

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, January 21st, 1914

A VITAL PROBLEM

The Western Canadian farmers have succeeded in building three of the greatest farmers' associations the world has ever seen. They have also succeeded in building up three great grain and elevator companies. At present the co-operative spirit is very strong thruout the West and is manifesting itself in the development of co-operative societies, and the time is not far distant when these co-operative societies will dot the prairies in all directions. Each and every one of these great organizations depends for success upon the loyal and intelligent support of the farmers who are interested in it. The other great and important link in the farmers' organization is their own journal, which binds the whole into one and enables all the forces of the farmers to work together for a common purpose. Thru the loyal support and splendid aid given by its readers The Guide has come to the front place among the farm journals of Canada. It is now a weekly visitor in over 34,000 homes. The circulation is increasing as rapidly as could be desired. We still need to build up the financial side of the journal. As everyone knows, it is the advertising revenue that furnishes the money to publish the paper. The paper costs over \$3.00 a year to produce, and the subscription price is only \$1.00. Every other journal is in nearly the same position.

We want to ask the farmers to give us the same effective support towards building up The Guide that they have given towards building up their own associations and their own companies. This can be done in two ways.

First: When any farmer who believes in the work The Guide is doing has anything to sell, such as seed grain, live stock, etc., he should advertise it in his own paper. Where it is an article with a regular market, such as grain in bulk, furs, hides, poultry, etc., he should, as far as possible, sell to those who advertise in The Guide.

Second: When any farmer who believes in the work The Guide is doing is purchasing his necessities he should give a preference to those firms who advertise in his own paper. Such necessities include all kinds of farm implements and machinery, fencing, flour, tea, coffee and all kinds of foodstuffs, clothing, building material, watches, musical instruments and everything for the household.

Every farmer should read the advertising pages of the journals that come into his home. In these pages he will see the announcements of the latest inventions and improvements that are of interest and importance to the agricultural industry. Gladstone once said that it was a liberal education to any man to read the advertising pages of an American magazine. Anyone who studies the advertising pages of journals like The Saturday Post, of Philadelphia, or The American Magazine and Everybody's Magazine, of New York, will find the very latest discoveries in science and art that are not mentioned in their reading pages. So that not only are the advertising pages good reading but it is good business for every reader to aid their own journal in this way.

As we have stated before, we do not guarantee financially every one of our advertisers, but we examine every one of them carefully before accepting them and believe them to be reliable. We will investigate any complaints very promptly and see that justice is done, both to our readers and advertisers, as far as possible.

If we recollect aright the Family Herald and Weekly Star of Montreal, whose proprie-

tor is Sir Hugh Graham, made a promise prior to the last general election that if reciprocity were defeated it would donate \$10,000 to the work of carrying on organization and agitation in favor of placing agricultural implements on the free list. If our recollection is wrong we are ready to be corrected. If our recollection is right, we would like to know what has become of the \$10,000.

LEGISLATURE FAVORS FREE WHEAT

On Monday evening, January 12, the Manitoba Legislature unanimously passed the following resolution:

"Whereas the Congress of the United States of America have by recent legislation reduced the duty on wheat and wheat products entering the said United States of America,

"And whereas provision was made in the said legislation for the total removal of such duty on wheat entering the United States of America from any foreign country who would likewise remove such duty,

"And whereas it is the opinion of this House that such removal of duty by the Government of the Dominion of Canada from the United States of America would be beneficial to the agriculturists of Manitoba;

"Therefore let it be resolved: That, in the opinion of this House the Parliament of Canada should enact such legislation as would give the farmers of Manitoba the benefit of the countervailing duty on wheat and wheat products as provided in the Underwood tariff."

