

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, October 25th, 1916

## SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT CHANGES

The resignation of Hon. Walter Scott, due to ill health, and the reorganization of the Saskatchewan government is the chief political event of the past week. There will be widespread regret that Mr. Scott's health has broken down at such an early age. He is one of the pioneers of this country and has played a big part in moulding its development. For some years as member of the Federal parliament and for eleven years as Premier of Saskatchewan his heart has been with the Western people. While we have not always seen eye to eye with Mr. Scott, and while his government has been laboring under strong suspicions for some months, it cannot be disputed that his has been the most progressive and democratic government in the Dominion of Canada. While not above criticism his government has the best record for legislation genuinely in the interests of the people. We sincerely trust that he will completely recover his health and be spared for many years of useful service.

The new Saskatchewan Premier, Hon. W. M. Martin, has been the Regina representative in the Dominion House for some years. He possesses an unblemished political record, (which is a big asset in these days) is considered to have good ability, plenty of energy, and a democratic viewpoint. He is a young man in a young country in a position to be of valuable service to his fellowmen. He has a big contract before him, but he should make good.

The most important feature of the government reorganization is the appointment of Hon. Chas. A. Dunning as Provincial Treasurer. While probably the youngest cabinet minister in Canada, Mr. Dunning's past experience and achievements have eminently qualified him to manage the financial affairs of the province. Eight years ago when he appeared at the Grain Growers' Convention, "Charlie" Dunning, then a "green Englishman" fresh from the homestead was marked as a coming man. When the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company was started the farmers determined to handle it themselves and unanimously selected Mr. Dunning as general manager, tho he was without experience in the grain trade and less than half the age of some of the members of his board. In six years under his management the Company has developed into one of the largest elevator and grain handling companies in the world and has been an extraordinary financial success. As a member of the Grain Marketing Commission and the Rural Credit Commission he had an opportunity to study grain marketing and agricultural finance all over the world. On the Board of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and on the Canadian Council of Agriculture, he has been in intimate touch with every agricultural problem. He is an exceptionally clear and able public speaker, possesses great force of character and is a genuine democrat. For a man of his age he comes to his new work with singularly wide experience. There will be much regret that he has left the farmers' organization, but he will have great opportunities in his new position and should be able to give equally good service to the farmers of his province. There will undoubtedly be considerable disappointment that Mr. Dunning has joined a government whose hold upon public confidence has suffered a severe blow and when the integrity of some of its members is under very grave suspicion.

The Australian government announced on September 28 that it proposes to confiscate all war profits in excess of a small maximum to be established. It is also going to reduce

the limit of income tax exemption to \$500 except in the case of those with dependents. This is an object lesson for Canadians.

## SEAGER WHEELER WINS AGAIN

Last week, for the third time, at El Paso, Texas, Seager Wheeler captured first prize for the world's best wheat at the International Dry Farming Congress. This is four times that Mr. Wheeler in competition with the world has carried off sweepstakes for his Marquis wheat. It places him in undisputed possession of the title of the World's Champion Wheat Grower and it shows further that his achievement has been no mere accident, but the result of careful and painstaking effort and the highest type of tillage operation. Mr. Wheeler is an Englishman by birth, but for 25 years a Saskatchewan farmer. He is one of the most useful citizens in the province of Saskatchewan and has done more than any other man to advertise the possibilities of that province.

## PRACTICAL AGRICULTURAL TEACHING

How best can the information available at our agricultural colleges be distributed so that it can be put to practical use on every prairie farm? Probably there is no one best way any more than there is any one royal road to success. It is a matter of constantly improving on existing methods and thoroughly trying out any scheme that appears feasible. One of these ways is thru demonstration farms. As is pointed out in another page of this issue by President J. B. Reynolds, of the Manitoba Agricultural College, a farm located in a representative agricultural district on which experimental work suitable to the locality can be conducted, and a portion of which could be used for practical agricultural work in the high school, is one of the natural developments of agricultural educational work in any province. A strictly demonstration farm, that is, one run with the main object of making a profit, cannot under these new Western conditions be of as much value to a community as a combination of experimental and demonstration farm on which practices suitable to its particular locality can be tried out and a great deal of investigational work suited to local conditions done. It is quite logical too, when making this new development, that arrangements wherever possible be made to locate the farm so that it can afford practical assistance to the teaching in the local high school.

Too long the fundamental difficulty with most institutions has been that the institution becomes the end and not the means, the center to which all must come instead of the point of departure of all kinds of effort. The way suggested by President Reynolds to assist the farming business in the rural districts by making it more efficient thru education, evidently recognizes this fact.

## CO-OPERATION IN IRELAND

We feel our readers will be deeply interested as well as greatly benefitted by the series of articles on "Co-operation in Ireland" which begin in this issue. Landlordism and its accompanying evils in Ireland blighted one of the fairest portions of this earth and drove millions of Irishmen away from their native land to make a living for themselves and their families. But thru the good offices of Sir Horace Plunkett, co-operative effort was established and has become a great blessing to the Irish peasants and restored comparative comfort to a very large number of poverty stricken families. Co-operation

thrives best where it is encouraged by "the driving force of poverty." But we can learn some lessons from Ireland even tho our farmers are not in such poverty-stricken circumstances.

## WAR LOAN ALLOTMENTS

The new war loan which was subscribed for at 97½ has already gone to 98 on the stock exchange, so that those who purchased have already a profit on the transaction in addition to the interest which they will earn. The total subscription to the war loan was \$200,000,000, of which the banks subscribed \$50,000,000. It is stated, however, by the Finance Department that the subscription made by the banks will be eliminated altogether as the loan was only for \$100,000,000. All the small subscriptions of less than \$25,000 will be allotted in full and the larger ones cut down.

## PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COSTS

The Ottawa Citizen states that the Lyall Construction Company is building the Union Railway Station in Toronto at a guaranteed profit of 3½ per cent. and the same company is building the new Parliament Buildings at Ottawa at a guaranteed profit of 8 per cent. up to \$4,000,000 and 7 per cent. above that figure. If true, these are most remarkable facts, and the Ottawa Citizen is usually correct in such matters. If the construction company is willing to work for 3½ per cent. guaranteed profit when putting up a railway depot, why should it be necessary to pay 8 per cent. profit for the construction of parliament buildings? It would be very interesting to know whether this construction company has made any contribution to the campaign funds of the present government party at Ottawa, and if so, how much? If the campaign fund given was worked the same as it was in Manitoba on the parliament buildings and the agricultural college, it may explain something of the high cost of the construction of the parliament buildings at Ottawa.

## HOW MANY WARS ARE MADE

It is said the American International Corporation is preparing to finance the building of 2,000 miles of railway in China. Dispatches say "It is not believed by officials at Washington to conflict with the recent Japanese-Chinese treaty as Japanese concessions secured under the new treaty do not extend to the territory thru which the new railway is to be built." Here is the beginning of what will quite likely develop into a bone of contention later on. Japanese and United States capitalists invade Chinese territory because China offers a better field for their money than the home field. They invade the same or contiguous territory and their interests clash sooner or later. The supposed jealousy between these powers will be given as a source of the trouble and the real cause will be buried under a mass of international pros and cons. The laboring classes will be called upon to defend the interests of the capitalists under the illusion of defending their national honor. This is exactly what has happened in Mexico and what the monied interests want the people of the United States to defend at the present time.

## "OPEN MIND" NOT ENOUGH

The Toronto World, owned by W. P. McLean, M.P., who is leading a political revolt against the Conservative party, with which he has long been affiliated, is conducting a vigorous campaign for a new political party and is receiving considerable support. In a