



NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

This department of The Guide is maintained especially for the purpose of providing a discussion ground for the readers where they may freely exchange views and derive from each other the benefits of experience and helpful suggestions. Each correspondent should remember that there are hundreds who wish to discuss a problem or offer suggestions. We cannot publish all the immense number of letters received, and ask that each correspondent will keep his letter as short as possible. Every letter must be signed by the name of the writer, though not necessarily from publication. The views of our correspondents are not of necessity those of The Guide. The aim is to make this department of great value to readers, and no letters out of public interest will be published.

MUST GET TOGETHER

Editor, Guide:—Insufficient as our influence, at present is, yet our provincial associations, our Canadian Council of Agriculture, our great journal, The Guide, our Saskatchewan Elevator Commission Report, our monthly delegation of farmers to Ottawa and all our minor local meetings are powerful forces because they are within ourselves. Let us reflect upon our incapacity of ten years ago and contrast it with our organized strength of today and I tell you nothing that is just and equitable is impossible to us if we take proper action, sound judgment and a bold courage. Things political are not what they were a decade ago. We have done wonders and we can go forward and do still more surprising achievements. The farmers can do what we have hitherto neglected as our proper duty. We can govern Canada, providing we are prepared to take up boldly our whole political duty. We are the majority, which should govern; but to do so we must keep within ourselves. We must become a separate group independent of outside alliances, party traditions and both party and political mountebanks. We must show the people of Canada that we stand not for party government at all, but for the rights of the common welfare. The two old parties have promised us great things. Our leaders have undertaken great cures, but the only self-evident science of dual-party government is not the discharge of the country's business needs, but its obstruction and placing legislation of charters, tariffs and privileges and the national resources (inclusive of the public funds) at the disposal of private monopoly and politicians, who have failed most shamefully to carry out their pledges. Certainly to men of great judgment such quack politicians as Mr. Sifton are a sport to behold and there are many others of smaller degree who are all a witness to, if not the cause of, the stench of modern caucusing. It is our duty to drop such a two-party system as we have today, which, when we come to see that as regards private monopolies and grafting politicians, the two parties are actually but one, then it follows we must have our own group of M.P.s. We must do our duty, results be as they will. We must have a "second party," our own party, our own conventions, our own platform, and choose our own candidates who will not fail us; this means that we must drop both the old parties so called just because they are only one party. This is why we have to learn that any alliance with such a system will continue to remain futile as far as our interests in the main being properly considered by any cabinet of such factions. My readers should try to always remember that the old parties have hitherto failed us. Why? Because we have had no group of our own members. That is why. We must have a group as the nucleus of a new party, a group independent of all outside party influences. Certainly, if we make an alliance with the interested plute-parties we shall be chargeable with their wrong doing in unjust legislation, and administration. This, at all costs, we must avoid. We must remain independent of them so that we can be independent in our actions at all times. This is the sole key, by virtue of which we can control legislation in the interests of the common welfare. We must pull the party strings instead of allowing them to pull us. This can only be effected by keeping not only politically but determinedly aloof, we must cease to "bow the knee to Baal." The fetish of party

has been the farmers' and workers' curse. We have not acted like men, but like children. Shall we continue to shut one eye and open our mouths and see what God will send us—more legalized thieves? Not by union with the two commercialized factions, but only by virtue of our independence of Liberalism and Conservatism shall we be able to secure equitable legislation that will emancipate all workers from remaining under the heel of private monopoly. We must rid ourselves of the power of the party convention breeds to dictate either our conduct or their terms. We must remain within ourselves politically just as we are doing economically. If we are all willing to drop such parties as we have, we will soon become a good match for the two factions who

—that is, all politically intelligent students—are not only tired of, but disgusted with both parties being both alike: they are but one in practice and the doings of both are alike bad. In Canada today there are many non-party men, men who refuse to take part in party strife. Men who cannot be induced to cast a vote for *fort or Tory*. Men of the highest kind of political integrity. Men who long for a system of public in lieu of private prosperity, where the labor and the resources and the entire property of the country are directed in the best manner to the success of individual industry and legitimate enterprise. Canada is badly in need of government by science instead of as of now by selfishness of private monopolies by both parties, which has led a large number of the less intelligent voters into political atrophy, and the habitual omission of those political duties which ought to be done by every voter. These two classes of first the non-party intelligent men, and, secondly, the large element of intelligent voters, are today unrepresented in our parliaments. Certainly there is room herein for a new economic party, and somebody should get busy to organize them into an enterprising industrial political party.

Now, a cut and dried old party convention won't do for the above cited voters, because they are all aware that the dry rot of private monopoly is in both parties. Canada needs a new party that will cut out both of these private monopoly parties and extinguish every law of privilege that is now on our statutes and in the place of privileges to the few install that true economy of favors to nobody, which principle and policy alone will give public prosperity. We can only expel private monopoly by at once dropping the fast dying two old moribund parties.

