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REV. FR. RECTOR, St. Boniface College, St. Boniface, Man.

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The Mail Bag

Continued from Page 9

to New Zealand's exports in frozen meat and butter and cheese from 1890 to 1909:

Frozen meat, 1890	\$5,000,000.00
Frozen meat, 1900	10,000,000.00
Frozen meat, 1909	17,000,000.00
Butter and cheese, 1890	1,637,000.00
Butter and cheese, 1900	4,500,000.00
Butter and cheese, 1909	12,500,000.00

In conclusion, I would advise every farmer who wants to get the light to write to the Prime Minister of New Zealand for the New Zealand official year book. It will come to you free. Write today.

W. R. BALL.

Deer Mound P.O., Alta

NOMINATING INDEPENDENTS

Editor, Guide:—The present agitation for independent parliamentary candidates which is being carried on thru the columns of such a popular paper as The Guide is indeed arousing much interest. A good many of us will read, become interested, and resolve that we will take a hand in bringing about this scheme as a remedy for the case so often and correctly diagnosed. But there appears to be a prevailing apathy among the farmers to neglect things of this nature even when they have a chance to help along a bit. In the near future there will no doubt be some action taken in different constituencies to call conventions for the purpose of nominating Independent candidates. It will perhaps happen that a notice will be sent to each polling division, asking that they send delegates to a convention. Some of these notices may fall into the hands of those who are neglectful or opposed to nominating Independents. To these I wish to say: If you favor Direct Legislation, now is your time to practice in a measure that which you preach. Don't keep the notices hid and deprive the electors of appointing delegates. Put yourself out a little and refer it to the people, and then if you care to oppose it you should be given a hearing. Hoping that this letter may appear soon in your paper, which I consider the most educative journal in Western Canada.

EDWARD R. POWELL

Wiseton, Sask.

HAIL INSURANCE

Editor, Guide:—I have been reading the annual report of the inter-municipal hail insurance scheme in your issue of March 17, 1915, which has undoubtedly proved highly satisfactory. J. E. Paynter, chairman, in his statement, showed that while the year began with a cash balance of \$7.70 and unpaid claims of \$126,472.62, the commission now had a surplus of \$348,391.55, making it possible to pay all claims and still have a balance of \$80,878.67 on hand. In 1913 the net revenue from 115 rural municipalities was \$788,389.50, while in 1914, with the addition of 11 municipalities, the revenue amounted to \$856,994.19. In view of the 5 cents per acre having accomplished the facts above stated, ought not an addition of say 2½ or 3 cents premium per acre pay insurance at the rate of \$9.00 or \$10.00 per acre for a total loss. The \$5.00 per acre at the present time does not give adequate insurance either for a part or total loss of crop from hail. It also has a tendency to make farmers go in for further insurance in the straight line insurance companies, whose rates are somewhat excessive. But in order to get a reasonable insurance on his crops the farmer has to take out a further policy in the straight line companies. Let us hear what other farmers have to say on this municipal hail scheme.

BENJ. STOCKS.

Kindersley, Sask.

REGARDING CO-OPERATION

Editor, Guide:—In reference to John Campbell's letter and your foot note thereto in your issue of June 2, there is no shadow of doubt whatever that if the great so-called Co-operative Elevator Co. would adopt the system of paying a portion of the profits to the patrons of the company their business would go ahead by leaps and bounds. It is difficult for some men to see the advantage of dealing with them when their neighbors selling grain on or about the same day get a better price thru the commission man.

I do not believe that it is because they cannot find a solution to the problem. It is my strong belief that they do not want to until they are compelled to. They prefer to pay the highest rate of interest to their shareholders their charter will allow and heap up a big reserve capital. If the G.G.G. Co. are sincere in their desire to find a solution let them do as they did a year or so ago. They gave a good prize for the best advertisement sent in by a certain date. This being a difficult problem I would suggest that \$1,000 spent in this way in four prizes, \$500, \$300 and two of \$100 each, would, if put into operation, return them wonderful increase of business.

I contend that interest on capital in all co-operative work should be at a fixed rate, according to the position of the money market and should have a first charge after all trading liabilities, then a set percentage of profit be placed to reserve fund and the balance paid to the patrons of the company who have brought the business in the fairest way possible. It may not be possible to satisfy every one; no man or collection of men can hope to obtain this. Each line of business has its own peculiarities. But let them say what they require and if they cannot find a solution others can I am sure.

W. H. TURNER.

Jenner, Alta.

TAXATION OF CROWN LANDS

Editor, Guide:—I beg leave to submit for discussion a question which at the present time is of vital interest to many of the progressive farmers thruout the province who wish to go into stock raising. I allude to the taxation of crown lands held under grazing lease for municipal purposes. I am aware that the Ranchers or Stockmen's Associations are fighting this at the present time and I want to know what to do in my case, whether I should pay taxes under protest, refuse to pay any taxes except supplementary revenue tax, or what procedure I would be justified in following.

I hold a lease for a section of school land near town (one mile) adjoining my farm for which I have received notice of assessment at \$30 per acre, being the highest rate of assessment in the municipality, and to pay all taxes at such rate of assessment, build fence, etc., makes it impossible for a farmer to get a fair start into stock raising from the financial point of view.

W. RATCLIFFE.

Central Butte, Sask.

Radium, which has been selling for \$120,000 to \$160,000 a gram, is now produced from the Colorado carnotite ores by the United States Bureau of Mines at a cost of \$36,050 a gram. A bulletin giving details will be issued in the fall.

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