

The Mail Bag

STOREKEEPERS AND CO-OPERATION

Editor, Guide:—Your circular letter of the 1st October mentions that The Guide "has supported the efforts of the Alberta Co-operative Elevator Co. and the Grain Growers' Grain Co. . . . to reduce the cost of living to the farmers by supplying them with their necessities on the co-operative plan at much lower prices than ordinary," which is quite true and our union has benefited thereby by buying cedar posts and twine from both these companies. We also hope to do more co-operative buying in the future. As secretary of the association I have naturally received some attention from the merchants of our town who have passed some adverse criticism on our union not patronizing their own town. Many arguments have been advanced why we should support their town, one being that we should keep the money within our own community, another, that the merchants have given credit in big amounts to the farmers and have some very big bad debts on their books, therefore we should support them. And the merchants say we are trying to take their living from them. Now I feel that there should not be bad feeling between the farmer and the merchant in town, for it seems to me that the farmer would be badly off if he could not get in town very many little things he needs to run his farm. I do not know whether your paper has ever taken up this question of the relations that should exist between the farmer and the townsmen. I would like to treat the townspeople absolutely fair in this co-operative buying. I would like to think of your paper as being quite fair in your support of the farmer; that you do not wish to harm anyone that is striving to earn his living honestly who is not a farmer. If you think this question would be of any interest to your readers I should be very glad to know your views. I am sure that there are quite a number of U.F.A. secretaries feel rather sensitive in the matter.

WM. HALSALL,

Sec'y Willow Hollow Local, U.F.A.
Killam, Alta.

Note—The above from Mr. Halsall is a valuable contribution to the co-operative discussion. This problem of the relation between the farmer and the country merchant is one that must be worked out in each community. Certainly there is no desire to array the two against each other, and the only principle upon which the problem can be properly solved is that of "the greatest good to the greatest number." We shall be pleased to hear from other secretaries or other readers who have given thought to this problem and are prepared to give some helpful suggestions in regard to it.—Editor.

THE LAST WAR?

Editor, Guide:—The remark is now frequently made that the present war will be the last of the world's wars, and surely every sane man and woman hopes that it may be. But we should do more than hope; we should do something to justify hope. Doubtless thruout all the periods of the world's history there have been people who hoped that war should cease, but, generally speaking, they contented themselves with having done that much. The fact is that no evil will down of itself; it must be put down, and the sooner the people of the world realize this truth with regard to war the more quickly will something substantial be accomplished for the freeing of humanity from this worst of all scourges.

When the present war is over there will be movements set afoot for world peace in addition to those which are already organized, and in these all may find opportunity to do their share. The Guide is setting a splendid example. If even half the newspapers and periodicals of Europe and America had the wisdom to work as vigorously for the abolition of war our hopes would soon find their fulfillment.

D. E. JACKSON.
Polwarth, Sask., Oct. 13, 1914.

DISLOYAL FARMERS

Editor, Guide:—I am secretary of Stonewall Local of the U.F.A., and am interested in the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co. I know that a lot of the farmers and shareholders in the above company sell their grain to line elevators when they are offered a higher price. They do not seem to

more from line companies, and go and boast about it, thinking they were smart men, not understanding that what they get extra where there is a farmers' elevator, where there is no farmers' elevator the farmer gets less in comparison.

THOS. PARTRIDGE.

Monitor, Alta.

HOLLY WREATH AND MISTLETOE

Holly wreath and mistletoe—
Hang them high, and hang them low;
Berries white and berries red,
Festooned arches overhead,
Green and red, green and white,
In the glowing candle-light;
All along the hallway dim,
And the yawning fireplace trim.
Here a spray and there a bow—
Holly wreath and mistletoe!

In the window, o'er the door,
From the ceiling to the floor,
Where the lads and lassies fair
Stand beneath the winding stair;
Glowing cheeks and sparkling eyes
Speak of many a glad surprise;
Merry laugh—a gallant bold,
And the story soon is told.
Hang them high, and hang them low—
Holly wreath and mistletoe!

