British millers that Canadian flour has been sold on the British market at a lower price than it actually costs the British miller to produce it from Canadian wheat.

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CUTTING OATS ON FARM OF GEORGE GRIENER, GLADSTONE, MAN.