

The Brain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, September 6th, 1916

ANOTHER JOLT FOR THE KAISER

The entry of Roumania into the war on the side of Britain and her Allies is a severe blow to the ambition of the German Emperor and his Austrian ally. For two years Roumania has remained neutral, both the warring parties endeavoring to win her support. During this time Roumania has been organizing and drilling her army of 600,000 soldiers, equipping them with the most up-to-date weapons of destruction and making every preparation for war. Roumania has been calmly endeavoring to decide which of the warring parties it would best pay her to join. What she most wants is a slice of Austrian territory bordering on her own, peopled largely with Roumanians and she has been waiting to see which looks like the victor in order to be on the winning side. It is quite apparent that the Roumanian king and his government have decided that Germany and Austria have no possible hope of victory and have therefore thrown in their lot with the Entente Allies and Roumanian soldiers are now forcing their way into Hungary. Greece is in a state of upheaval. It is reported that the king has fled but that his wife (who is the sister of the German Kaiser) still refuses to permit Greece to enter the war against Germany as the Greek people desire. However, Bulgarian soldiers have already invaded Greece and captured several Greek forts and slaughtered a number of Greek soldiers. Greece is practically a party to the war, altho not by actual declaration. Venizelos, the famous Greek patriot, who is regarded as one of the very ablest statesmen in Europe, who has been twice deposed by the king, is again the man of the hour and is determined that Greece shall enter the war on the side of Britain.

There are reports that Sweden will enter the war on the side of Germany. The only European countries then left who are not in the war will be Norway, Denmark, Holland, Switzerland and Spain. No such war ever occurred or was ever dreamed of. Two years of the gigantic struggle have passed and today victory is a certainty for Britain and her Allies, tho the end may be prolonged for some considerable time.

IMPORTANT RULINGS FORESHADOWED

Altho no decision has yet been given by the Board of Grain Commissioners either on the "hybrid" ticket or upon the question of "substitution of grain," Dr. Magill, Chairman of the Board, gave an intimation of the probable decision at the meeting held in the Winnipeg Grain Exchange last Thursday. The chairman discussed the question of "substitution" at considerable length and showed where it would inevitably lead if the principle were admitted. He also discussed the "hybrid" ticket question and the various phases of it brought up by both sides in the arguments recently presented. He also discussed the terms of clause 166 of the Grain Act which the elevator interests claim gives them legal permission to use any kind of ticket they like so long as the farmers they deal with are agreeable to its use. While the chairman gave no definite ruling, and it is understood he will not give a ruling until the Department of Justice passes upon the legal aspects of both questions, yet both the elevator representatives and the farmers' representatives at the meeting last Thursday gathered the impression that the Board of Grain Commissioners would likely prohibit the practice of "substitution of grain" as illegal but that they would permit the use of the "hybrid" ticket, possibly changing the regulations and making more strict supervision than in the past. The definite decision will no doubt be shortly forthcoming.

MR. NORRIS' TARIFF VIEWS.

Premier Norris of Manitoba has been visiting recently in British Columbia and in an interview in Victoria he gave the following statement to the *Victoria Times*:

"So far as the West is concerned," he said, "the West wants a tariff as low as it is possible for us to have it. We want a tariff for revenue only. That's what the prairie wants. British Columbia may clash with that idea. But the clash might as well come soon as late. A tariff for revenue only will solve many of our problems in Western Canada. Moreover, let me say this, that there is no institution under the sun which develops crookedness and dishonesty in public life as does the high protective tariff. Much of the wrong-doing in this Dominion can be traced directly to the evils originating from our system of protection. Did anyone ever feel a pang of conscience at smuggling an article into the country? No! Well, the conscience of people who have reaped great wealth from the iniquitous system of high protection has been deadened whenever they have come in contact with their beloved tariff."

Mr. Norris' views on the tariff question are certainly in the right direction. He knows from long experience as a farmer that the protective tariff is crippling the development of this country and is moreover the chief cause of corruption in our public life. It is rather significant that Mr. Norris should give out a statement of this kind on the tariff question immediately following the announcement of the new tariff policy by the Liberal Party. The National Liberal Advisory Committee has framed a new tariff policy for the Liberal Party consisting of the following planks, "free wheat, free flour, free implements and equitable taxation." They have deliberately thrown aside the reciprocity agreement which the Western farmers have demanded for many years and for which they voted so overwhelmingly in 1911. It is quite apparent that Mr. Norris does not agree with this new fangled tariff platform which the Liberal Party has prepared in the hope of winning the financial support of the protected interests.

