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# Manitoba Section

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. McKenzie, Secretary, Winnipeg, Man.

## OUR WORK—PAST AND FUTURE

Reports from the branches indicate that the Grain Growers of Manitoba are contemplating holding many gatherings throughout the summer months for purposes of recreation, social intercourse and discussion of public questions. A heavy demand is made on the central office for speakers to address these gatherings, as there are not many men available for the work it is important that an effort be made to arrange dates that will avoid too much travel and save as much time as possible. This can best be accomplished by writing the central office, stating about what time would be most suitable, and leaving the central secretary to arrange the date. This, of course, would not apply to those who have already set their date and commenced preparations. Arrangements for these gatherings should be made with care and not left haphazard. Remember always that a well planned and successful picnic adds to the prestige of your branch and incidentally to the whole Grain Growers' movement.

Summer outings among farmers should be encouraged. Apart altogether from the importance of providing opportunities for the development and improvement of farm life, as a means toward better living, there is great need for farmers to meet for an interchange of thought on the many questions affecting the immediate future, now engaging the attention of thoughtful men. The farmers' organizations of Canada have, within the last two years, thrust into the political arena problems having to do with methods of government, by introducing for consideration by the people the wisdom of initiating the principle of Direct Legislation in our system of legislation, by "The Initiative and Referendum." In their program they also suggest radical changes in the method of representative government—the administration of public and semi-public utilities and natural resources, together with a system of levying and collecting revenue, for purposes of government, more in accord with the requirements of modern civilization, having for its fundamental principle a more equitable distribution of the burden of taxation. They have revived the demand (which has been allowed to lie dormant for more than a decade) for a substantial lowering of customs duties on all imports and the removal of all duties from many commodities, for free trade relations with other countries, more especially with our nearest neighbors, in all natural products, to the disgust and disappointment of privileged interests who flattered themselves as having secured indefinitely enjoyment of "special rights," granted under our present fiscal system.

Thanks to the Grain Growers' movement the Western farmers are much in the limelight, and their doings are very much in evidence in the discussion of public questions. That the farmer should learn to analyze and discern what is true and what is false is of the utmost importance at this juncture. That he should make a study of the economic and fiscal questions which are the subject of so much discussion with a view of passing an intellectual judgment at the proper time, is a truism that admits of no controversy. Addresses by men who are disinterested—free from the exigency of party, or the dominance of special interests—men who have made a study of these questions from the viewpoint of the producers of natural products, should be helpful to this end, and every facility should be given at these outings for addresses of that kind.

## PINE CREEK PICNIC

The Pine Creek Grain Growers and the Royal Templars of Edrans held a committee meeting at the home of Russell Sharp and decided to hold their annual picnic June 22, on section 19, township 12, range 12. A baseball tournament will be held between Springbrook, Gillespie, Pine Creek and Edrans, with prizes as follows: First, $10, second, $5. This will be a basket picnic and we will be very pleased to see any Grain Growers or Templars from the surrounding district, at our sports, so come along all you Grain Growers and Templars and have a good time. Also the Pine Creek Grain Growers are having a meeting in the Norfolk school house on June 2 to hear an address on Direct Legislation. We would be pleased to see some of the Austin, Springbrook, Burton and Mayfield Grain Growers present. If they are present we will also try and devote some time to a discussion of the reciprocity question.

JOSIAH BENNETT,
Press Correspondent.

## NINGA CROP REPORT

At one of our meetings at Ninga we arranged to send in crop reports for this district, and following is report to date: In nearly all sections of the district wheat seeding is done, though a few farmers have not yet finished. The acreage is about the same in most places, a very slight increase, if anything. While we had a very nice rain here on April 10, we have had no moisture since, and now there is a decided drought; on April 30 and May 1 heavy frosts have occurred which may damage the sprouted grains too near the surface, and any grain that was up is frozen off. Oat land is being prepared as quickly as possible and a few farmers have commenced seeding, others holding off until warmer weather and in hopes of rain coming soon.

A. H. CHESTER.

Ninga, May 2, 1911.

## NEEPAWA SUMMER FAIR

The Neepawa summer fair will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 29, 30 and July 1. The directors are putting forth every effort to make the Neepawa fair a greater and better one than ever before. Prize lists are being issued and very liberal prizes are being offered, among which are some very valuable special prizes.

## DIRECT LEGISLATION

F. J. Dixon, lecturer for the Manitoba Federation for Direct Legislation, will be available for meetings during the summer months. Requests are now being made for addresses by him to be delivered at Grain Growers' picnics and similar gatherings. Grain Growers and other organizations should send in applications to the secretary at once. The Federation pays all expenses except hall rent. Combine education with pleasure—and don't overlook the fact that education is a pleasure in this instance—and of immense profit too.—Manitoba Federation for Direct Legislation, 239 Chambers of Commerce, Winnipeg.

## GREAT OPPORTUNITY THROWN AWAY

(From Weekly Sun, Toronto)

It is reported from Ottawa that the Opposition has formally decided to go straight against the reciprocity agreement and to fight the matter out to the bitter end. If such a decision has been definitely arrived at both the country and the Opposition are to be condoled with. That the agreement, as it stands, will be a good thing for agriculture and that it is desired by an overwhelming majority of farmers is beyond question; that it inflicts no more than the merest scratch on a few of the protected interests is proved by the face of the document itself. The only protest against the measure comes from financiers who have profited immensely by the floating of mergers, and from employees deluded or coerced by corporation employers. Even these are opposing the agreement, not because of what appears in it, but for fear of what it may lead to. If the Opposition makes the fight against the government on this issue it will ally itself on the side of the privileged and protected classes against the unprotected and unprivileged masses. In such a contest it cannot hope to win. If Mr. Borden and his followers had supported the reciprocity measure and forced the battle on other issues its prospects of success would be very much brighter than they are today. Such action would, too, have turned discussion during the coming election towards some other very important questions—questions which under existing circumstances are likely to be altogether ignored.


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