

FRANCE AND CENTRAL AFRICA

One of the main difficulties the French government has to encounter in reaching a permanent settlement with Germany regarding compensations in return for a free hand in Morocco is the sensitiveness of the French people to appearances. It would probably be fatal to the present ministry to appear to surrender to German "arrogance." If there is to be a trade in Central African jungles, France must seem to come out of the dicker very well indeed in order to prevent a popular explosion. What is probably now going on at Berlin, in the negotiations between the two nations, is window dressing. The arrangement when finally announced must not shock French pride. It must appear in the guise of an artistic and equitable exchange of opportunities in the pacific penetration of the dark continent.

If French pride could be eliminated, the government at Paris might do much worse than to trade with Germany on this basis: In return for a free hand in Morocco, France to cede to Germany the whole of the French Congo and Germany to cede Togoland to France in return for the alleged reversionary rights of France to the Congo Free State. The British premier has publicly stated that "outside of Morocco in any part of West Africa we should not think of attempting to interfere in territorial arrangements considered reasonable by those who are most directly interested." Interference by Great Britain in the arrangement suggested, consequently, should not occur, if France and Germany were content with it.

Control of Africa

From the colonial point of view, the present crisis is the aftermath of the partition of Africa which took place twenty and twenty-five years ago. The entire continent then was distributed peaceably among European powers, except Liberia, Abyssinia, Morocco and the Boer states. The Boer war ended the dream of Kruger; Liberia has remained unappropriated because of the interest of the United States; Abyssinia is still independent because it would be too costly to conquer. Morocco, however, is in the last gasp of independence, it appears, and its destiny inevitably reopens the old question of Africa's partition. On the present basis Britain approximately controls 32 per cent of the continent, and France 33 per cent, while Germany controls but 8. Now, it would be unwise to partition Morocco to any great extent, although it may have to be done in a small degree to satisfy Spain in case France gets the lion's share. In return for the complete withdrawal of German claims in Northwest Africa, the French could well afford to abandon Central Africa altogether. In its relation to the French empire, Morocco is immensely more valuable than the tropical region that borders the Gulf of Guinea. As for the reversionary rights of the Congo Free State which France claims, under an agreement in 1884, between the French government and the president of the Congo association, they have become of little value because the Congo Free State has been entirely taken over by Belgium, and will undoubtedly remain under the sovereignty of that European kingdom. Togoland, which the Germans could afford to throw into the scales in order to make French trade look more attractive to the French people, is farther north, and adjoins French Dahomey, to which it could be annexed for administrative purposes.

The French ought to be glad to get out of the scrape by some such bargain. The attitude of Great Britain indicates that they alone must find territorial compensation for the Germans, and, consequently, their own best interests should be consulted rather than those of the British in Africa. And the best interests of France point to the absolute elimination of the German opportunity for mischief-making in that part of the African continent bordering on the Mediterranean sea. How much less than the French Congo the Germans will accept as a basis of final settlement is not known, yet doubtless the French concessions will fall considerably short of so extensive a rearrangement of African frontiers. The kaiser, it is clear, has no desire for war over such an issue.—Springfield Republican.

# The Grain Growers' Guide

G. F. CHIPMAN, Managing Editor

Published under the auspices and employed as the Official Organ of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and the United Farmers of Alberta.

THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNCOLORED NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF THOUGHT AND ACTION and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continually be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the wisest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

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## Mr. Scallion's Call to the Farmers

To the Farmers of Manitoba:—Friends, we are face to face with a situation which we were largely instrumental in bringing about. We have pressed for certain measures of legislation which we consider would not only be in the interests of agriculture, but also in the interests of the great body of the common people. We pressed for these measures on the Premier of Canada when he toured the West last summer. We pressed for them on the floor of the House of Commons last December. We pressed for them on the leader of the opposition during his recent visit to the West. We stood together, irrespective of our political party leanings, in demanding the enactment of those measures because we considered them to be in the interests of fair play and for the common good. We were in hopes that those reasonable demands of ours would be dealt with by our representatives in Parliament on their merits and from a non-partizan standpoint, but the beneficiaries of privilege have ordered otherwise.

One of the measures asked for, to my mind the most important of them all—reciprocity—is now offered us, but the forces of privilege and all the interests that are determined to hold their grip on the people, have forced this simple, common-sense trade agreement into political party strife. Their purpose is plain, they expect to divide us on party lines and conquer us as they have done in the past. We have done good work in the cause of reform and fair play; no one can deny that. Are we going to be divided and conquered again by those interests that never sleep?

Those beneficiaries of special privilege and governmental favoritism are always at work. There is no division in their ranks. With them politics is a business, because they try to make government a business asset, and you know how well they have succeeded up to the present time. The government they cannot use they defeat, if they can, as they are trying to do now. Before they give their favor to a political party they must know the tendency of the leaders of that party. Before they give their support to a candidate for office, they must know how that candidate stands upon every public question affecting their interests. They tell us that this trade agreement that we have pressed for will lead to annexation, to the destruction of our fiscal independence, to the disruption of the Empire, etc., etc. Do they think that we do not know better? They insult our intelligence, our Canadian and British manhood by resorting to such baseless and ridiculous arguments in trying to deceive us. We have history and experience in favor of reciprocity. They have nothing but imagination and speculation to support their predictions of ruin.

In 1849 a resolution in favor of annexation to the United States was passed in Montreal and signed by some leading Canadian citizens, among them John Abbott, afterwards Sir John Abbott, who for a short time was Premier of Canada. But the Elgin reciprocity treaty which was entered into shortly afterwards with the United States was the cause of such prosperity in Canada as to entirely do away with any desire for annexation. Why should it be different now? Those interests which are opposing reciprocity, conveniently overlook the fact that our trade with the United States is greater than our trade with all other countries combined, greater last year by over \$100,000,000 than our trade with Britain, notwithstanding the preference given Britain in our tariff. That trade is growing rapidly. Does it show any tendency to bring about those evils and national injuries, predicted by the interests? If the restrictions under which that trade is now carried on were removed, would it not be more profitable to all engaged in it?

The United States is our great natural market; that market will increase immensely as time goes on and will prove of tremendous benefit to us as furnishing an outlet for our rapidly increasing production of food stuffs. That market is offered to us now; would it not be an insane policy on our part to refuse it?

Friends, let us stand by our principles, let us support the measures we asked for, that we compelled the government, in a measure, to grant us. Let us show by our actions at the poll on the 21st of September, that we were in earnest. The eyes of all Canada, the eyes of the world, are watching your actions in this struggle. If you fail to do your duty now, you will be beneath further notice by any government or any party.

I have been with you in the struggle for economic freedom from the beginning. I ask you in this supreme battle, the most important we were ever engaged in, to rise above your little party prejudices, the schemes and motives of your party machines and conventions, and strike one united and crushing blow for economic freedom and even-handed justice.

If we win now, other reform measures will follow. If we fail, we will be in the grip of the interests for years to come.

The forces against us are powerful, but if we beat them the victory will be the more glorious. Let everyone do his duty and we will win out.

J. W. SCALLION.

Virden, Man., August 21, 1911.

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### QUARTERLY DIVIDEND NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Dividend at the rate of Six Per Cent per annum upon the Paid Up Capital Stock of The Home Bank of Canada has been declared for the three months ending 31st August, 1911, and the same will be payable at its Head Office and Branches on and after Friday 1st September next.

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JAMES MASON,  
General Manager.  
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