

# The Mail Bag

## REPLY TO MR. GREEN

The Editor,  
Grain Growers' Guide,

Winnipeg, Man.

Sir,—I read with much surprise in your issue of June 18 Mr. Green's unwarranted attack on the Grain Growers' Guide, and also the covert slur which Mr. Green handed out to the Grain Growers' Grain Co., a private company forsooth! with approximately 15,000 farmer shareholders. It hardly looks like a private company in the generally accepted meaning of the word private. When Mr. Green used "private" he could hardly have meant us to take him literally. Being a director of the company, he, of course, knows that the great aim of the directors is to get every available farmer living in Western Canada to take stock in it. As far as being operated in the interests of a private company is concerned, if Mr. Green means that the company is being operated in the interests of every farmer between Winnipeg and the Mountains, he is quite correct. When Mr. Green (speaking of the Saskatchewan page of The Guide) says it is different from the Manitoba page and also different from the page conducted for the United Farmers of Alberta, he certainly speaks quite truthfully, for the two pages in question as a rule contain something definite as regards the aspirations of their respective associations; whereas the Saskatchewan page reminds me of nothing so much as a page out of a patent medicine almanac, full of short and uninteresting letters, all meaning the same thing. I wish you would publish the following table showing the stand taken by Mr. Green, the Grain Growers' Guide and our own Association, and then the members of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association can judge for themselves which of the two (the editorial columns of the Grain Growers' Guide or Mr. Green) is the most consistent supporter of the farmer's platform:

	Mr. Green
Naval Question	In favor of navy.
Reciprocity	Undecided.
Free Trade	Nothing definite.
Sample Market	Opposed.
Elevator Question	Undecided.
Woman's Suffrage	In favor.
Direct Legislation	Opposed.

Mr. Green is not altogether opposed to manhood suffrage, but at the same time he thinks that his vote should count for more than that of the average laborer; and we organized farmers of Saskatchewan pay Mr. Green \$2,000.00 a year and the Grain Growers' Guide pays him \$25.00 per month for thus halfheartedly supporting our demands in some cases and opposing them in others, which looks to me like bad business for the farmers. I have seen with my own eyes in the Saskatchewan portion of The Guide, Mr. Green picking holes in the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co., instead of trying to help it along. In closing, I would like to say that if the policy of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' association is supposed to be reflected in their particular page of the Guide, then the association has no definite policy on anything under the sun, as there have not been ten columns of decent editorial matter on the page during the last two years. When the shareholders of the Grain Growers' Grain Company come to elect their officers this year it will be well for them to remember the man who referred to the company as "a private concern owned and operated in the interests of a private company."

Yours truly,

J. T. WILSON.

Dana, Sask., 28th June, 1913.

**MR. MORRISON'S EXPLANATION**  
The Editor, "The Grain Growers' Guide,"  
Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Sir:—I am the author of two articles entitled "The Grain Grower and the Farmer," to which you criticized in

a recent editorial as "an insulting attack made on the Western farmer." That you should have formed such an impression I can only attribute to the pressure of business in your office, which compelled you to read hurriedly and to write even more hurriedly. Certainly no thought was further from my mind than an attempt to belittle the agricultural industry, with which I myself have had close associations. On the contrary my articles were very apparently a panegyric and eulogy of the farmer. Indeed they so obviously and perhaps fulsomely exalt the farmer above other men that I felt a certain timidity in submitting them, in this commercial and industrial age, even to the editor of an agricultural journal. You can judge then of my surprise when I found you denouncing as bitterly anti-agricultural what I myself feared was too pro-agricultural for modern taste!

You accuse me of imagining what of course is a literal absurdity—that there are "grain growers with the stock ticker in their parlors." That obviously is only a metaphorical way of saying that there is a good deal of speculation in the West. You yourself, along with thousands of other people, admit that. As for my picturesque way of expressing it, surely "The Grain Growers' Guide," which above all things excels in piquant metaphors, will not criticize the use of metaphors by others.

