

The Grain Growers' Guide

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Published under the auspices and employed as the Official Organ of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and the United Farmers of Alberta.

The Guide is designed to give uncolored news from the world of thought and action and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continually be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the widest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

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Free Trade Manufacturer

The Sarnia Fence Company is Ready and Able to Face Competition from American Manufacturers. Does Not Need Protection

The Grain Growers' Guide,
Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Sirs:—

Replying to your letter of August 6, requesting our views on the tariff question, and how free trade would affect our line, would say that the policy of the Sarnia Fence company differs from that of most Canadian manufacturers. We believe that the price of a manufactured article should be based upon the cost of production, not upon tariff protection. We know of no legitimate reason why the Canadian fence manufacturer should demand a much higher price for his fence than the manufacturer in the United States. The government admits plain wire for fence purposes to come in free of duty, which makes the cost of raw material the same in both countries, the labor conditions in Canada are more favorable to the Canadian manufacturer than they are to the manufacturer in the United States, and if the government will continue to leave plain galvanized wire on the free list we can manufacture in Canada as economically as any place on the continent, and we are not afraid of competition from the United States.

The Real Secret

Whenever a reduction in the tariff is suggested, the Canadian manufacturer howls most piteously, claiming he will be ruined, and will have to close down his plant, that he cannot compete with the United States. We do not believe that this is so unless he has allowed his plant to become obsolete, and his system out of date in order that fat dividends may be paid his shareholders. The real secret of his opposition to the removal of the tariff is the fear of the loss of the amount of the duty for dividends. A Canadian steel corporation who has received millions of dollars from the people of Canada in the form of bounties, and who are most persistent in their demands for renewal of the steel bounties as well as for higher tariff, made statements to prospective British investors that they had the ore, the lime stone and the coal at their very doors, and proved by figures that they could manufacture steel for less cost per ton than any other place in the world, but when they talk to our own people at home, they must have protection as well as assistance. It is a well known fact that Canadian manufacturers consider the duty their legitimate graft, they consider it perfectly legitimate that the price of a manufactured article in Canada should be the price in the United States, plus whatever duty the government can be led to believe they require.

Protection Breeds Combines

To give you an illustration of how the farmer is deprived of what was to all apparent intents and purposes an advantage for him, the late government as a special concession to the farmer placed plain galvanized wire for farm fencing on the free list. This was done so the farmer could get his fence cheaper; a duty of 15 per cent., however, was retained on manufactured fencing. The result was the Canadian manufacturers based their price upon the prices in

the United States, plus the duty on finished fence, which resulted in the manufacturer reaping the full benefit of the reduction which was apparently intended for the farmer, and the farmer had no option but pay the price if he wished to use fence. This condition would not have been so bad had the matter been left at that, but with the tariff as a basis for protection against competition, a combine was formed for the purpose of further bleeding the farmer. This circle of manufacturers got to look upon the Canadian field as exclusively their own, and all not in the combine must keep out, and they resented what they called the intrusion of the Sarnia Fence company in a most vicious, arbitrary manner. The Ontario farmer has sized up the situation, and has stood at our backs in such a loyal manner that the prices of the Sarnia Fence company (which are not based on the tariff protection) have been acknowledged by the combine.

Tariff Going Up

According to the statements of Major J. A. Currie, member of parliament in the Dominion House for North Simcoe, made to the Sarnia Fence company that he, as a member of the government, had inside information to the effect that before the end of the present year the government was going to take wire for farm fencing off the free list, and that he was forming a new merger of the fence interests that he might take advantage of the situation. If plain wire for farm fencing were taken from the free list it would compel all fence manufacturers to purchase their raw material from the steel interests in Canada, who bleed the country for millions of dollars in the form of steel bounties, and who endeavored to have the bounties renewed by the present government this year, but were prevented by the Canadian farmers standing together, and giving expression to their disapproval through the 25,000 petitions which the Sarnia Fence company had circulated.