INFORMATION WANTED

A circular has been issued this week from the central office of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association to every secretary of the Association, asking for information as to prices paid for farm produce and livestock at the different towns in the province. The circular asks for statements as to the extent mixed farming is practised in different districts, and requests suggestions from officers of the association as to a system of marketing that would encourage producers to go more extensively into diversified farming. An attempt is further made to secure the retail prices for farm produce so as to determine the proportion of the cost of food products which goes to the producers and the middlemen respectively in Manitoba. The information asked for will be tabulated and used as a basis in working out a scheme to lessen the cost of distributing what is grown on the farm. This scheme is now under consideration. The secretaries of the branches can render useful service to the movement by promptly furnishing the information asked for.

always stand in with the special interests. The day is gone when the common every-day statement was, "The farmers cannot hold together." As an organization, we are a body of conscientious men. Let us become boldly determined to execute our whole political duty. We will never get our rights from our opponent parties. We have been there sadly too long—for so little. What we need to do is to reform ourselves—we, the voters. That should be our goal and leave Liberalism and Conservatism to their well merited fate—death. Let all such partisan-parties hoe their own row and we workers hoe our own. Then shall we become healthy, wealthy and wise. Of one thing I am sure, it will be extremely hard to dominate the old party conventions with their "barrels of money" and party-journal dope. I am not sure but it is a stupendous act of folly to attempt such an act of transformation, not to say personal humiliation.

If farmers and workers will only get half as fond of their true interests as they have been of their party idols, they will soon come to an end with all past and present excuses, apathy and political self-seeking. Let us get busy. While we wait we suffer. We are all tired of waiting for reforms from both parties. Let us get fond of ourselves. Privileges to any corporation or persons, or class, must be stopped. It cannot be stopped by dividing our votes, but it can by consolidation. Let us all make a heroic resolve. We have been foolish long enough. Men who have read and seen through party such as we have in Canada

with their big expenditures, which will keep increasing as long as we stand by and shout for either the Liberal or Conservative shibboleth. Drop such parties if you want to get rid of private monopoly tyranny. The private combines of Canada under high protection—and just the same in the United States—have shut out foreign competition, and monopoly combinations of every evil selfishness are now rampant in trusts and mergers galore, and between the two the hard working farmers and the poor pitiable consumer is being crushed with the high cost of living in both countries. All the people's earnings provide only a mere hand to maintain existence. It has become too expensive to live comfortably. Why cannot we stand together for a system of nobler economy, so that people can live and save sufficient for old age? Why? The sole answer is we must vote and work to that end before it can "be did."

Let there be a great upheaval for a new economic industrial political party. If we do not get working for this new group in Parliament, if we do not get together and like sensible citizens make use of the consolidation rather than the splitting of our votes, where is it all going to end?

FREDERIC KIRKHAM.

Saltcoats, Sask.

GRAIN COMPANY'S ANNUAL

Editor, Guide:—The time has come when we must consider what we intend to do in regard to the annual meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Company. If

we cannot get there ourselves we should see to it that we are well represented. Our responsibility does not cease when we have taken stock in the company; it only begins then. We have very little to say in the management except at the annual meeting and in the election of directors, and let us not neglect our duty in this respect. We need the ablest men that can be found among our shareholders in the three provinces on that board. In the past the annual meeting has been composed of men deeply interested in the foundation of the company and they saw to it that the very best men were elected, hence its phenomenal growth and success. But these men are fast falling out of line, and we may expect that out of upwards of 20,000 shareholders there will be men who will get all the proxies they can and represent themselves as strongly as possible. If we could work out a scheme for representation by delegates it would give stability to our organization. As we have no local unions, it will be necessary for us to use the association meeting for that purpose (I am taking it for granted that all shareholders in the company are members of a local G.G.A.). Where there is no association it will be necessary for the shareholders to get together and appoint a delegate. As the time is very short now (the annual meeting being early in July) it will be necessary to do this as soon as possible. I believe that the majority of shareholders are so much interested that it only needs their attention drawn to this matter to act.

J. G. MORFAT.

THE MONTREAL WITNESS

Editor, Guide:—Your appeal to your readers for support to The Montreal Witness should find a ready response everywhere in recognition of its long advocacy of everything pertaining to the moral well-being of the people of Canada. To have it go down, for want of support, would be to believe that there can be no permanence for institutions founded on righteousness. It is nearly fifty years since the writer first read The Witness and its character and reputation were the same then as today; and it says little for the people of Canada that today it is on the verge of bankruptcy. Or, then, it says little for its management that it has not been able to retain the required number of readers by which alone a newspaper can make itself successful financially. Fifty years ago a daily paper was a rarity; the weekly seemed to come often enough. Now a daily is almost a necessity. In the home, the farm and shop, the reader wants the latest news—the crop and market and weather reports; but it is a newspaper and not a literary production that he wants every day. He looks to the weekly to supply him with current literature and with the varied store of information and entertainment that is found in some of the weekly periodicals.

Now, the point I wish to make is this: That a paper to be financially successful must make itself attractive to its readers, the bare and persistent advocacy of what is right will not do. When its readers look to it for information, recreation and entertainment, as well as religion and moral suasion, and find all within the limits of one publication, it stands to reason that they will stay with it and with a large subscription list all else becomes easy. A paper called into existence to advocate a cause, such as temperance or the rights of a particular class, or to condemn the wrongs of another class and keeps harping away on the one thing, makes itself tiresome and the interest of its readers wanes. After the new convert becomes well grounded in the faith, he looks for something else than gospel sermons, and he who would minister to his needs must cease urging him to do what he has done long ago. It appears to me that in Western Canada there is room for the establishment of a family paper equal to any that comes from the East. We have agricultural papers, implement and machine papers, comic papers, organs of this, that and the other class. I doubt the permanence of any of them for the reason that their readers are necessarily limited. When the stability of a paper depends not on the income from its subscription list, but from the advertising columns it follows that it must have a wide circulation and that can only be reached by making its reading matter interesting. That, above all, is the secret of success in a paper.

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