

W. H. Sharpe, M.P. Untruthful

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Press Gallery, Ottawa, May 7, 1911.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Grain Growers' Guide was severely criticized in the House of Commons on Monday last by W. H. Sharpe, the member for Lisgar. Mr. Sharpe's charges against The Guide correspondent were specific, and their truth or falsity can fortunately be proved by a reference to the files of The Guide, and the facts can therefore be placed clearly before the readers of this paper. In the course of a speech on reciprocity Mr. Sharpe said:

"I wish to say a word or two with reference to a publication we have in the city of Winnipeg known as the 'Grain Growers' Guide.' Last fall the 'Grain Growers' Guide' came out with an editorial saying that they were going to send a representative to the press gallery in this House, and that this reporter would give an unbiased report of everything that took place in regard to Western Canada during his term here. But, on the 15th of March this paper came out with a very severe attack on the Conservative members from Western Canada. They called us 'blockers, objectors, obstructors, and they almost called us traitors to the people we represent. They also claimed that we had voted against reciprocity. I want to tell you, Mr. Chairman, that if there is one principle that this paper has stood for during the time in which it has been in existence, from the very first issue that came out, it is the Referendum and Recall. That is one of the cardinal principles of this 'Grain Growers' Guide,' and I thought for one that if we ever had an opportunity of voting for submitting any question to the people of this country we would get credit for it from this paper, instead of what we did receive. I wish to read the resolution that this paper condemned us so violently for voting for. It was moved by my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, and it reads as follows:

"That in the opinion of this House the said resolutions should not be proceeded with until the electors have had an opportunity of pronouncing upon their merits."

"We simply wanted to have this reciprocity deal submitted to the people of this country. That is what I voted for, and that is what we all voted for. But, that did not suit the 'Grain Growers' Guide,' and they went for us in the manner I speak of. When it came to the question, that is of terminal elevators, a question that is of vital importance to the Grain Growers, my hon. friend from Souris (Mr. Schaffner) moved a resolution, every Conservative in this House voted for that resolution, and every reformer voted against it, but the Grain Growers' Guide never mentioned a name in connection with that proposition whatever. The same thing took place in connection with the chilled meat trade. My hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) brought in a resolution in connection with the establishment of a chilled meat trade in this country. Every Conservative voted for it and every Reformer against it, but the 'Grain Growers' Guide' never mentioned any names in connection with the matter. I consider that the 'Grain Growers' Guide' has forfeited the confidence of the Grain Growers of Western Canada."

The Truth

Dealing first with the latter portion of Mr. Sharpe's allegations, he states that on the terminal elevator question every Conservative in the House voted for the resolution moved by Dr. Schaffner, and every Reformer voted against it, but The Guide never mentioned a name in connection with that proposition whatever. In The Guide of February 22, 1911, on page 42, however, there appears a report of the discussion on Dr. Schaffner's resolution and Dr. Neely's amendment thereto, which concludes as follows:

"R. S. Lake, Qu'Appelle; W. H.

Sharpe, Lisgar; Houghton Leacock, South Simcoe; T. S. Sproule, East Grey, Ont.; R. Blain, Peel, Ont.; G. H. Bradbury, Selkirk; John Herron, Macleod; Glen Campbell, Dauphin; J. W. Edwards, Frontenac, Ont.; Thos. Chisholm, East Huron, Ont.; and W. J. Roche, Marquette, all Conservative members, each made a short speech in favor of government ownership and operation, it being pointed out that if the bill introduced in the Senate provided for government ownership and operation, the passing of the resolution of Dr. Schaffner would strengthen the hands of the government. Glen Campbell suggested that the only reason the Liberal members opposed the motion was that it was introduced by a Conservative.

"On the Liberal side the speakers were Dr. Cash, MacKenzie, Dr. Clark, Red Deer, Glen, E. McCrae, Saskatchewan; W. H. White, Victoria, Alta.; Hon. Frank Oliver, Edmonton, all of whom supported the amendment and expressed confidence in the bill which has been introduced in the Senate."

"On a division being taken the amendment was carried by 96 votes to 51. The division was on straight party lines, all the Liberals either voting or being paired for the amendment and the Conservatives for the motion."

Chilled Meat Debate

Mr. Sharpe also states that The Guide never mentioned any names in connection with the debate on the chilled meat trade, but in the issue of January 25, on page 14, not only were the names of all the members speaking on the resolution mentioned, but their speeches were reported, including that of Mr. Sharpe himself, and also those of John Herron, of Macleod; Glen Campbell, of Dauphin; Andrew Broder, of Dundas, and Dr. Sproule, of East Grey. It was also stated in the same report that "Dr. Sproule (the mover of the resolution) was supported by a number of former members of the Opposition side representing Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, who spoke from their own knowledge of conditions actually existing, and added considerably to the strength of Dr. Sproule's arguments." The report also stated that "The Western Liberal members, acting under orders from the party leaders, helped to vote down the motion."

A Despicable Action

These extracts from the columns of The Guide clearly show that Mr. Sharpe from his place in the House of Commons made statements which were absolutely untrue. They were evidently made with the purpose of damaging the reputation of The Guide and its correspondent, and they were made after Mr. Sharpe had had the proofs of their untruthfulness in his possession for weeks. Mr. Sharpe is a regular reader of The Guide. He can often be seen perusing its pages in the House of Commons, and he either deliberately made charges which he knew were untrue, or has such a poor memory for what he reads that no one should trust it in the future. In any event Mr. Sharpe has done The Guide and its correspondent a grave injustice in charging them with unfairness to the Conservative members, and it is now up to him to apologize.

