

will be adjusted later. Yes, see what it is costing the province to get things into business shape later. Why not do it in a business-like way at the start and so prevent misunderstanding and unnecessary expense. I venture to say that it is now costing the province at least five dollars per hundred hogs signed for. How are the expenses to be paid? Now, I am satisfied that half the men that are signing the contracts do not understand just what they are undertaking to do. I was at a meeting a few days ago, when a farmer got up and said I think the contract is alright and we should all sign. He did so, but he failed to fill in the number of hogs he would supply and his attention was drawn to that fact. "Why," he said, "I have not got a single hog, and don't know where to get any. I sign in support of the plant being built." Now I know that in this case this man has been present at dozens of meetings when the pork packing proposition was talked and discussed, yet he did not know what he was expected to do. All that I wish to say further is that the treatment the farmers have received in this matter is a disgrace and an insult to the association and the farmers at large. The farmers placed confidence in the government by returning them, then in return the government should place confidence in their supporters. I am in favor of a government plant, but not a government monopoly. I would sign for a certain number of hogs, but not all, and I would like to see a plant large enough to compete with the Griffin and Burns.

Yours truly,

RICE SHEPPARD.

♦ ♦ ♦

SUGGESTION TO GRAIN GROWERS' COMPANY

Editor, GUIDE:—I wish to take up a small space in your valuable paper in reference to the Grain Growers' Company. As farmers I think that we all believe that it is a great benefit to the Grain Growers of the west, in the handling of their grains, and we believe in the sincerity and honesty of the men at the head of our company's affairs, and it is the wish of every thinking farmer that this state of things may continue always, but when we look into the future we see that others must take the place of those of the present, for it only takes time to bring about the change. Now, lest those who will take the places of our present officers, might not be desirable men, who would not have the interest of all at heart, but rather their own gain and power, and our company become something far from what it is now—a blessing to the country—we believe that we should have the most perfect organization that is possible for us to have, that is, an organization that would lead to every shareholder being a thinking, active factor in our great company. This by his own personal choice of representative at our company's annual meeting.

This can be done, I believe, by asking each municipality and the secretary of the company to forward to some person or persons in each municipality the names of those who are shareholders, these to be called together in a meeting, there to be organized into a branch of the company, having a president, secretary and treasurer. The purpose of the branch being to select a delegate or delegates to represent the members at the annual meeting or other meetings of the company, also to levy a fee sufficient to pay current expenses of their delegates. This would cost but little to each shareholder and yet he would be taking an active part in the deliberations of the general meetings of the company, through his delegate.

Under the present system the great majority of shareholders are represented at our meetings by those whom we have never seen, that is we send in our proxies and that is all that we know about the voting. So far we believe that it has been done just and right.

But I believe that the system of organizing as outlined above, would help to keep the doings of the company correct and would keep our best men at the head of affairs. Also I think it would lead to a deeper personal interest in our company. Not only would the present members have a greater interest, but the very fact that each member felt himself immediately in touch with the working of the company, would lead him

to talk of the merits and advantages of his company, and by that others would be brought to be shareholders in one of the greatest companies for the benefit of the farmers that this country has ever seen.

EDWARD GRIERSON.

Alexander, Man.

♦ ♦ ♦

JUNIOR ASSOCIATIONS PROPOSED

Editor, GUIDE:—The reading of THE GUIDE affords one much pleasure and instruction, and though I am not a farmer, I am glad to see that the farmers of our Great West have at least managed to get the sands of disunion out of their eyes, and are now marching on, shoulder to shoulder, to a Greater West. I notice numerous discussions and proposals in your Mail Bag columns, and respectfully tender the following.

Since the farmer has awakened to the value of united effort and enjoys monthly or oftener meetings, where he discusses conditions and affairs with his fellows, why not have his sons and daughters form similar junior associations? I dare assert that they will become as enthusiastic as the farmers are, and as they are to be the bearers of the banners of co-operation in the future, it is well they should be prepared for their parts. Junior associations, properly organized and planned, would accomplish this end.

THE GUIDE might publish a page for boys, giving in simple form a resume of all previous conditions, the history of the association, and of present problems. The boys might be encouraged to discuss these at the meetings and also in THE GUIDE. The meetings might be similar to the ordinary mutual improvement societies, paying particular attention to farming problems. I would be pleased to see discussions on this subject.

A RURAL PEDAGOGUE.

Minitonas, Man.



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