

looked dark for co-operation. But the co-operators were loyal to their own institution and today it is one of the largest in the world, with its stores all over England and Scotland, its factories for making its own requirements and its purchasing agencies in every quarter of the globe. The farmers of Western Canada will never have a powerful organization of their own until they learn to stand by it through thick and thin; through fair and foul weather. The one institution we have in mind at present is The Grain Growers' Guide. It is rightly regarded as the great link which binds together the farmers of the three Prairie Provinces into a whole, and makes it possible for simultaneous action for the common good all over the West. We want to present to our readers an urgent appeal on behalf of The Guide. Many attempts have been made to put The Guide out of business. It tells the truth too plainly to suit many of the big commercial and financial interests of Canada. They prefer papers which they can influence and control.

We sell The Guide to our subscribers for \$1.00 per year, while it actually costs us over \$3.50 per year to produce it. The balance of our revenue we get from advertisements. Here is where our readers can help us, if they think The Guide is worthy of their support. Our advertising pages are like a large store, on the shelves of which many varieties of goods are displayed for sale. The storekeeper is anxious to sell his own goods because it is on those that he makes his profit. We are anxious to sell the goods advertised in The Guide because it is on those that The Guide exists. When you buy goods not advertised in The Guide you are not helping your own paper. We want to ask every reader when buying anything to give preference to Guide advertisers. In this way The Guide practically gets a commission on your purchase. As the purchases from our advertisers grow so our commission increases. This gives us a larger revenue, enables us to print a larger paper, gives us more money to make investigations and gives us much greater opportunities to help our readers in every way.

We would call special attention to the large amount of farmers' advertising of live-stock now appearing in The Guide every week. We have the leading breeders of the country now advertising in our paper and we would be glad if our readers would purchase their live-stock from these breeders. In this way The Guide will come to be known as the best journal in which breeders can announce their stock and The Guide will be helped thereby. This is not a selfish appeal but it is merely pointing out the method by which the farmers can support and build up their own paper. If we had no advertisements we should be compelled to charge \$3.50 per year for The Guide, which would be too high a price to reach the farmers. Don't forget to mention always that you saw a certain advertisement in The Guide, urge all firms you deal with to advertise in your own paper and we can help each other.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

The demand for the public ownership of railways, telegraphs, telephones, and express services is steadily growing. For one thing it seems only reasonable that when the people pay for the building and maintenance of a railway they should keep it in their own hands rather than give it away to private citizens. A large part of the population, however, need more than logic to convince them of the soundness of any radical measure. Fortunately the experience of several countries bears striking witness to the ability of the people to operate their own national services. Germany, Belgium, Italy, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa prove that railways can be owned and operated by the people with splendid success. The service is better than an autocratic private company gives, unless goaded by competition, while the profits go back to the people to be used

in bettering the service and reducing passenger and freight rates. The British government owns the telegraph and telephone systems and is operating both with profit and success. The telephones in use now number 600,000, with 2,000,000 miles of wires. Telegrams all over Great Britain cost only 12 cents for twelve words, compared with the Canadian charges for moderate distances of 25 cents for ten words. Parcel post is another proven success. An eleven-pound parcel can be mailed anywhere within the British Isles for 22 cents, and the Postmaster General of the United States described in last week's Guide what the parcel post means to the farmer and the consuming public of that country. The possibilities before this great reform are tremendous. And now comes word that Great Britain is considering the nationalization of all the railroads. A royal commission has been appointed to investigate the relations between the railway companies and the state. Many think that the key-note of this inquiry was struck by Lloyd-George in a recent speech, when he enumerated the benefits to Belgium of state-owned railways, saying, "They have got cheap transit. How do they get that? They have nationalized the railways; they have not allowed great monopolies to strangle towns." Whether Great Britain is about to take over the railways or not, it is at least a live public question. So much cannot be said of Canada. We have handed out of the national treasury in the form of gold, guaranteed bonds and land not less than one billion dollars. And what have we received for this staggering expenditure? Two or three immensely wealthy and supremely independent concerns who consider the public welfare only so long as it helps their private fortunes. We have enough railroad millionaire knights in Canada, but our railroad facilities and rates are not all that could be desired. Let the people own their own national public services, such as railways, telegraphs and telephones and then we shall have as good and as cheap services as we deserve. We hope every reader of The Guide will mark his ballot on the public ownership question.