Another Misrepresentation

Mr. Sharpe also complains that on the 15th of March The Guide came out with a very severe attack on the Conservative members from Western Canada, calling them blockers, objectors, obstructors, "and they almost called us traitors to the people we represent," he said. Reference to the letter of The Guide correspondent in the issue of March 15 fails to discover the statement attributed to The Guide by Mr. Sharpe. It is, however, stated that "The Conservatives have decided that the reciprocity agreement shall not be allowed to pass, and have announced their intention of talking from now till doomsday rather than allow it to come

to a vote," and this is referred to as a campaign of obstruction. It is further stated that "The opponents of reciprocity appear to be prepared to go to almost any length to prevent the agreement passing." This statement was true, and though nearly two months have passed since those words were written, the attitude of the Conservative party is still the same. Mr. Borden last week announced that the party would fight reciprocity "to the bitter end," and offered to permit the voting of supplies to carry on the business of the country only on condition that reciprocity be dropped for the present, and Mr. Sharpe himself, in the same speech in which he attacked The Guide, said "I want to tell the prime minister that the Conservative party in this House will not allow this deal to go through until it has been submitted to the people."

Referendum and Recall

Mr. Sharpe says The Guide has always stood for the Referendum and the Recall and that he thinks he should have received credit from The Guide for voting for a resolution asking that the reciprocity resolutions should not be proceeded with until the electors have had an opportunity of pronouncing upon their merits. Mr. Sharpe apparently does not know what the Referendum and the Recall mean. Under the Referendum, a measure must first be passed by the legislative body, and then if a certain percentage of the electors so demand, by petition, it must be submitted to the people and either accepted or rejected by them. Unfortunately the Referendum is not yet part of the Canadian law, but if Mr. Sharpe and the other members of the Conservative party wish to apply the principle they can do so simply by passing the agreement and then allowing the people to decide upon it at the next election. Under the Recall, when a certain percentage of the people are dissatisfied with the actions of their representative, they may by a similar petition call upon him to resign his seat and either retire or seek reelection. The present Canadian law does not provide for the Recall either, but if it did, Mr. Sharpe might have an election on his hands right now.

IMPORTANT SOCIAL REFORM

London, May 4.—Right Hon. David Lloyd George appeared in the House of Commons today, being present for the first time since his physical breakdown. He introduced the long-promised plan of state insurance against unemployment, sickness and invalidity. The chancellor divided his proposition in two parts, one dealing with sickness and the other with unemployment. By the provisions of the measure every worker whose annual earnings fall below the income tax level of £160 will be compulsorily insured against illness, so as to assure him the receipt of five shillings (£1 2s) per week during his incapacity. Towards this the worker would contribute about one-half, the same thing being deducted from his wages, while the balance would be paid jointly by his employers and the state. The weekly assessment against the insured would be eight cents in the case of a man and six cents for a woman, representing, as the chancellor put it, two pints of ale or one ounce of tobacco. Every one in the class mentioned between the ages of sixteen and sixty-five is included in the plan. The employers would pay six cents weekly for every employee, and the government contribute four cents for each of the insured. Mr. Lloyd George estimated that his plan would affect 14,700,000 men and women. Provision is made whereby women will receive thirty shillings in maternity cases on condition that they do not work for a month following childbirth, and for free medical attendance for every contributor. The state would also help in the crusade against consumption, providing £7,500,000 to aid local authorities in building sanatoriums, and £5,000,000 towards their maintenance. Although in cases of permanent disability the sick allowance would be five shillings weekly, ten shillings would be allowed for the first three months in the case of men and seven shillings and sixpence in the case of women. Those who can be shown to have invited incapacity would receive no insurance, though any necessary medical treatment would be provided.



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WINNIPEG FAIR PRIZE LIST

The prize list for the annual exhibition at Winnipeg is out, and is being distributed throughout the world. The list reflects the change in name that has been made by the exhibition, and instead of being the 71st annual exhibition it is the first "Canadian Industrial Exhibition" at Winnipeg. The list details the conditions whereby the exhibition's liberal offering of forty thousand dollars is distributed as prizes among ninety-one major classes. The list makes an imposing book of 100 pages, and is filled with information for every possible exhibitor.

The revisions and additions to the list this year reflects the gradual but sure broadening of agricultural conditions in Western Canada. Copies of the list may be obtained by application to the association at Winnipeg.

Changes in the Prize List

The exhibition prize list for 1911 notes a number of changes and additions. Among breeding classes of horses full lists of prize money has been added for Belgians and Suffolk Punch drafters. A special prize of \$60 and \$40 or silver plate for amateur showing has also been offered for a six horse-draft team in harness.

A class has been added for middle weight jumpers.

In cattle substantial additions have been made to the value of the premiums for Herefords, Aberdeen Angus, Holsteins, Ayrshires, Jerseys and Red Polls, while a special contributed cup is offered for the best dairy herd of four females.

In swine, the Poland Chinas have been given added premiums.

The schedule for cheese has been revised, and greatly increased in value to lucky competitors.

Fifteen classes for home-made pastry have been added, and the competition

North-West Land Scrip

On April the 22nd the returns from the Canadian Government showed that there were 1,122 South African Veterans' Land Warrants unlocated. During the week April 15th to 22nd thirty-eight certificates were home-steaded so that if there are no increases in the rate of demand the visible supply should be exhausted in five months. But all the scrip that has not been accounted for is not available for purchase, so there is every prospect of an early and substantial advance in the price. We are selling at market quotations and can promise immediate deliveries up to six scrip. Wire or address: The Homestead Realty Company, Charles Press Bldg., 114 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Canada.