—Granville Osborne

understand that it is only to break farmers' companies that they give higher prices. I am an advocate of a penalty of two or three cents on the dollar to all shareholders who sell their grain to elevators outside their own company, as I do not think it fair to loyal members to have to run the risk of the company suffering thru the disloyal members. I think if this matter was given more publicity the farm-

FREIGHT ON FRUIT

Editor, Guide:—I am enclosing my renewal for The Guide, and at the same time I would draw your attention to the excessive freight rates charged on fruit to our point, Wetaskiwin, Alta. Some time ago a Mr. Petersen sent and purchased thru the G.G. Co. a car of mixed apples, which arrived here last month. This car contained 160 barrels, and the freight



ONE OF THE TRIALS OF THE FRONTIERSMAN
A snapshot on the trail to Peace River

ers would demand to be protected, as I know that a great many successful co-operative companies in all parts of the world are protected by the penalty system. I know what a hard time they have had in the United States in their co-operative elevator companies, and I understand that it is only since they adopted the penalty system that they are making any headway in their companies. I know shareholders in our co-operative elevator companies in neighboring towns where they have a farmers' elevator, take a cent a bushel

rate charged and paid was \$325. Here is a country starving for fruit. I am given to understand that fruit in the fruit growing centres is not worth the picking. One does not wonder at it when such an embargo is laid upon it as the above.

G. H. MANSER.

Lewisville, Alta.,

MISTRUSTS MANUFACTURERS

Editor, Guide:—In common with all who had any knowledge of the late lamented W. J. Tregillus, I deeply deplore his early taking off, and regret to believe,

with Mr. Fream, that he cannot be replaced.

Your cartoon on page 6 of The Guide of November 18 is scarcely happy. The upper one represents a tug of war between five manufacturers and four farmers, and the contest shows an even draw. To truly represent the actual situation, the picture should have shown two or three well nourished manufacturers on one end of the rope, and a hundred or two small, thin, hungered farmers on the other, not able to hold their own against the few manufacturers. The second picture shows the manufacturers and farmers all on one end as against the farmers' burden on the other, pulling to get them off.

But will they? You think they will, but you seem to have a lot of correspondents who don't. Now as betwixt you both, will you allow me to say that as the burden on the farmers, of which they complain, mostly went to swell the fortunes of the manufacturers, it is just as likely that they, the manufacturers, will consent to their removal, as it is, that the "Leopard will get rid of his spots and the Ethiopian will change his skin, but not much more so." You know how slow such boards of enquiry move. It is just to tide over the next federal election.

JAMES FINDLAY.

Note—We are sorry Mr. Findlay does not like the cartoon referred to, but if he will look at it again he will see that instead of the upper picture representing an even draw between the manufacturers and farmers, the latter are being pulled over the line. The lower picture is labeled "As it should be" not "As it is." Whether or not this ideal will ever be realized, is a matter of opinion. Time alone will decide.—Editor.

"MADE IN CANADA"

Editor, Guide:—In reading Mr. Dixon's letter, the question of "What is Patriotism?" bothered me again as it has a good many times. To my mind, Patriotism is, or should be, support of your own government, or at least what should be our own government. Am I right? If so, what am I to do with this "Made in Canada" talk that is being thrown at me in all directions? To give an instance, two years ago I required a new 12 inch gang plow. Our local agent had two makes, one made in the United States and the other made in Canada; they were both the same price. I told the agent I was too patriotic to buy the Canadian plow. Why? he asked. Because, I told him, the American we know was made in the United States, and when it reached the line it had to pay a duty of some seven or eight dollars which our government got, whereas the Canadian plow, being exactly the same price, paid no duty; that is, the government did not get the seven or eight dollars. Who did get the seven or eight dollars? I bought the American plow, and, as I said before, I thought and still think, I was more patriotic than if I had bought the Canadian plow. If my reasoning is right, how about this "Made in Canada" cry? Is Patriotism supporting your own government, or is it merely supporting Canadian manufacturers? It seems to me if this last is correct, its true name would be "Charity," not Patriotism. We call a man who volunteers for the front Patriotic, and rightly so, I think, as he is fighting for us all, farmers, manufacturers, etc. This Patriotism I can understand, but when it comes to the "Made in Canada" brand I am stuck. If it was enlarged to "Made in the Empire" it

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NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

This Department of The Guide is maintained especially for the purpose of providing a discussion ground for the readers where they may freely exchange views and derive from each other the benefits of experience and helpful suggestions. Every letter must be signed by the name of the writer, tho not necessarily for publication. The views of our correspondents are not of necessity those of The Guide.