My metaphors were meant to be amusing, but you of course were quite within your rights in failing to be amused by them. When, however, you say that I have written "no word of respect, encouragement or thanks for the thousands of prairie farmers" you must, as I said, have read my articles rather hurriedly. Here are a few things you might have quoted therefrom:

"The farmer is no bird of passage. He sows his own soul, as it were, in his furrows. He gives himself to his work and receives thereby that tranquility and permanence of character which are distinguishing marks of those who have an absorbing purpose in life and whose

Guide.	Association.
Against.	No definite policy.
In favor.	In favor.
In favor.	In favor.
In favor under certain conditions.	Although the Association passed no vote on the question, the idea one would derive from last convention would be favorable.
In favor.	In favor.
In favor.	In favor.
In favor.	In favor.

work is their destiny. The tributes which poets and painters have paid to rural life are nothing but homage which the farmer has a right to expect.

"He has too great a value in and for himself as a man. He contributes too much to the sum total of national character."

"A farmer has a quasi-religious and sacred value as a high priest of nature. With spade and pitchfork, hoe and harrow, he performs a ceaseless ritual before her in all seasons. He knows the secrets of all things living and growing. He is a walking encyclopedia of natural history, a botanist, a horticulturist, an orchardist, an entomologist, a dairy expert, a farrier, a veterinary surgeon."

After stating, in words which you quoted, that exclusive grain growing tends to commercialize agriculture because it keeps men's eyes continually on the fluctuations of the grain markets, I went on to comment:

"On the contrary the great benefit the farmer confers on the nation consists precisely in his not being commercial. He is valuable not solely as a provider of food, but as a healthy antidote to the spirit of real estate and the stock exchange. It is this obsession by the artificial symbols of the money markets which the farmer serves to cure."

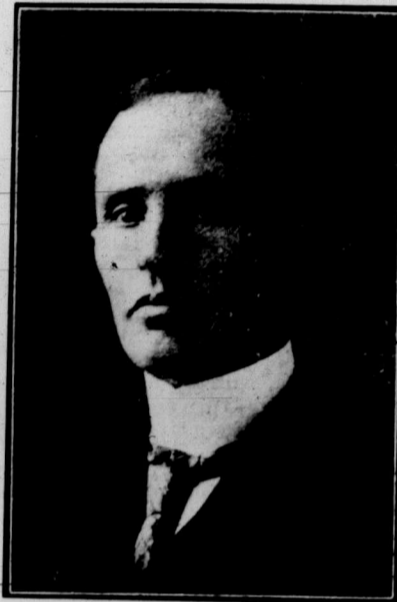
"The true farmer is above all a keeper of live stock. The whole nature of the farmer, on the other hand, is enriched and deepened by his continual services to mankind's dumb brothers, the animals."

"It is equally as important as city life that there should be a large number of citizens closely attached to the soil identifying their lives with the life of nature."

Surely these are words of respect!

I said with reference to the man who merely grows wheat as a speculation that he "breeds a class of nomad farm laborers" and that he "threatens to develop into that curse of Ireland, the absentee landlord." As a matter of fact I got that last idea from the Grain Grower itself. You, yourself, have referred to the danger of a new feudalism in the West based on extensive land tenure. My motive accordingly in writing was to draw the attention of the West, if possible, to the dangers of exclusive wheat culture.

I am, in short, an advocate of mixed farming; and if I err in that I err in good company. Are not all the Provincial Governments and Schools of Agriculture attempting to encourage mixed farming? Is not a tendency to put all our eggs in one basket of wheat regarded universally



HON. ARTHUR MEIGHEN, M.P.  
For Portage la Prairie, recently appointed  
Solicitor-General

as a danger to the financial stability of the West? Have not you yourself advocated mixed farming? If I err then, I err not only in good company as I said before, but also with The Grain Growers' Guide.

My articles were submitted to the Countryman solely because it was the nearest agricultural weekly. They were not prompted or ordered by the Countryman. Whatever merits or demerits are in them are my own. Had my manuscript been refused I should very probably have sent it to you as to the leading agricultural journal of the West, so far as I from thinking that I had written "an untruthful, damaging and insulting attack on the Western farmer." If I had met with any criticism I expected to be sneered at by some city paper for declaring that farmers were more important than real estate agents or stock brokers.

