

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, November 7, 1917

GUIDE AND UNION GOVERNMENT

The Grain Growers' Guide since its establishment has followed the policy of publishing both sides of every question. For this reason on another page of this issue we publish a letter from J. B. Parker, of Gilbert Plains, Man., condemning most vigorously The Guide's attitude in support of the union government. What Mr. Parker says about the Borden Tory government is unfortunately largely true. No journal in Canada has condemned the sins of the Borden Tory government more thoroughly and conscientiously than the Grain Growers' Guide. Mr. Parker, however, seems unable to grasp the fact that there is no Borden Tory government in existence today. There is a union government, partly composed of members of the late government, and almost an even half composed of Liberals, and representatives of organized labor and the organized farmers. It is the most representative government that has ever been in power at Ottawa since Canada became a nation. It is the nearest to an absolutely national government that it has been possible to constitute in Canada today. Its policy is decidedly progressive and patriotic, and we believe that its intentions are honest.

The organized farmers of the prairie provinces have for a long time been demanding a national government. Since the new union government has been organized, it has been endorsed by the leaders of the organized farmers in all three prairie provinces, and by every one of the candidates who have been nominated by the farmers on the farmers' platform. The chief opposition to the union government in Western Canada at least, is coming from those who place their party above their country, and we do not for one moment believe that the organized grain growers are that type of citizens.

Canada is engaged in a real war. The enemy is powerful, resourceful and pitiless, and is not yet defeated. A victory for the German and Austrian armies means the conquest of Canada. Our soldiers in the trenches are not playing party politics. They are united in one great purpose to achieve victory, and if necessary, sacrifice their lives for it. There is no more reason for playing party politics at home than there is in the trenches. Canadians in every walk of life should stand shoulder to shoulder and stop all petty, party squabbles till the war is over. When any man suggests that men of the type of Carvell, Rowell, Crerar, and the others have sold themselves simply for the sake of their jobs in the cabinet, the charge is beneath consideration. None of these men needed the job. Everyone of them joined the union government from a sense of duty, in response to an overwhelming public opinion which has been demanding for a long time a union government at Ottawa.

For the reasons stated above, The Grain Growers' Guide is supporting the union government. From the very beginning The Guide has endeavored to interpret and support the views of the organized farmers, and in supporting the union government, The Guide believes it is voicing the views of the organized farmers today. The Guide does not claim the right to dictate to any man how he shall exercise his franchise. The franchise is a sacred right of every citizen in a democratic country. It should be exercised as wisely as possible in the interest of the nation at large, and in the light of the God-given intelligence which every man enjoys.

Credit invested in farming will give greater returns to the nation than if put into any other line of enterprise in the country.

DR. BLAND AS A UNIONIST

The position of the Unionist government throughout the West would be strengthened immeasurably by the recognition of Dr. Bland as the Unionist candidate in Centre Winnipeg. It is doubtful if there is a candidate in the West with a larger body of public opinion behind him. His platform, outlined on the occasion of his nomination last August is substantially the same as that recently announced by the new government. It puts winning the war above every other consideration. It backs this up with a constructive policy in line with the development and reconstruction clauses of the government program. Dr. Bland has declared his personal support of the Unionist government, which is constructed along lines that he has consistently advocated. His constituency is one of the most important in the West, and has great strategic value. His recognition as the official unionist standard bearer would not only ensure his own election, but strengthen the cause of Unionist candidates throughout the entire West. If it should become Sir Robert Borden's duty to say which of the candidates in Centre Winnipeg shall be the officially recognized Unionist, he can make no more statesmanlike move than placing his choice on Dr. Salem Bland.

