

The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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.

Canadian Subscriptions, \$1.00 per year in advance.

Foreign Subscriptions, \$1.50

Single Copy, 5 cents.

Advertising Rates on Application.

Address all communications to The Grain Growers' Guide Winnipeg.

Change of copy and New Matter must be received not later than Friday noon each week to ensure insertion.

SEPTEMBER 14th, 1910

OREGON'S POPULAR GOVERNMENT

The article by United States Senator Bourne in this issue of THE GUIDE is one that should command the serious attention of all our readers who believe in popular control of governments. Senator Bourne, in delivering such an address in the United States senate, would not have a very appreciative audience. It is refreshing, however, to note that in a country where capital and corporations have secured such vast power, at least one of the states of the union is governed by the people. Senator Bourne staunchly maintains that the people are fully capable of governing themselves and proves it by the result of popular government in Oregon. A great many of the improvements that have been made in Oregon could also be made in Canada. We are beginning to find in this country, day by day, that the corporations have more power than the people and the only way in which this can be overcome is through Direct Legislation, which will place the government completely and at all times in the hands of the people. It was the Initiative and Referendum that gave Oregon, or rather the people of Oregon, the opportunity to enact legislation in their own interests and to protect themselves against grasping corporations. It is significant to note that the Initiative and Referendum was adopted by the people of Oregon by a vote of 62,044 to 5,668. It required a campaign of education to show the people of Oregon the benefit of the Initiative and Referendum, but once they were seized of its possibilities they were overwhelmingly in favor of it. The people of Oregon do not do the same now as do the people of Canada. In this country we elect representatives to our legislature for four or five years, and during that time our representatives can do just whatever may please them. The people have absolutely no control over them. If the people of Canada wish certain legislation enacted and the legislature refuses to enact it, the people are powerless. In Oregon, however, eight per cent. of the people can compel the legislature to pass any bill and submit it to a referendum of the people. Thus the voice of the people can be secured upon any important matter. Also, in Oregon, when the legislature passes laws that are not satisfactory to the people, the remedy still remains with the people. Five per cent. of the voters of Oregon can compel the legislature to submit any

bill to a referendum of the people. It is also pleasing to note that when once the people of Oregon have pronounced in favor of any legislature the governor has no power to veto. Another phase of the Oregon law which appeals to thinking people is that of the publicity pamphlet. In this country of party newspapers it would be a boon to intelligent electors to be able to secure the truth in time of party warfare. In Canada a man reads both papers and then makes a guess at the truth. In Oregon there is a state pamphlet issued which contains the facts of the information which the electors require. In looking over the list of bills upon which the people of Oregon have voted, it is readily seen that the people are capable of conducting their own business. The Corrupt Practices Act in Oregon does away with a great deal of the corruption in politics such as we have in Canada. Every candidate there is compelled to set forth his argument in a pamphlet which is mailed to every voter and the amount of money which he may spend is strictly limited. This gives every candidate an opportunity to present his views to the people and does not leave him at the mercy of party organs who distort facts in their own interests. It is a serious matter for a candidate in Oregon to go around promising jobs to his supporters. And it is also a serious matter for any person to hold up a candidate for subscriptions in order to secure support. In Oregon the law prohibits such scenes as we have in Canada where candidates too frequently curry favor in the bar room or in other questionable ways. We need a Corrupt Practices Act in Canada that will be of some use in preventing corruption. In Oregon a man who is caught purchasing or being purchased is subject to a year in jail and a fine of \$5000.

The people of Oregon were not satisfied with the Initiative and Referendum and have also placed the Recall upon their statute books. The legislature refused to enact the Recall and the people acted under the Initiative. Twenty-five per cent. of the electors in any constituency can compel the resignation of any representative, while in Canada 100 per cent. of the electors could not take the slightest action against any representative who disobeyed their wishes. The legislation which the people have worked out for themselves in Oregon is the same kind of legislation which the people must work out for themselves in Canada. Popular feeling is growing day by day in favor of Direct Legislation and not until it becomes a part of the statutes of each of the provinces of the Dominion will the people be able to secure legislation that will be a square deal to all.