Hon. Edward Brown, one of Mr. Norris' colleagues in the Manitoba Government was a member of the Liberal Committee who prepared this new tariff platform. It would be interesting to have Mr. Brown's views on the tariff.

THE ANNUAL CROP REPORT

This week we are mailing out to local secretaries and other prominent farmers report forms from which to secure data to compile our annual report on crop conditions thruout the Prairie Provinces. These forms will be in the hands of our correspondents by the time this issue of *The Guide* reaches them and we would ask them to make a special effort, even at some sacrifice to themselves, to co-operate with us in having these reports filled in and mailed promptly on September 16. It is impossible for us to prepare this report without the assistance of a large number of local secretaries and other grain growers. We cannot afford to pay each correspondent for the time and trouble to which he will be put in preparing these reports but it is of great value to have an authentic and reliable report of crop conditions. Last year our readers assisted us in providing three reports and our final estimate of the 1915 crop, prepared from the reports sent in by our readers, was more nearly correct than any other estimate issued last year. We ask for the same co-operation this year and hope to be able to put out a report that will be of value to everyone.

The distance to town is a matter of time more than anything else. If the road is good enough to double your load you can cut the distance in half.

EDUCATE THE BOYS AND GIRLS

The season is now approaching when the agricultural colleges, universities, business colleges, high schools and other colleges will be opening their doors to the youth of this country. Thousands of farmers who had good crops last year and this, can easily afford to give their boys and girls the best educational advantages which the country affords and it is a part of their responsibility towards their children to see that they are given a good education. To equip a boy or girl mentally and physically to take their part in life's work and to render their best services to their fellowmen, is infinitely wiser than to leave them a lot of money without the mental equipment. A good education is about the only thing that cannot be mortgaged or squandered or lost and the boy or girl who is thus properly equipped will be able to take care of himself or herself in the world, whether or not they have a financial legacy.

FARMERS CAPTURE GOVERNMENT

It is an intensely interesting story which Mr. McKenzie tells on another page of this issue of how the farmers of North Dakota in a whirlwind political campaign have captured the Government of their State and have determined to get square deal legislation which has been denied them by the powers that be. Farmers of Western Canada should read this story and learn what other farmers have done to secure their rights after being flouted for many years by both political parties. So long as the farmers in Canada or any other country are willing to vote blindly for either one of the old political parties, just so long will they remain a nonentity in shaping the legislation of the country. Western Canada will remain the stamping ground for the privileged interests until that day arrives when the farmers of this country with one accord are willing to forget that they are Liberals or Conservatives and will remember only that they are men with responsibility to themselves, their families and their country and prepared to nominate and elect members to the House of Commons and the Provincial legislatures who owe no allegiance to any party but are free and anxious to promote the welfare of the country.

SUCCESSFUL BREEDING ASSOCIATION

An encouraging letter came recently from a subscriber in Eastern Saskatchewan. Its lessons are applicable anywhere that livestock is being produced. It told a story of co-operation as applied to production, of community work in breeding better stock. Indeed this letter contains so many signal lessons that we quote much of it in full:

"Our association now has fifteen active members, that means fifteen actual breeders of purebred stock in this district. Many others have signified their intention of joining the association and we believe another year will see us with not less than thirty members. While many others are changing breeds and going in and out with the seasons our members are sticking solidly to the dairy cow, for her products are the most stable of all our animal products. Our association discussed the advisability of holding a fall consignment sale but the demand for stock is so keen among the members that they will not consign any stock for such a sale until they have a surplus. However, the secretary has a list of considerable stock for sale grades and pure bred. Car lots can be secured in this district cheaper now than the same could be brought from Ontario."

All this was written soon after the second annual meeting of this association, which was held recently. It shows what a cohesion of effort and mutual encouragement will accomplish in furthering the only secure foundation on which to build our agriculture of the future. It was written of Holstein breeders but it