

COSMOPOLITAN PATRIOTS

The above phrase is in itself almost self-contradictory, and yet it seems to express the impression made on my mind by the list of names in one pad of ten Patriotic Acre forms which came to the office a few days ago.

The first contributor was a Scotchman—nothing very remarkable about that—the second and third were Roumanians. One was a Serb and several were Austrians.

One pad was received where nearly all the contributors were Austrian by birth, and a number have been received from German-Canadians.

—J.B.M.

"HATH CAST IN MORE THAN ALL THEY"

Amongst the Patriotic Acre promises recently received are several of very exceptional interest, in that they prove that the very "small" farmers and even the hired men are contributing. This is as it ought to be. The farmer who takes all the benefits of British protection and at this, the Empire's hour of need, fails to fall into line with the thousands who give the patriotic acre, will be almost a "marked" man in after years.

Several forms have been filled in by hired men who subscribed amounts to be deducted from their wages. One Roumanian writes beneath his name, "Have only 30 acres crop, glad to do my little." His little! and he is the heaviest giver in the list. This foreign-born brother, whose native land is at peace, has contributed 3 1-3 per cent of his entire crop. Let us hope that no British born grain grower will fail to have his "little" in the great train loads of Patriotic Acre flour that in a few months will roll eastward as an offering from the loyal grain growers of this the Empire's greatest wheat field—Saskatchewan.

—J.B.M.

RETAIL STORES OWNED IN WINNIPEG

A prominent wholesale merchant admitted to the writer a few days ago that more than 75 per cent. of the rural retailers of Saskatchewan are not free to buy in the cheapest market, but must buy from the particular wholesale house which is financing them. A considerable part of the remaining 25 per cent. are only in measure their own masters. As a rule each wholesaler has his own particular "customer" in each town, and this so-called customer is little more than the local agent for the wholesale house which controls him.

A year or two ago while business was booming wholesale houses would set up any straw man in business in a community with even then too many stores, with the one purpose of securing its own agent—dealer, if you prefer—in that particular community. Such dealer did not particularly require capital. The "house" would finance him, or, in other words, the wholesaler would let him have goods at prices set by the wholesaler if he would carry on the business according to instructions and purchase only from the "house" which set him up. This has been largely the cause of the loading upon the country of "twice as many retailers as it really needs," which is the frank admission of the wholesalers themselves. These controlled dealers then have not only to make a living and a profit for themselves as well as taxes, insurance, rental or interest, etc., on a property not needed for the service of the community, but they have also to pay to the "house" financing them prices considerably in excess of what similar goods could be secured for on the open market.

Retailers Owe \$300,000,000

It is not to be wondered at that a prominent Regina wholesaler could publicly make the proud boast a few months ago that the retailers of the three prairie provinces are in debt to the wholesalers for \$300,000,000.

Herein lies the explanation of the refusal on the part of many wholesalers to permit goods handled by them to reach the farmer thru any other channel than that of the retail trade, or in other words, their regular line of local agents. Not alone do they refuse to sell to farmers' companies, co-operative

Saskatchewan

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by J. B. Musselman, Secretary, Moose Jaw, Sask., to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

associations, "and especially to the Grain Growers' Association," but there is a binding agreement amongst them not to set up new men in business without the consent of all who have signed the agreement. The retail business is practically their business, and not the business of the few real merchants and nearly 2,000 wholesalers' agents which constitute the so-called "Retail Dealers' Association."

Buy from First Sources

It must be patent to every Grain Grower that the association must have its own wholesale houses with sufficient capital to go into the markets of the world to secure its supplies from first sources if the cost of supplies in Saskatchewan is ever to be brought into fair relationship with the really necessary cost of production and distribution, and if the colossal indebtedness of three hundred millions to the wholesale trade is ever to be liquidated. Is it safe or is it wise that a mere handful of Winnipeg millionaires should control the means of distribution in the West.

—J.B.

WHO WILL HEAD THE LIST?

Below we give the usual list of canvassers who have obtained ten or more contributions to the Patriotic Acre Fund. Percy Association, represented by Geo. Tarbat and Jas. Ransdell, is still at the top, with Yellow Lake, in the person of J. J. Aitken, a good second. It is a neck-and-neck race. Who is going to win? The honor is well worth trying for. A. D. Donisan's contribution makes his total to date thirty forms, while Hugh Guy's second contribution increases his total to twenty forms.

