



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. Each correspondent should remember that there are hundreds who wish to discuss a problem or offer suggestions. We cannot publish all the immense number of letters received, and ask that each correspondent will keep his letter as short as possible. Every letter must be signed by the name of the writer, though not necessarily for publication. The views of our correspondents are not of necessity those of The Guide. The aim is to make this department of great value to readers, and no letters not of public interest will be published.

CO-OPERATION NEEDED

Editor, Guide:—It was with great interest that I read the letter re Co-operation in your last issue of The Guide, and I am heartily in accord with the views expressed therein. We attend our annual convention year after year and pass strong resolutions on this machinery question and then it is left over to another year, and we are still paying the same outrageous prices for our machinery, and will continue to do so until we form a combine of our own to look after our own interests in the purchasing of our machinery, etc. If it pays the manufacturers to combine together to fix the prices at which they will sell their machinery to us farmers, why can't we do the same, and form a large co-operative company to either buy direct from the factories or to manufacture our implements. But personally I think if we could have our buyers to buy from the factories for cash, we ought to be able to buy our machinery at a saving of 20 or 25 per cent. on the present system. I would suggest making the share value \$10.00, allow each member to take ten shares, fix the selling price to cover the cost of handling and a fair return on the capital invested, and any profits to be divided so many cents on the dollar according to the amount of each member's purchases. Have distributing warehouses at suitable points throughout the provinces. Have an agent in each town or village connected with the Grain Growers' association; have each farmer give in a list of machinery he will need to purchase a suitable length of time before he needs it; an agent to order from the warehouse and deliver the goods and take settlement either in cash or good notes. Now, brother farmers, let us hear from you on this subject. It means the saving of millions of dollars to us Western farmers and we need it.

WILLIAM GRAINGER

St. Claude.

Note.—If all our readers who have been engaged in any co-operative work during the past year will send us a report of it before March 20, we will publish it in our Co-operative number on March 27. This will help towards the solution required.—Editor.

ON GIVING ADVICE

Editor, Guide:—I started two or three times to write a letter to The Guide on the "advice" which the farmers of the West are receiving so freely these days. I wanted to make the letter short and mild, but when I would get started I would forget myself. There is so much that could be said from the farmers' standpoint, and I feel so strongly on the subject that it is difficult to be both brief and moderate.

Take, for example, the "advice" of the Minister of Trade and Commerce: "Go into mixed farming." Does he know what it means? Does he know the cost? The farmer knows something about this subject. He knows that it means more than having cattle and horses, sheep, hogs and poultry on the farm. He knows it means that he must have his farm fenced into fields, and he knows that fence posts and wire are not as cheap as "advice." He knows, too, something about the freight on these articles. He is not sure that freight rates will be reduced in the near future.

The farmer knows that there is a long winter in this country and that stock of all kinds need shelter. He knows that if he has stock he must have stables. He knows that the first thing about putting up a stable is the foundation. He knows that timber foundations soon rot, and he knows that cement is dear and that there is about 65 per cent. duty on that article. He does not know when the duty will be removed. He knows that lumber is dear and that there is a duty on that. He knows that the grain he feeds to his stock should be ground. He knows what a feed grinder costs. He knows what an engine to run it costs. He knows what gasoline costs. He knows that if he has poultry and sheep he must have his fences "wolf high and poultry tight." He knows, too, that if he takes a car-load of stock to Winnipeg that he will be skinned before the stock is. Now, Mr. Editor, I will stop right here, for I feel it coming on again.

W. I. FORD.

Benito, Man.

ALASKA WHEAT

Editor, Guide:—In your issue of February 7, 1912, you published a statement by W. C. McKillican, superintendent of our Experimental Farm, Brandon, concerning Alaska wheat, from which statement I beg to differ on the following grounds. Having grown this variety alongside of Preston for the last three years, the following statement ought to carry weight, as my nearest neighbors will vouch for. Last year—1910—Alaska wheat yielded for me 45 bushels to the acre. This year, on a light crop of breaking, Alaska wheat yielded close on 60 bushels to the acre. It has many good points. It stands the frost far better than other wheat, as it has so much chaff; stools out well and will stand up where other wheat goes down. I wrote to Dr. Saunders, Ottawa, about this wheat, and he said that from the large heads it ought to yield more than ordinary wheat. I also wrote Henry Adams, Idaho, in 1910, for his price of Alaska wheat, and how it was for flour. Henry Adams' reply was that he had 15,000 bushels for sale. His price was \$10 per bushel, and that what he did not sell for seed he sold to the mill; that he got 3 cents per bushel more than Blue Stem, which is the best wheat in that part, and I have no cause to doubt his word.

Mr. McKillican might not have Henry Adams' strain of Alaska wheat when he said it was a poor yielder. I will lodge one hundred dollars (\$100) in any

bank Mr. McKillican will name to Mr. McKillican's \$50, same to be given for a charitable purpose, that I will grow more grain to the acre of Henry Adams' Alaska wheat than any other one kind that Mr. W. C. McKillican will grow at our Experimental Farm, Brandon, in 1912, provided it is not Alaska.

I and my sons this year grew forty bushels to the acre of Preston on five acres, and the remainder went thirty bushels, still it will not yield like Alaska.

GEORGE V. COOKE.

Thunder Hill, Swan River, Man.
Sec. 20-35-29, February 21, 1912.

FOR DIRECT LEGISLATION

Editor, Guide:—Bert Huffman seems to have stirred up some of the opponents of Direct Legislation, judging from the letters which have appeared in the last two issues of The Guide. This is well, for when the opposition to any reform has a weak case the oftener it is stated the better, as it grows weaker every time it is exposed. W. J. B. Cannan writes of "responsible government." I would like to know whom the members of the government are responsible to, certainly not the people.