I am taking advantage of your standing offer to extend the courtesy of your columns to any who take exception to your criticisms. My letter is rather long, but as you criticize me rather prominently I trust you will do me the justice to print it and let your readers judge whether I am inspired by a malevolent hatred against agriculture, and whether I have condemned large-scale exclusive grain-growing any more than has any other advocate of mixed farming.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

STANLEY MORRISON.

142 Bloor St. West, Toronto.

Note.—We publish the above letter in full because Mr. Morrison takes a full page in a recent issue of the Canadian (Walker-Lash) Countryman to wail because we did not give his letter complete but only a summary in The Guide of June 11. But here is his defense in full. He certainly did say some very nice things about farmers, but the whole burden of his articles was to show that grain growers were not farmers and had no right to the honors due to real farmers. Mr. Morrison may be a real friend of the farmer, but if he hopes to be regarded as such he will not try to be a funny man at the expense of the grain growers.

Another point that should not be overlooked is that the Canadian Countryman was organized and is published chiefly for the purpose of counteracting the work of The Guide and the grain growers, so that Mr. Morrison was in bad company, to say the least, and will require some time to live down the reputation he has thus acquired. Despite his protestations we cannot regard his articles otherwise than as calculated to rouse resentment against the grain growers and to alienate from them any sympathy that they might receive in the East.—Editor.

## CRITICIZES FARMERS' COMPANY

Editor, Guide:—Would you kindly publish the facts re my last and final experience of shipping wheat to the G.G. Co. of Winnipeg. I may state that this is not by any means the first car that I have shipped. I and Mr. Pauthier billed car No. 64536 from Leask to the G.G. Co. on the 31st of May, having refused 61 cents, the price of No. 4, from the local elevator agent. We jointly notified the G.G. Co. that we expected No. 3. It reached Winnipeg and was inspected on the 7th inst, being graded No. 5. The G.G. Co. informed me by letter dated the 9th inst, which reached Leask on the evening of the 12th. I wired the Grain Growers' Grain Co. first thing in the morning of the 13th to call for reinspection, which they acknowledged. They requested a reinspection, getting a letter from the inspector's office on the 17th saying my car was unloaded on the 14th before the arrival of the request. And to finish things off correctly my agents stored my wheat with the firm we refused to deal with at Leask. I do not doubt sold it them also and it was sold at 1/2c. above market price for that day. I would like anyone reading this to answer two questions: Why did not my agents notify me of the grade on the 7th inst? Why did not they on receipt of my wire, wire Port Arthur to hold the car for reinspection. The Grain Growers' Grain Co. should know what firm has an elevator at Leask. Then why give the grain into their hands at Port Arthur? In my instructions re sale of wheat I stated that my wheat was loaded through an elevator, giving name of same. I consider that with proper treatment we should be \$100.00 to the good.

SAM M. MANSELL.

Leask, Sask.

Note.—We asked the Grain Growers' Grain Co. for an explanation of Mr. Mansell's case and have the following letter from the company:—

Editor, Guide:—Re car 64536, S. M. Mansell. The following facts will throw some additional light on the handling of the above shipment. This car passed Winnipeg on Saturday, June 7. The inspection certificate together with the government inspector's sample of the grain was at our disposal on Monday morning, June 9. It is always the day after the date shown on the inspection certificate before the certificate and the inspector's sample are at our disposal. In this case, through Sunday intervening, it was two days after. Notification of the grade went forward to the shipper on the 9th inst, the same day that we received notice from the inspection department. Mr. Mansell states that he wired us the first thing on the morning of the 13th to call for re-inspection. The original wire is before us now and shows that it was received in Winnipeg at 7:30 o'clock in the evening. It was delivered at our office at 9 o'clock on the morning of the 14th. Immediately this wire was received on the 14th, we phoned to the government inspection department to have this car re-inspected and sent written confirmation over at once. Calling for re-inspection must be done through the chief inspector's office here, we being dependent on them for the transmitting of the instructions to the deputy inspector at Fort William. The car evidently was unloaded on the morning of the 14th, the day we received his wire, and on that account our call for re-inspection arrived in Fort William too late.

As far as the unloading of the car is concerned, we did not know where the car had been unloaded until we received the out-turns from the terminal. There are numerous terminals, all under government supervision, operating at the head

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