The "Steal" Gang

This talk of the removal of plain wire from the free list is the result of further efforts on the part of the steel interests in Canada to get control of the wire situation in the Canadian field. It is therefore in the interests of every farmer in Canada to oppose this change as the farmer will be obliged to pay the shot. We have found that some of the most prominent farm papers, which claim to be published in the interests of the farmer, have refused to publish in their columns (even if paid for) matter pertaining to the fence combine for fear of offending some of their other advertisers. Combines and mergers are only possible where a high tariff is maintained which smother competition and reacts to the advantage of a few at the expense of the masses.

We will be very glad to have you publish the above letter in your paper, or use it in any way which will further the interests of the farmer.

Yours very truly,

THE SARNIA FENCE CO.
Jno. M. McCrae, Sec.-Treas.

The Guide is the only paper in Canada that is absolutely owned and controlled by the organized farmers. It is entirely independent, and not one dollar of political, capitalistic or Special Interest money is invested in it. All opinions expressed in The Guide are with the aim to make Canada a better country and to bring forward the day when "Equal Rights to All and Special Privileges to None" shall prevail.

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We publish no free "boosters," and all advertising matter is plainly marked as such.

Rates for classified advertisements may be seen on the classified page. Display rates may be had on application.

Change of advertising copy and new matter must reach us seven days in advance of publication to ensure insertion.

ELEVATOR COMBINE BUSY

At a special meeting of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange on Friday, August 23, the following by-law was passed by a vote of 150 to 7:—

"To amend section 6 of by-law number 19 of the printed by-laws of the Exchange as amended to the 15th of May, 1912, by inserting the following words after the words 'cut or evaded' on the ninth line of page 53 of the said printed by-law, 'or shall be a shareholder, officer or employee of any Joint Stock company, or a member of any partnership, which company or partnership (whether a member of this Exchange or not) shall charge or offer to charge less as commission for the handling of grain than the rates of commission provided for in this by-law, or shall rebate, or offer to rebate, to any person, firm or corporation, any portion of such commission rate, or any of the charges or expenses incurred and properly chargeable to such person, firm or corporation in or for the handling of consigned grain, or shall pay, or give, or offer to pay or give, any consideration of any kind whatsoever to any person, firm or corporation to influence or procure shipments or consignments of grain to such company or partnership, or shall in any way attempt to evade the provisions of this by-law in regard to commission, or shall do or permit to be done any act, matter, or thing, which, if done by a member of this Exchange, would be a contravention of this by-law or any other of the rules or by-laws of this Exchange, or would render such member liable to censure, fine, suspension or expulsion; provided, however, that nothing herein contained is to prevent the regular employment by the said company or the said partnership of legitimate registered travelling men, of registered track buyer, or the employment of an elevator operator, on the same terms and conditions and subject to the same rules as are herebefore set forth in regard to the employment of same by a member of this Exchange."

This amendment was opposed by T. A. Crerar, president of the Grain Growers' Grain company, who regarded it as vicious in principle. MacLennan Bros. also opposed it, as it was aimed specially at their business. There is no doubt but that the new amendment gives the elevator companies additional advantages in the country. It is thought that more will be heard of this matter.

THRESHERS' ACCOUNT BOOK

Every thresherman should have an account book that will show him his profit and loss every day. This book is easy to keep and gives the standing every night. The threshing account may be handed to the farmer two minutes after the last sheaf has passed through the machine. Supplies to laborers are kept in a systematic form always ready to be deducted from the wages account. There can be no "leakholes." The Threshers' Account Book contains:

2 Sheets Time Book for "Names," etc.

10 Sheets week's Record Forms.

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2 Sheets Standard Ledger.

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The book is bound in stiff board, covered with leatherette, having projecting edges, a book constructed to stand rough usage. Size of book 8 1/4 x 11 1/4. Price \$1.00 postpaid.

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