

The Brain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, December 19, 1917

After The Election

By the time this issue of The Guide reaches its readers the election will be over and the big issue will be settled. At the time of writing we do not know what the result is as our paper is on the press before the election returns are received on Monday night. But regardless of the election results there are some thoughts worth considering. Canada is more or less a democratic country, sometimes more, sometimes less. Through long years we have developed our institutions and our form of Government. We are a law-abiding people. When we have an election we take it seriously. Both parties in an election say and do things in the heat of the struggle which are unwise and which are not thoroughly considered, but we believe in majority rule and whatever the electors say by their ballots on Monday will decide our course as a nation. So far as Western Canada is concerned opinion is of course more or less divided.

When the election is over and settled we must lay aside all feeling. Our interests are all one and in common, our cause is a common one to all. We must harbor no animosities nor ill feelings but shoulder to shoulder we must labor together for the common good. Our problems during the war are vast, but our war problems do not affect the internal life of our nation to the same extent as will our after-the-war problems. There are mighty interests in our nation with immeasurable power not always used for the common good. There will be hundreds of thousands of soldiers to be brought back and replaced in our civil life; there will be readjustments necessary hitherto undreamed of. Our farmers of the West through their organizations can by standing together, forgetting and overlooking petty jealousies and with a united desire for justice can be one of the greatest factors in Canada in that readjustment. The war will be over sometime whether it be one year or ten, but our nation will exist we hope through all time. Let us bear this in mind after the election and go forward in the work we have to do.

Steel On a War Basis

This is the age of steel. The war is a war of steel. It will be won by the side that can put the heaviest and best equipped batteries into action. The amount of iron and steel used for shells and guns, as well as for other army equipment, railroads, ships and machinery for war industries is almost beyond computation. It is fortunate for the allies that the resources of the great American steel industry is behind them. That there are many undesirable features about the steel trust is as true now as it ever was but that the efficiency of the steel industry is proving of incalculable value in supplying war materials just now is also beyond question. To what extent the steel magnates are actuated by devotion to the Allies' cause is hard to say but we have it on the authority of Edward Porritt that the pledge of active, continuous and whole-hearted co-operation given by the American Iron and Steel Institute at its Cincinnati convention last autumn was given in sincerity. Mr. Porritt is in a position to know and as his democratic principles are unquestioned the motives of the steel interests must be such as to warrant his approval. The extent of government activity in directing the activities of the steel industry is also reassuring. Prices have been fixed in seventy or eighty of the primary and secondary branches in connection with the steel trade and although prices doubtless provide for a fair margin of profit they are having their

effect in preventing war profiteering. The effect of the war in reorganizing the basis of industry and there is hope that out of the present situation more satisfactory conditions than those which formerly characterized the business will be evolved.

Building Canada's National Life

Canada is a land of immense resources covering half a continent. Its climate has all variations from a mild temperate to a frigid. Its resources are practically inexhaustible. It offers a home to countless millions. It is badly split up by great unbroken wastes and rough mountain ranges. Already within it two races are dominant but there is a multitude of other peoples scattered over its broad surface. These peoples vary as to their racial extraction and their religious beliefs, their educational standards, their aspirations, as much as Canada itself varies in its surface characteristics.

How is this great mass to be brought into one unit? Is it to be hammered into a mould by legislation directed by any one faction or is it to be fused into one nationality by association and education? Unquestionably, if it is to be a nation that will stand it will be by the latter means. The greatest unifying and levelling force in the world today is that of unselfishly directed education. It is the only power that will ever make the world safe for democracy. Its rays are the only hope for the dispelling of the fogs of religious prejudice and superstition. It is the only effective method of bringing about better racial understandings. Force and isolation will never do that. It is the lack of education that makes people the victims of scheming politicians, rapacious money grabbers and misguided clergy.

And in the public schools of this country lies the hope of Canadian national life. That is where we will teach the people who come to us from foreign lands, strangers in search of freedom. We may not be able to teach the fathers and mothers but it is to the children we should give our best efforts. These people are anxious to have their children educated and learn the best Canada has to offer them. These children are keen, bright and honest, and the people of Anglo-Saxon extraction in this country should do what they have never yet done sufficiently, that is, to study the origins, racial characteristics and aspirations of these newcomers. Until we do that more thoroughly, we, as a people, will never understand them properly and do them justice. We owe it to ourselves as much as to them, for in years to come they will be a more influential factor in our nation. We will never solve this problem of educating the non-English as it ought to be solved until we study the problem more thoroughly and our convictions get rooted deeply and our actions become those of natural impulse rather than those which comprise part of a studied plan or scheme. In this issue some aspects of this problem in Manitoba are presented that should interest Canadians in this vital problem.

Take The Tax Off Tractors

One of the greatest factors in winning the war will be the farm tractor. The man shortage has made the adoption of tractors in greater numbers the only salvation. The Allied Governments have bombarded United States with tractor orders. England, France, Italy, Russia have imported tractors by thousands. They intend to protect themselves against starvation even if imports from America are cut to practically nothing. There is no place in the world today where the pro-

duction of available foodstuffs per unit of population is as great as in Canada. There is no place where there is a more insistent demand by authorities for increased production. Canada is told that the salvation of Britain and the Allied cause largely rests with her and her farmers. Granted this is true our farmers ought to have easily available everything that will enable them to produce to the limit of their powers. Today all eyes are turned to the tractor as never before. Factories are oversold and new ones are constantly springing up. The world needs these engines of production just as much as the Allies need armies and ammunition. Surely no argument is needed to show that it should be made as easy as possible for Western farmers to get tractors. It may mean disaster not to do so. Today a duty of 27½ per cent. keeps these essential food producers out of Canada and 7½ per cent. of that is called "war tax." It is a war tax but it and the 20 per cent. normal tax are "lose the war" taxes that may lead to disaster. This tax should come off at once if the war is to be won.

Is Organization Worth While?

Every once in a while and altogether too frequently, farmers refuse to join the local associations and pay in \$1.00 as membership fee because they say they cannot see that the organization is of any use to them. There are among farmers, as among other people, those who cannot see further than the end of their nose. There are also among farmers, as among others, those who refuse to invest a dollar and give their support to a common cause unless they can see two dollars of immediate return to their own pocket. A volume might be written on the benefit that has come to the farming community of the prairie provinces through the efforts of the organized farmers. In many cases the financial benefit is the easiest to show. A few facts should be placed before those who demand to see where the financial returns will come to them directly.

The price of wheat this year is \$2.21. But for the farmers' organizations it would have been \$1.30. Last March the Dominion Government proposed to fix the price of the 1917 wheat crop at \$1.30 per bushel but before doing so asked the opinion of the Canadian Council of Agriculture representing the organized farmers of the West. One full day's discussion was given to the subject at the Regina meeting, after which the Council unanimously declared that \$1.30 per bushel was not a fair price and proposed a fixed price of \$1.70 or other figures for a sliding scale if it were desired. The Government hesitated and in the meantime the market went up until the price was fixed the same as the American prices. In this one instance alone the farmers' own organizations saved them 91 cents per bushel on their wheat or over \$1,000 per carload. The organization thus saved to every wheat grower on every carload of wheat enough to pay his dues to his local association for the next one thousand years. To those who measure the benefits of the association purely by the hard cold dollars and cents system here is the reply. In the face of this every farmer should pay \$5.00 a year to his local association and should immediately rush in to pay it. If he searches for one hundred years he can find no better investment.

Just one other point out of hundreds. The commission on oats up until three years ago was one cent per bushel. Purely and solely due to the pressure of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, the commission was reduced to