CO-OPERATIVE ELEVATOR ANNUAL

The annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, held in Regina last week, proved to be very successful. The company showed a profit of \$167,000, and, after paying a dividend of eight per cent. upon their capital stock, also devoted a portion of their profits to paying up \$3.00 per share on stock held by their shareholders. The farmers of Saskatchewan are undoubtedly giving good support to their own elevator company, and year by year it is spreading out and covering a larger part of the province. The profits made by the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company will give the farmers an idea of the money which in the past years has been taken out of their pockets by the old line elevators. Slowly it has been driven into the hearts and heads of the farmers that by getting together and doing their own business they can save themselves a great deal of the money that is now being raked in by private interests and used to keep the farmers in subjection. The day of the private elevator company is rapidly passing as is the day of the old fashioned elevator building itself. The new elevator building must be up-to-date and be able to handle the farmers' grain satisfactorily, and the new elevator company which is to flourish and handle the business of the future must be the farmers' elevator company. An ever larger share of the farmers' grain from Saskatchewan is year by year passing through the hands of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company and the Grain Growers' Grain Company, and it is only a matter of a very short time until the farmers, by supporting their own two companies, will drive the private elevator interests out of the province.

TO SECURE FREE WHEAT

In a recent issue of The Toronto News a large part of a long article from The Grain Growers' Guide is reproduced. It happened that in this article no mention was made of the need to open the southern market for our wheat. The News asked if The Grain Growers' Guide is abandoning its campaign for free wheat. Certainly not. As long as the standing offer remains for Reciprocity in wheat so long will the demand remain to have it accepted. We understand that practically every one of our Western Members of Parliament is favorable to placing wheat on the free list. Of course, they have not come out yet publicly and made the statement, but no doubt when they go to Ottawa they will urge it upon their political leaders. The readers of The Guide can do a splendid work by bringing it before their local members, particularly Government members. It would also be a splendid thing for as many farmers as possible to write a letter to Premier Borden, urging him to accept the American offer of free interchange of wheat and wheat products. The letter should be written as soon as possible. If Mr. Borden is absent from Ottawa it will then reach the other members of the Cabinet.

INVESTIGATE COST OF LIVING

The South African Federal Government has appointed a commission to enquire into the following matters:

- (1) Wages, working hours and the cost of living on the Witwatersrand and other industrial centres within the Union of South Africa.
- (2) Comparison between wages, working hours and cost of living at such places with those ruling in other countries.
- (3) Cost of production in the Union compared with that of other countries.
- (4) The question of establishing a minimum or subsistence wage in any trade or industries within the Union.
- (5) The payment for overtime and for night work in trades or industries within the Union.

The personnel of the commission is as follows: Sydney John Chapman, Professor of Political Economy, Manchester University, England, Chairman; Maurice Smithurst Evans, C.M.G., Durban; L. Wiener, Cape Town; Paul Wilhelm Michau, Cradock; Howard Pim, Johannesburg; with John Bruce Moffat as secretary. This commission is composed of men of impartial views, and the South African Manufacturers' Association is already sneering at them as theorists. It would be impossible to have such a commission appointed in Canada, because the Canadian Manufacturers' Association would not permit it. Any economic commission appointed by our Federal Government in Canada, no matter which party is in power, would have to be sanctioned by the magnates of the Manufacturers' Association. We extend our congratulations to our fellow citizens in South Africa that they are to have an investigation into these questions by men who have not already decided upon their report before looking over the field.

At the present time an Illustrated Lantern Lecture is travelling throughout Southern Manitoba in the interests of the Grain Growers' Associations, the Grain Growers' Grain Company, and The Grain Growers' Guide. The lecture is of an educational nature and undoubtedly will stimulate interest wherever it is heard. The itinerary of the tour is published in every issue of The Guide, and it is to be hoped that the farmers at each point will turn out in large numbers and help to make the lecture a great success.

Canadian farmers and other producers of commodities placed on the free list are undoubtedly benefitting by the new U.S. tariff. Canadian consumers, however, can gain nothing by the changes made at Washington. Before consumers in this country can get any advantages from tariff revision, the Canadian Parliament must lower or abolish the Canadian tariff.

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