If I were to hire a man for five years and give him absolute control over my farm for that time, the only condition attached being that, if he did not give me satisfaction, at the end of five years I could fire him and hire another man who would have exactly the same power, Mr. Cannan would say I was crazy. Yet that is the system upon which we conduct our public business. After we have elected a set of men to be our rulers, we cannot compel them to do the things we want them to do, nor prevent them from doing things we do not want them to do. The only thing we can do is to fire them at the end of five years if they do not give us satisfaction. This is "locking the stable door after the horse has gone." Mr. Cannan says that "under the British system of government the people can make themselves heard very distinctly, e.g., reciprocity." Mr. Austin Droney, his co-worker against Direct Legislation, says: "Every one knows it (reciprocity) was accomplished (defeated) by appeals, in the main basely false, to race and religious prejudice."

Let the gentlemen settle that matter between themselves. It is safe to say that if a Referendum vote was taken upon Reciprocity today, now that the storm of prejudice fomented by the party politicians has subsided, seventy-five per cent. of the people of Canada would vote for it. That the voice of the people can be distinctly heard on any one question when they are asked to vote "yes" or "no" on half a dozen questions with only one vote I deny.

Mr. Droney evidently thinks majority rule is all right sometimes, e.g., when the members of the Chauvin Union voted down Direct Legislation. Yet he is opposed to majority rule. Once more we would leave him to the tender mercies of Mr. Cannan, who says the majority rule now. We will follow Mr. Droney's advice, while these two gentlemen are settling their little differences, and "perfect what we have."

Now that the rats are invading Southern Manitoba the farmers are elevating their barns and granaries. The rats of privilege have for some time been burrowing under our system of government, and if we would preserve the wealth which we produce we must elevate our government out of the reach of the rats. When our system of representative government is based upon the concrete foundation of Direct Legislation, the

A PERFECT SEED BED MEANS MORE DOLLARS

Nothing is more important to the farmer who wants to make money than to prepare a perfect seed bed. It pays. Break up the lumps, pulverize the top soil, pack the sub-soil, smooth off the field and leave it in prime condition for bumper crops, by using

Dunham's Special Canadian Soil Packers

Send for catalogue. Read it and then go to your local dealer and insist on seeing the Dunham Soil Packer. Dunham's have STEEL FRAMES. Other makes have wood frames. The 2 poles may be thrown together, a very desirable feature when hitching packer to the engine.

THE AMERICAN SEEDING MACHINE CO.
WINNIPEG, MAN.

rats of privilege will gnash their teeth in vain.

"New occasions teach new duties,
Time makes ancient good uncouth.
They must upward still, and onward,
Who would keep abreast of Truth."
Yours for Direct Legislation,
F. J. DIXON.

Neepawa, Man.

BETTER AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

Editor, Guide:—I was glad to see your article on the above in a recent issue of The Guide, and hope every branch of the Grain Growers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, also Farmers' associations of Alberta and the East, will take this matter up at their meetings and make it a live question, until the Dominion and Provincial Governments take off the unjust burden of excessive interest by establishing agricultural credit banks (same as in West Australia, New Zealand, etc.) and lending money through them to farmers at not more than 5 per cent., or as low as 4 per cent., if the government can get money in England at 3 per cent., as I should think 1 per cent. would pay cost of administering same. If the government could bring in some scheme of insurance against loss of crops by hail or frost I think the farmers would not object to pay 5 per cent. interest, even if the government got the money at 3 per cent. Now, the people whatever quarter they came from, came out to farm and stay on their land, but it takes money to make all the improvements necessary, such as a fairly comfortable house, proper sanitary stables, especially for milch beasts (you can hardly pick up a paper without seeing advice given by prominent men and doctors as to the necessity of having properly built and clean stables for milch cows), good deep wells (costing from \$150 to \$300), fence wire and posts, and sheds for machinery. You can see lots of advice given in the papers about doing some or all of these things, the writers assuming that the farmers have the money and could do it but that they must be indifferent or something worse. I am aware some are in a position to do it, but the majority are not. I am a farmer and know what it is to struggle against adverse conditions. I want to stay on my land, as I am sure the majority of farmers and their families wish to do if they have a fair chance given them, and we do not wish to have our land foreclosed by the mortgage company and be forced to go and live in towns and so come in competition with and overcrowding the labor market there. A good many of us have devoted too much of our time mainly to grain growing instead of having more cattle, sheep and hogs, and to get back into the latter (especially milch cows where you can send cream to creameries) we need some such reform as is noted at the head of this letter. In conclusion, I may say that if you were to ask all those who have felt or feel the effects of the present system of loans and high interest to write you, you would get to know the feeling in regard to such.

B. G.

P.S.—I have been told that before the Provincial Governments can do anything in the way of establishing Agricultural Credit banks that the Dominion Bank Act will have to be revised or altered. This is a matter the conventions could take up at their annual meetings.

B. G.

GARDENING FOR PLEASURE AND FOR PROFIT

The attention of people in the country will very shortly be turned to the land and among other questions that they will be considering will be that of the preparation of their gardens, both vegetable gardens and flower gardens. We want to secure several articles relating experiences of our readers in the preparation and culture of vegetable or flower gardens. These articles should include the preparation and use of hot beds, the preparation of the soil, the selection of the seed, care of the garden and general results, and any other item of general interest. These articles must be not more than 1,000 words in length and must be written on only one side of the paper, and written very plainly. We want these articles at once, and will pay for all that we accept. You who have made a success at gardening should sit down and write us your experiences, and we will pay you for it.

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE,
WINNIPEG.