



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.

WHO CONTROLS

Editor GUIDE:—These six past weeks of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's tour have been great days for Liberal partisans who are fond of yelling demonstrations. Partisans love to bask in the tinsel light of their party idol.

Now that all such Liberals of Winnipeg and the West have—for the present—done glorifying their little god Laurier, the common element of these yelling partisans can now present themselves to the subsidized and protected corporations for a further term of skinning. Sir Wilfrid's extended tour should be particularly instructive if we will only approach it in a proper spirit. But we cannot ascertain the amount of love or the amount of disregard Sir Wilfrid has for farmers' demands unless we get right away from the past hide-bound party to a thorough public spirit.

In 1894, when he was plain Mr. Laurier, he again and again declared, "the national policy is a fraud and a failure."

"To levy tribute upon the people for a private and privileged class should be condemned without qualification."

"I ask you never to desist until we have freed Canada from the incubus which has been weighing it down for fifteen long years."

Hundreds of equally strong statements and scores of solemn pledges he made the last three years his party was on the opposition side, but with the exception of the preferential tariff to Britain, and that is nominal, he has not only solemnly violated them but has by "tariff tinkering" allowed the bloated manufacturers many further privileges which I need not now enumerate, and wilfully has he done it for fourteen long years after the solemn promise to remove the incubus, the fraud, the failure. On this tour, if we read between the lines as well as his actual announcements, the tariff which has become more "oppressive and burdensome" to the producer under his regime of administration and greater privileges to the special interests. Is this policy going to be continued and some sop flung our way?

Laurier's announcement as to the future to all farmers should sound ominous. It is palpably evident there's to be many millions still for the incubus of privileged manufacturers. It is obvious too the Hudson's Bay Railroad is, with millions of watered stock, going to Mackenzie & Mann or some other gross corporation. If anything should thoroughly arouse the farmers of the West, the high price Laurierism comes at should arouse even that patient element. Laurier has already fastened far too many selfish, rude, lawless, tyrannical corporations upon us, that the object of this letter is to ask your readers what is to be done? Is Laurier uncontrollable? Can we not reduce his power in giving away the public domain and creating further monopolies. The privilege and monopoly (all history proves) are so extensive, hence incubus in Canada grows manifold with the growth of the country, e.g., to wit, the history of trusts in the United States.

Both parties have enacted legislation which has created huge monopolies and both parties maintain these corporations and grant them further favors, and neither party at Ottawa has been able to exercise any effective control. We have a railroad commission but is it equally ineffective to control and curb their exploitation of the wealth producers. Why? The parties are not amenable themselves to control. Why? Just because the farmers' votes when divided between the two

parties about equally, are so ineffective they are of no account. As you, Sir, said in a recent issue "We must get together." The special interests—the manifold monopolies—consisting of but a few individuals are wide awake, well organized and exceedingly militant and effective politically. Let the Grain Growers take a leaf out of their book of maxims if we do really want to live under a system of a square commercial deal. We need the Hudson's Bay road as a national asset. A monopoly road will be fatal to the future of these prairies. We need to create a political force amongst ourselves sufficiently strong to demand it as a national transportation road to get that money vote passed at Ottawa.

Sir Wilfrid's tour of the West should be particularly instructive to himself and his party if he really came out to see the whole truth. Did he come to approach the great producers of grain in a proper national spirit of determination to be just to the greatest Canadian industry? Did he take due stock of how the majority of farmers are housed in miserably inconvenient shacks? Did he take stock of the general lack of up-to-date barns and outbuildings? Could he consistently contemplate the splendid residences of the special interest men residing at Armstrong's Point and Wellington Crescent, Winnipeg? Could he not see this sociological disparity? Grain Growers, only a square political deal will ever give us a square sociology deal. Organized co-operation in the farmers' political education can be made the most effective self-help movement to our emancipation from monopoly, and to our common prosperity if we will only get away from hide-bound partisanship to a public spirit. If the memorials presented to Sir Wilfrid have failed to imbue him with the determination to battle with the vested interests of the East

to grant our just requests, we have no alternative but to become democratic insurgents and form a new party and find a new general to fight under. We must be courageous in politics before Laurier will treat with us as a big community of voters to be reckoned with. Our organization is now old enough and strong enough to put aside dual partisanship and take hold of our duty in real statesmanship. Let us come to a sensible agreement among ourselves and formulate rules and articles that will stand well with our Grain Growers' Association in its future progress and conduct. Let everyone of us be filled with not only courage but the whole co-operative ideal—votes included. Then the battle will be short and sharp and our triumph will be sure, and Laurier and Borden will hear and heed.

FRED. KIRKHAM

Salcoats, Sask.

CO-OPERATION THE REMEDY

Editor GUIDE:—Sir Wilfrid at Weyburn noted the Grain Growers read in reference to co-operation first. That the bill introduced by Mr. Lloyd Harris of Brantford, might have become law but for parliament proroguing when it did and if introduced next session there is no reason why it should not. To the end that those who look upon the honest toiler as prey for unfair prices be not again allowed to block this desired legislation, I suggest the National Council of Agriculture fix upon a basis of propaganda that will fit any community from the Atlantic to the Pacific, hand it over to the provincial organizations to supplement according to local needs and by phonograph records and stereopticon views, as well as the living voice, carry instruction to as many school house audiences as thorough organization can reach. Once the people grasp the benefits to result from the co-operative principle no parliament would shelve such a bill.