The intention of this peculiarly worded resolution is that the Parliament of Canada should place wheat, wheat flour and wheat products on the free list, as they are now subject to a countervailing duty on entering the United States market. By placing these articles on the free list we will immediately secure the free entry of our wheat into the United States, and the western farmers will have full benefit of the American wheat market. It is somewhat peculiar that the Manitoba Legislature, of which two-thirds of the members are Conservatives, should endorse a resolution in favor of free wheat, when the Ottawa Government, also Conservative, has not yet decided upon its action. As it now stands, however, practically all public bodies in the Prairie Provinces are in favor of opening the American market to Canadian wheat. We have pointed out previously in these columns that there is no reasonable objection to this course. Many eastern protectionists, however, regard this as the "thin edge of the wedge" and are urging the Dominion Government not to grant it. The chief benefit, it is true, will come to the grain growers of Western Canada, and Liberals and Conservatives alike are practically now all in favor of it. What excuse the Ottawa Government can find for refusing this measure of justice to the Western farmers it is difficult to imagine.

PARCELS POST ADJUSTMENT

Press dispatches from Ottawa indicate that one of the chief problems in the inauguration of the parcels post system is the making of satisfactory arrangements with the railway companies for the transportation of the increased volume of mail which will follow. It is stated that the railway companies are not satisfied to accept reasonable charges for the transportation of the increased mail, but in addition are insisting upon compensation for the loss of business thru the express companies, which they expect will be caused by the introduction of the parcels post system. This brings up, of course, the old question of "vested rights," and involves a consideration of the obligations to present day institutions which may become obsolete in the advance of civilization. The express companies are merely departments of the railway companies

organized separately for the purpose of producing extra large profits, and they have been very successful in this matter. The late Chairman Mabee of the Railway Commission, stated that there was no reason why the express service should not be handled direct by the railway companies and the express companies dispensed with. The parcels post system will not do away with the express system, as only small parcels can go thru the mail under present arrangements. But even if the express companies were entirely replaced by the parcel post system, we cannot see that the railways are entitled to any more than reasonable charges for transportation of the mail. There was no understanding that the railway companies were to have a monopoly of the express business for all time to come, and it will be an unjust burden upon the people if the government pays them for the loss of any express business. As wireless telegraphy develops and replaces the present telegraphic system, it certainly cannot be held that those who own the present telegraph lines are to be compensated for the loss of them when they become obsolete. If the government creates a precedent in this adjustment of the parcels post rates, by the payment of damages to those who suffer by the advance of civilization, it will simply mean fresh adjustment later on, which will cost considerable heart burning.

Z. A. LASH FOR REFERENDUM

The naval question is not referred to in the speech from the throne which was read by the Governor-General at the opening of the Federal Parliament on Thursday last, and it is, therefore, assumed that the Government does not propose to take any action with regard to the matter during the present session. We sincerely trust that this is so, for it is more evident every day, not only that Canada does not need a navy, but also that the gospel of peace and good will is spreading among the nations and that the day of universal disarmament is slowly but surely drawing nearer. Under these circumstances it is not necessary at this time to renew the argument on the general naval question, and we refer to the matter here only for the purpose of calling attention to the fact that no less influential a personage than Z. A. Lash, K.C., LL.D., has declared that it is the duty of the government, before putting any naval policy into effect, to submit its proposals to a referendum. Mr. Lash, in an address before the Canadian Club of Toronto, on January 5, suggested that the Government should mature its naval policy

"in such a way that it can be submitted clearly and succinctly, and apart from any other question, for the approval or disapproval of the people, but not at a general election."

The Guide has always maintained that the government, having no mandate from the people on the naval question, has no right to undertake the expenditure of the people's money either for the building of a Canadian navy, or by way of a grant to the British Admiralty, without first securing the consent of the people by means of a referendum. We are glad, therefore, to find that our contention is supported in such an influential quarter. The Toronto News, while it refers to Mr. Lash's address as "able, interesting and instructive," does not agree with his proposal for a referendum and says it is not likely that the suggestions will be adopted by the government. The News says:

"So many sectional and political considerations would inevitably enter into a naval referendum that the result probably would have doubtful value."

If that is true we should like to know how