

Saskatchewan

This Section of The Guide is Conducted Officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by Fred. W. Green, Secretary, Moose Jaw, Sask.

WHY THE FARMER IS POOR

From the Winnipeg Free Press I note the following:—"The heart and back-bone of Ontario. The rural counties are not stagnating but really going backward. The exodus from the farms reaching such proportions as to wipe out the natural increase of the past ten years. The census figures show that the economic balance between town and country has been destroyed. It profits a country nothing to gain a hundred thousand urban population at a loss of an equal number in rural population."

"What is the cause? Public men have been too much inclined to make the farmer the burden bearer for the whole community. The redistribution representative adjustment will require more city representatives and proportionately less rural representatives. How do agriculturists expect to get legislation more favorable to rural life? F. W. Thompson of the Ogilvie Milling Company, recently declared, "High cost of living is caused by high and extravagant living, the over indulgence in expensive luxuries. The farmer is not the party who has raised the price. Too few people on the soil, too little work, and too much play. The remedy is—produce more and waste less."

Every man who does not add to the public store is a drag and a drain on him who does and it makes little difference whether he is a retired farmer or a speculator. Why should a city contain four hundred thousand people, one hundred thousand of which only are men, 25% of which cannot work, 25% who will not work, 25% serving in some form or other those who cannot and will not work leaving only 25% of the men who really contribute a product for general exchange amongst producers, fully 50% of which are non-essentials to either health or happiness. Does it not look like a rather expensive outfit to compel the farmer to board?

To show something of the cost and divisions of living charges by the very ordinary family in a city, all of which in some form is taxed up to the father's business, the following statement is interesting. It shows that after all not very many of the charges are for food products. It is taken from actual accounts of a family consisting of three growing boys and five girls, ranging in age from 6 to 18, with their father and mother. The value of the home in which they live is assessed at fifteen thousand dollars, the assessment twelve mills on the dollar for municipal tax. There are other miscellaneous expenses which are not in the account such as birthday presents, Xmas toys, skates, lacrosse sticks, baseball clubs, hockey sticks, watches, rings, brooches, etc. The accounts are worked out to a per diem per capita cost:—Interest on home 25 cents, municipal tax 5 cents, Doctor's bills 1½ cents, travelling 9 cents, musical instruments and music lessons 4 cents, picnics, shows and lectures 3 cents, donations and church finance 10 cents, dry goods and shoes 30 cents, household furnishings 3 cents, bread 2½ cents, milk 2 cents, meat 6 cents, groceries 7 cents, butter 3 cents, vegetables 3 cents, fuel 3 cents, light 1½ cents, and water 1 cent. This statement shows that it actually costs this family approximately \$1.20 per head per day or \$438.00 per head per annum and there are no allowances here for cigars, tobacco or expensive banquetings and tea parties. Of course hundreds have to live on much less but the relative proportions, I think, will remain largely the same. A smaller house will mean less interest, (or rent) less coal, less light, less municipal tax, possibly less donations, fewer books, less for music and less for travelling. However, the figures are actual figures and the people live moderately and fairly careful. Hundreds of ordinary business men have more costly homes and spend

a great deal more along every line but the whole thing is bound to be taxed to their business and ultimately up to the land outside of the city in some form or other.

A lady stenographer was asked, "How much salary do you get?" She replied, "Sixty-five dollars." "You will save \$2.00 per week out of that I suppose?" I said. She replied, "No Sir, I have to pay \$10.00 per month for a room—about 35 cents per day—75 cents for board per day, washing \$1.00 per week or 15 cents per day." "Why don't you do that in your spare time?" I said. "Well," she replied, "Owners of our rooms will not allow that." Then she went on, "My clothes cost me about \$10.00 per month, my shoes alone cost me \$30.00 per year and then there are many other minor accounts for things that a girl has to have, making her daily expenses about \$2.00 per day." Do many stenographers live like that? I asked. "Oh yes, there are hundreds of them in the City. That is an average salary and average expense I think." But you are not trying to make out that is a tax on the farm, are you? Well, where else can it ultimately fall? F.W.G.

Enclosed please find the order for \$25.00 as membership fees for our Association for 1912.

A. W. OLSON.

Sec'y Churchbridge Branch.