THE UNION SPIRIT

The date of the general election in Canada has been fixed by the government for December 17, and nomination day will be on November 19. Already candidates are in the field in many constituencies and new candidates are being nominated every day. It is quite apparent that the union government will have very strong support in the West. There seems to be a general arrangement between the Liberal and the Conservative party to avoid contests as far as possible. While it is highly desirable that the union government should receive very strong support, there is danger to future democratic development in any plan of arranging candidates other than by the electors of the constituencies themselves. There is also a noticeable disposition on the part of the Liberal and Conservative parties to give very little recognition to the organized farmers in the nomination of candidates. Had a general election been held on old party lines, there is little doubt but that at least twenty candidates would have been elected on the platform put out by the organized farmers.

While the organized farmers, very generally we believe, are favoring the union government, it is well for them to see that in the nomination of candidates they are not altogether overlooked. This Western country cannot be represented entirely by either Liberal or Conservative candidates. There is a very, very large element that does not subscribe to the policies of either of the old parties of the past, and while win-the-war is the big question now, it will only be a matter of time until the war is over, and domestic problems must then receive their full consideration. The candidates who have been nominated on the farmers' platform are the very best type of supporters which the union government possibly could have. They are prepared to see the war through to a victorious conclusion, and at the same time they are prepared to protect the best interests of Canada in every possible way. In Brandon constituency, R. McKenzie, secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, and one of the veterans of the organized farmers' movement, was nominated some time ago by a very representative convention. There now seems a movement afoot

to displace him in favor of a so-called unionist candidate. It is reported that another nominating convention, representative of the whole constituency, will be called in the near future to nominate a unionist candidate. It does not seem that the union spirit in Brandon constituency is as strong as it ought to be. Otherwise, the Liberal and Conservative parties would be quite glad to endorse Mr. McKenzie's candidature. The farmers and the organized labor element of Brandon constituency are the strongest supporters of Mr. McKenzie. It would be advisable for them to be well represented at the convention in order that Mr. McKenzie should get the support that he is entitled to.

HOLD THE LINE,

As the fourth year of the war progresses, the call sent out to soldiers and civilians alike throughout the Allied nations is "Hold the Line." The daily reports that come from the firing line show that our own Canadian soldiers are obeying the order with splendid courage and determination. There are no better soldiers on the firing line anywhere than those Canada has sent. But the soldiers can only do their duty when they are properly supported by those who remain at home. There must be an ample supply of munitions, clothing, food and money. The supply of munitions and clothing is well provided for. From what Premier Lloyd George has said, the greatest danger now looming upon the war horizon is a possible shortage of food in the next year. The food supply of the Allied armies on the Western front must come from Canada and the United States. These two countries are nearer to the seat of the war than any of the other great food producing countries.

The chief requirements in the way of food for the Allied armies, and for the civilian population of the Allied countries, is for wheat, wheat flour, beef and bacon, all of which are produced in large quantities in Canada. There is already a very dangerous shortage of the food surplus throughout the world and the prospect for a big increase in next year's crop, in Western Canada particularly, is not favorable. Everything that the farmers of the prairie provinces can do to increase the food supply next year will be that much towards helping to win the war. The season has been unfavorable for fall plowing and the usual percentage of land has not been prepared for the crop. Every farmer and his family in this country who can provide for an increased supply of wheat, beef, or bacon, either by production or by conservation, is helping the soldier in the trenches to protect our own Canadian homes.

It is the plain duty of every farmer to devote his best energies to the production of the food that is urgently, and very seriously required to feed our soldiers and the civilian population in the Allied countries. This great problem does not come home to Canadians in the same way that it does to those in the old lands across the water. There is always plenty of food in Canada, and to spare. But at the present moment the situation is absolutely serious, and the utmost possible of wheat, beef, and bacon, should be produced, and the smallest amount possible eaten in Canada. In order to conserve these foods to the greatest possible extent it is necessary that there be plenty of substitutes in the way of potatoes, oatmeal, and other foods of which ample supplies are grown on Western farms. There is no fake about the call for greater production today. The demand is real, and the call comes from those who are leading our soldier and civilian armies against the foe.

Another way in which Western farmers