Association Canvasser	Forms	Acres
Bailey—Neil McLean	40	40
Conquest—W. J. Johnston	20	28
Loreburn—Edgar Book	20	20
Smiley—J. T. Vallance	20	20
Sydenham—G. H. Wilson	20	20
Dahinda—A. D. Donisan	20	11 & 32.50
Tupper—M. McDonald	17	17
Keddeleston—W. G. Palmer	16	16
Keddeleston—A. J. Wilkie	16	16
Cantuar—F. Lunan	15	15
Tupper—J. Jowsey	13	13
La Fleche—D. J. Toland	10	11
Dahinda—G. A. Popesca	10	11
Conquest—Ava Quibell	10	10 1/2
Conquest—W. F. Sibbald	10	10
Tessier—Alex. Cumming	10	10
Elmore—H. W. Hepburn	10	10
Loreburn—H. H. Hanson	10	10
Kincaid—Jas. Corcoran	10	10
Willowm'r—E. H. Redding	10	10
Superb—Mrs. D. Flatman	10	10
Senlac—Hugh Guy	10	8 1/2
Superb—Mrs. R. M. Walker	10	6 1/2

AN OVERWHELMING DEBT

Our farmers on the whole are doing fine, but there are still some who are holding aloof. One secretary writes to say that many of the farmers in his district seem to think that the government is doing all that is needful. There is something wanting in these men, and that something is the spirit of patriotism. Contrast their attitude with that expressed by the secretary of Vidora Association. The members of this association have two years' expenses to meet out of this year's crop, and yet the secretary says: "It seems to be the general opinion that we ought at least to do something; and even if our individual subscriptions are not on as large a scale as those of others who were more fortunate last year, at least we shall be able to feel that we have done a little towards paying the overwhelming debt we owe to those who have given home and loved ones for our safety." The overwhelming debt! Grain Growers, remember that phrase, and do not lag behind when men of Austrian birth—aliens as we have regarded them—are giving cheerfully out of their little store.

SUBJECTS FOR DEBATE

Dear Sir:—According to your request

of recent date, I am enclosing a list of subjects for publication in the Saskatchewan page of the Grain Growers' Guide which I think are suitable for debates.

I think you will find that they are all debatable, and will all create interest and discussion. In particular I would call your attention to the third on the list, with the clause attached requiring that government shall mean a Socialist administration. Being a Socialist myself, I am anxious that this one should be taken up and that justice be done to the cause, which would not be the case if the clause were left out.

You will doubtless be able to get the leaders of various movements to take most of the subjects, but if you have any difficulty with the one I mentioned—No. 3—let me know, and I will see that you can get a man for the affirmative side, anyway.

WALTER J. GODWIN,

Sec., Pennant Local

1. Resolved, that it would be in the best interests of western agriculturalists to secede from the Dominion and form a separate administration.

2. That the capitalistic classes of Germany are chiefly to blame for the present war.

3. That government ownership of all sources and instruments of production would be in the best interests of the people in general.

It is to be assumed during the debate that the word "government" is to mean Socialist administration.

4. That Premier Scott's "Banish the Bar" policy is in the interests of the temperance movement.

5. That the farmers would wield more influence on our legislation by forming a separate party.

6. That the Grain Growers would be better advised to direct their chief energy toward obtaining better markets—or price—for the goods they produce, rather than in lessening the cost of the goods they consume.

7. That in connection with the initiative, referendum and recall, the Scott government made a noise like a tin can.

N.B. This is suggested as a humorous debate, altho it has a touch of pathos, too.

8. That women should be given equal rights with men.

9. That the present high protective tariff is not in the best interests of the nation.

10. Whereas the children of rural communities are at a great disadvantage in the matter of education compared with city children, be it resolved as a remedy that the farmers should use every effort to obtain consolidated schools.

HALCYONIA'S GIFT

Dear Sir:—Enclosed please find sixty dollars. Kindly send this to the Belgian Relief Fund. This makes \$337.80 this branch has sent in to that fund. I sent you \$277.80 on April 1 last.