Our bank charters must be renewed. The Bank Act is made to suit the banks. We have a good system of banking, i.e., for the banks. The bankers' association, in practice a money merger, has such a grip on all our affairs that no western bank manager conducts his bank as Clause 91 of the Act intends. The individual is refused direct credit but granted an indirect something that does not deserve the name of credit through institutions that feast upon him, setting their own prices on "accommodating." To get rid of this third and fourth hand credit, why not organize the people to control their own deposits? We grant credit by the most vicious system that could be adopted. Let's strike at it by demanding of parliament the right to organize co-operative

credit societies, and from the National Council of Agriculture, as a centre start an organization to direct the people in forming such societies and by controlling their own deposits for their welfare and not the welfare of greedy corporations, bring the banks to the plan of serving the public. Legislation will not bring the desired service from these privileged institutions, nothing short of the people taking charge of their own credit by the co-operative principle and methods can do it.

J. H. HOLMES.

Midale, Sask.

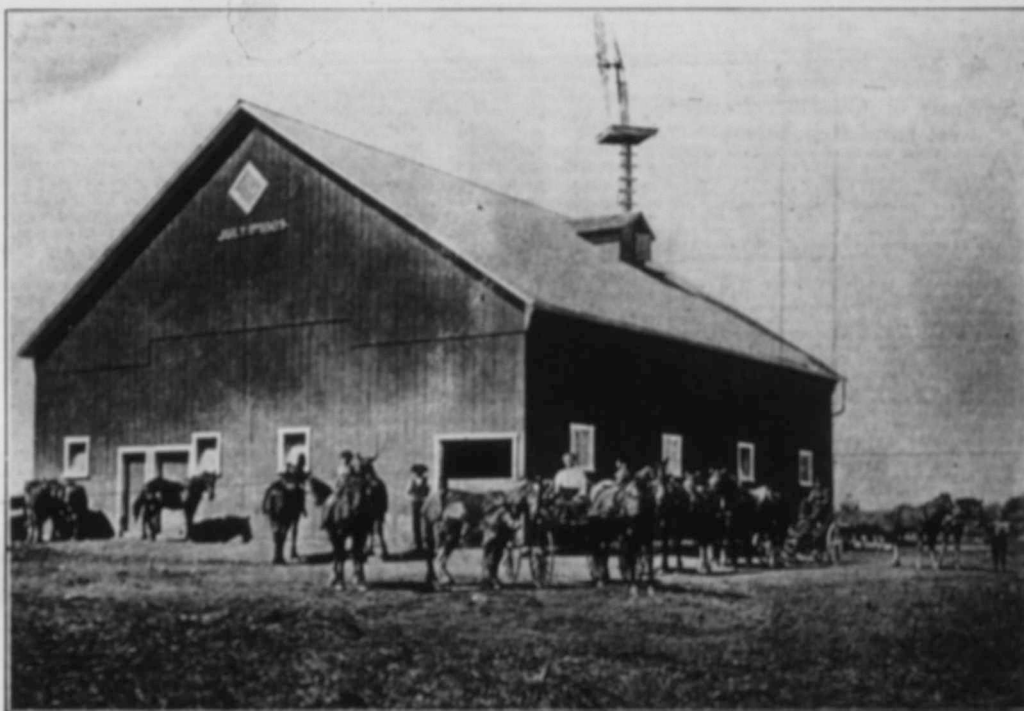
NOTHING TO RETRACT

Editor GUIDE:—Since calling the attention of your readers to the fact that certain U. F. A. meetings which Vice-President Tregillus attended, had a strong political flavor, I have been asked repeatedly to explain or retract. I have nothing to retract. The letters of Mr. Glass and Mr. Kammis explain satisfactorily that the appearance of certain members of parliament on the platform with Mr. Tregillus was a coincidence. But what about his personal attack at a U. F. A. meeting in the High River district, upon a government cabinet minister? I do not wish to be misunderstood. Mr. Tregillus has a perfect right to his political views. He would have been perfectly justified in campaigning in the Vermilion district against Premier Sifton were he not a chief official in the U. F. A. Right there lies my point of contention. I think the U. F. A. is bigger than either political party. We have absorbed the transportation and tariff problems and Sir Wilfrid, by this time, should be clearly convinced of this fact. In time we may even swallow one or both political parties, but just now we must be careful they do not swallow us. If we do not take a decided stand in this Tregillus matter it simply means that our society will become a political football and ambitious politicians will use our society to satisfy their purposes. Mr. Tregillus tries to make this a personal matter with me and states that I am serving certain elevator interests. This is false. I never had any such interests and my sympathies lie in an entirely different direction. It is not a personal matter with me and I have nothing but respect for Mr. Tregillus. This question is larger than any one member of the U. F. A. It is a principle. I would not again have taken this matter up had I not been asked to do so by my neighbors, Messrs. Glass and Kammis.

EDGAR W. FROST.

Clareholm, Alta.

[Note.—This subject seems to have been discussed as fully as is necessary for the



Barn of Andy Montgomery, Franklin, Man.