WOMEN TO THE FRONT

Every person who follows carefully the trend of public sentiment in various parts of the civilized world must come to the conclusion that slowly but surely the women are forging ahead and taking their place alongside of the men in the solution of national problems. Only a short time ago municipal suffrage was granted to the women of Norway. Already, in the state of Colorado, the women are voting and in three additional western states the people will vote upon the question of universal suffrage this fall. At Victoria, B.C., two weeks ago, by a vote of 64 to 24, the Methodist Conference refused to admit women to the church courts. Two weeks ago Dr. Helen MacMurchy, of Toronto, was appointed a member of the International Committee of the Congress of Hygiene at Paris, and thus recognized as one of the foremost medical authorities of the world. It is but comparatively few years since women were not allowed to graduate from the leading universities of this continent. Now the number of graduates is rapidly increasing. In Chicago, the chief position in the educational work for that city, is held by a woman; and all over the continent women are steadily making

progress in securing equality with the men. Everywhere the women are organizing and carrying on a campaign for education to secure what they believe to be their rights. In the old world and in the new world they are publishing newspapers devoted to the cause of equal suffrage. They have secured the support of some of the most intelligent and able men of the world and are steadily gaining recruits. In Western Canada the farmers' associations have admitted women to their membership and invited them to take part in their deliberations, thus recognizing the intelligence and ability of the women to assist the men. Naturally there is strong opposition to this forward movement on the part of the women. Every progressive movement has its opponents, and stalwart opponents, but it is patent to every student of the times that the cause of equal suffrage is making rapid progress. Such progress is in keeping with the spirit of democracy. As civilization advances and men become more liberal minded, the claims of the women will be more generally recognized. It does not require the eye of a prophet to look into the future, and not very far distant, to see the day when the women of all democratic countries will exercise the franchise side by side with the men and take upon themselves the full share of the burden of national affairs.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

The recent decision of the Hague Tribunal, noted on another page, shows the remarkable advance made towards international peace through arbitration. The Newfoundland fisheries question has been a source of trouble between the two great Anglo-Saxon nations for a century back and it is a tribute to Anglo-Saxon common sense that the matter has been settled so quietly instead of, as would have been the case among many European nations, going to war. The fact that Great Britain and the United States have accepted the award of The Tribunal also raises the prestige of The Hague among other nations. It seems strange to consider that the first peace conference at The Hague was called by the Czar of Russia in 1899, and between that time and the second conference at The Hague in 1907, the Czar had plunged his country into a disastrous war. Up to the present time The Hague has not resulted in any move towards disarmament among nations. It seems reasonable to hope, however, that as civilization advances the time is not far distant when all great international disputes will be settled at The Hague rather than on the battlefield. Imagine Great Britain and the United States going to war over the fisheries question and yet hundreds of thousands of men have been slaughtered on the battle field over far more trivial questions! International arbitration seems to be the chief hope for international peace.

MR. ROBSON'S INDISCRETION

In the Winnipeg Telegram of September 8th there is a letter signed by J. W. Robson, of Swan River. This letter would occupy a page and a half in THE GUIDE, otherwise we would publish it. Whether our readers ever saw the letter of Mr. Robson's or not they can figure out all the possible charges against THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, and the Grain Growers' Grain Company and the three gentlemen at the head of these institutions, and consider that these charges are all contained in Mr. Robson's letter. Mr. Robson also explained in his letter that he would have been the best possible man to represent the Swan River farmers in the legislature and that THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE and the Grain Growers' Grain Company are the worst enemies the farmers of Manitoba have. Mr. Robson has a perfect right to his own opinion and we think we have a right to ours. We are not going to hit Mr. Robson when he is down. He made a