A. E. ORCHARD,

Asst. Sec., Halcyonia G.G.A.

QUINCY MEMBERSHIP

Dear Sir:—Enclosed please find five dollars, membership fees for ten members, as follows: W. H. Scott, president; E. Bonsteel, vice-president; James Watson, secretary-treasurer; Myron Higgins, N. Good, N. J. Good, C. H. Smeeton, P. W. Harwood, Geo. Stott, Geo. Stevenson.

JAMES WATSON,

Sec., Quincy Local

LAKE PARK LOCAL

Dear Sir:—Replying to your letter of July 26, will say that we have not yet appointed directors, but the following were appointed as officers: President, C. O. Hestad; vice-president, O. H. Pederson; secretary, Eilef Solie. The following are members: Nick Rud, Leo Wortas, Ole Berg, Swan Softness, Olaf Solie, Girvin Strum. I enclose \$4.50 as fees.

EILEF SOLIE,

Sec., Lake Park Local

BULLETIN AND CATALOG

Every member should have a copy of the recently issued booklet, which contains much that is of interest to every farmer in Saskatchewan. The group of portraits of members of the executive for 1915 will be of interest as including the late Fred W. Green, whose picture will be carefully preserved by many Grain Growers in memory of a man who gave so much of his life and energy to a great work which others are now striving to carry forward.

The article by the Central secretary dealing with the Patriotic Acre scheme, its inception, development and prospects of an abounding success, is of particular interest at the present time. Now that a bountiful crop is assured, promise forms are flowing into the Central Office in a very gratifying manner, and those Grain Growers who hesitated earlier to give an undertaking of definite nature are now coming forward and helping to swell the fund. The promises already received will produce many carloads of flour, but there are many more contributions still to come. Saskatchewan is assured of a good crop, and this gift to the Imperial government will demonstrate to the world in a striking manner the vast resources and possibilities of this province, the foremost grain producing province in the "Granary of the Empire."

A good crop also means that the farmers will purchase many things of which they are in need, as well as comforts which they have long desired. Our catalog sets forth many of the lines of goods which we are now supplying at a great saving to the members. Other lines are being continually arranged for, and members should not hesitate to ask for quotations on anything of which they are in need, whether listed in the catalog or not. Local secretaries or individual members will be supplied with catalogs for their own use or for distribution among the members.

—J. B. M.

PROSPECT LOCAL

Enclosed find \$5.50 membership fees for our new local, called Prospect, which we have formed with the following: President, Louis Meyers; Vice-President, Geo. Jerme; Sec.-Treas., M. O. Wells; Directors: P. J. Foster, Richard Hunt, Charlie Davis. Other members are Mr. Drury, Wm. Meyers, Albert Patterson, M. O. Wells, P. J. Foster, Louis Meyers, Clarence Davis.

M. O. WELLS,

Sec. Prospect G. G. A.

PATRIOTIC FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$7,439.79
N. Sermeeke, N. Gully	1.50
J. Aalmond, N. Gully	1.00
J. P. Taylor, N. Gully	1.50
A. McDonald, Lanigan	5.00
Eastleigh Association	18.65
North Gully Association	2.00
Lake Johnston Association	26.75
	\$7,496.19

BELGIAN FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$3,470.30
Asceola W.G.	43.00
Martin School Dis., Fleming	16.25
J. Almond, N. Gully	1.00
H. W. Sproston, N. Gully	1.00
A. McDonald, Lanigan	5.00
Progressive Association	35.00
Lampman W.G.G.A.	6.00
Idaleen W.G.G.A.	5.00
Hodgeville Association	25.50
Halcyonia Association	60.00
	\$3,688.05

RED CROSS FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$220.25
Percy Association	16.20
Motherwell Association	15.00
Empire Builders	25.00
Eastview Association	26.60
Progressive Association	29.90
Avenlea Association	9.00
Rebecca Ladies' Aid, Monarch	10.00
Southminster Association	19.75
Wolverine, Waterloo and Sydenham Associations	35.75
North Gully, Greenwood, Rex and North Bend Associations	20.50
Axford Association	8.00
Naseby Association	22.00
Bailey Association	50.00
Sequin W.G.	20.00
	\$527.95