A. W. Olson:

Yours of the 2nd inst enclosing \$25.00 membership fees for 1912 to hand. We herewith enclose our receipt with thanks. This is an encouraging letter. When we see farmers making an effort to help themselves we feel like buckling our belt tighter and attempting to help them further. We have heard a great deal lately about farmers being careless, faithless, stingy, etc., leading men finding out they can do a great deal better for themselves and win more favor by helping to trim the farmer than they can by helping to protect the farmer, etc. But such letters as yours is helpful, not that money is everything, but it is one thing and sending it in is indicative of many things, and for your encouragement we may say that we are receiving a number of a similar nature. We hope that you will watch conditions carefully at your point. See that the farmers get their rights by keeping up a live Board of Trade activity. See that you get your share of cars and that they are properly distributed amongst your people. Weigh your grain. Do not trust elevator men; not that they are bad or more imperfect than others, but as well not count the money that they give you for your grain, as to put the grain in their pit without weighing it. Keep your sample; see to it that if you have special bin grain, that the grain you put into the elevator goes into your car. Watch for any specific cases of unfairness, neglect or mistakes on the part of elevator men or Railway Companies; yes, or Farmers. Note when cars are placed, and when taken away. Keep a sharp lookout on the business at your point. Such information is very valuable at this office. Advise your people not to thresh wet or damp grain if it can possibly be avoided. Great losses are being sustained by shipping tough stuff.

F. W. G.

The following membership fees have been received during August and September:

Aberdeen, \$3.00; Macklin, \$3.00; Evesham, \$7.00; Hillsley, \$6.50; St. Boswells, \$10.50; Ladstock, \$3.00; Niry Creek, \$12.00; Moose Pond, \$18.50; Ravine Bank, \$10.50; Bangor, \$4.00; New Bank, \$1.50; Whiteberry, \$10.00; Cooper Creek, \$4.00; Howell, \$9.50; Gettysburg, \$7.00; Edam, \$2.00; Boldenhurst, \$7.50; Lannigan, \$11.00; Thorndyke, \$11.50; Manna, \$5.00; Dundurn, \$3.50; Douglas, \$7.00; Orcadia, 50 cents; Meota, \$1.00; Melville, \$2.50; Langenburg, \$6.00; Parkdale, \$5.00; Ogema, \$1.00; Armley, \$4.50; Lockwood, \$6.00; Coburg, \$5.50; Sedley, \$10.00; Crest Wynd, \$5.50; Atwater, \$2.50; Daybreak, \$3.50; Lewvan, \$5.50; Springwater, \$10.00; Cory, \$17.50; Piapot, \$10.00; Green Briar, \$9.00; Gray, \$1.50.

Harness Catalogue WRITE FOR IT

Thos. McKnight
166 Princess St. Winnipeg

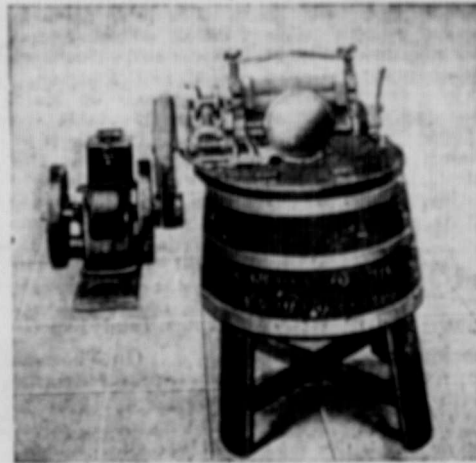
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Outfit as illustrated, including washer, belt and our Handy Boy 1½ H.P. Engine only \$65.00. Shipping weight, 350 pounds.

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Saskatchewan Sheep Sales

REGINA
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 30

THERE will be held at the Exhibition Grounds, Regina, on Wednesday, October 30, at Two p.m., an auction sale of Pure Bred Sheep, under the auspices of the Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders' Association. Males and females of all the leading breeds will be offered, also a few high-grade ewes. The Association will supply any individual or district with grade ewes to form the nucleus of a breeding flock at \$7.00 per head, laid down. Sales arranged privately.

Write to the Secretary for particulars

W. G. SUTHERLAND,
Saskatoon, President

J. COCHRANE SMITH,
Regina, Secretary

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