



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 for 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 not of public interest will be published.

FOR A BETTER ORGANIZATION

Editor, GUIDE:—Without any intention to criticise the management of organizing the farmers' movement I cannot help but think that there is room for improvement: that a more thorough and systematic method must be followed if we are to succeed in organizing the country. I don't know how things are working in Northern Alberta, but I do know that there is a lack of speakers and organizers down here in the Southern part. There are two directors in the South, Mr. Quinsey, of Noble, and Mr. Griesback of Gleichen, and I understand that, among other duties, which these directors have to perform, they are also supposed to organize the South. Mr. Quinsey is an old friend of mine, I know he is honest and an earnest, enthusiastic worker, as good a man as there is in the farmers' movement, and its chiefly owing to his untiring efforts that they have a good local at Wheatland Center. But Quinsey is a common farmer, attending to his daily work and apparently has no time or intention to travel around to organize farmers' outside his own district. Mr. Griesback I also know and have nothing against except, that he is a business man and not a farmer, that is he gets his living by making profits on lumber, etc., he sells to farmers.

I know very well that we have many friends and sympathizers among the business people, and while our interests may be mutual in some cases, this is not so in all matters. Most farmers look with suspicion on business men who are endeavoring to organize them; they suspect that Mr. Business Man has some selfish interests, therefore the business man is handicapped and our movement suffers by it. The farmers' movement should be run by farmers and composed of farmers. The city man may be a more fluent and polished speaker than the farmer, but it is the men who have toiled through the heat of summer and cold of winter, who have gone through all the troubles which confront the farmer, that knows where the shoe pinches, and their appeals to fellow farmers have far more weight and will bring better results. There also seems to be a scarcity of speakers in the farmers interests. So far, I have only heard of two in this part of the province, Messrs Tregillus and Swift and Mr. Swift represents the Grain Growers' Grain Company, and not the farmers' Union. Both these gentlemen are excellent speakers and are doing good work, but there are too few of them. I think that among this great farming population, we have here in the south, there must be lots of speakers and I would like to see a drag-net thrown out to round them up and place them where they can be reached when wanted.

Now then, I would suggest that at our next convention, or before if possible, a different organization system be put in operation. I would suggest that the province be divided into districts, with an organizer or secretary in each, to act under the supervision of the general secretary, that these districts should be no larger than this organizer could easily cover, and arrange for meetings in every school-house. A kind of Central Speakers' Bureau should exist from where speakers could be sent for meetings in these districts. The organizers business should then be to find out where there is a chance to form a local, arrange for meetings and speakers and attend the first meeting of the new local in order to instruct them in the work. Of course provisions must be made to pay speakers and others who give their time to the movement.

I am not in favor of creating a list of high salaried officials, but I also recognize that few men, no matter how well their intentions are, can afford to go away and neglect their own work and pay their own expenses. Therefore, I think that any one willing and able to give his time to the farmers' movement should have his travelling expenses paid and receive enough wages besides to be able to hire another in his place when away from home. It has been said that the farmers are a hard lot to organize, and while it may be true that it requires a four-horse team to drag some farmers out to a meeting, I also feel sure that in almost every locality there are enough of wide-awake men to form the nucleus of a union and when a union is once

as such become the backbone of the movement.

Some readers of THE GUIDE have no doubt heard of the success of the German workmen, the Social Democratic Party. Was it not for the fact that they have a mediæval voting system, giving the rich man several votes to the poor man's one, the German workmen would long ago have captured every office and put Kaiser William on the pension list. As it is, they are doing very well, and their great success is due to their splendid organization. So perfect are they organized that before an election they go into every house in the workmen's quarters and distribute literature and bring the men to the meetings. The same system has for years been used in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with the result that on last election the Milwaukee workmen captured the whole city government. Now, the farmers' movement must adopt the same tactics if they want to be successful. We must be able to reach every farmer with our literature and eventually bring them into our movement.

To do this we must change our poor lack of system of organization and to expect that two men, even were they the best men in the world, should be able to organize half of this great province and attend to their own private business at the same time, is out of the question. Let's have some discussion on this all important question in THE GUIDE. If anyone has a better plan to propose than mine, let's have it. The best is none too good. But don't let us forget that the man who would be free, he himself must strike the blow and it is no use



Kerosene Tractor of The Hart-Parr Company  
Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, 1910

formed the members will increase alright. I think the whole south country, at least, can be organized in short order if we only go about it in the right way.

The farmers' Union appeals to me, as a farmer, apparently it's composed of men who are conscious that they are being robbed of the products of their toil; they know what they want and are going after it in a way that means business. But don't let us forget that a few scattered Unions along the line are not sufficient to bring victory. We must have the whole country with us and when our representatives or committees make demands on the "powers that be," they must feel that the whole farming population united in a strong union stands behind them.

While speakers and organizers are necessary in starting locals and to assist in keeping them in running order I also know that the agitation of the rank and file are just as necessary. Not all members can speak in public, but they can speak to their neighbors, bring them to the meetings, distribute literature, etc., and

to expect saviors from the classes who now ride on our backs. The farmers as a class must work out their own salvation. United we stand and divided we fall.

JOHN GLAMBECK  
Milo, Alta.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

Editor, GUIDE:—Please print the following letter a copy of which has been sent to Hon. Melvin Jones and which explains itself:

Hon. Melvin Jones,

Dear Sir:—

A short time after the Grain Growers' convention held in Prince Albert, Mr. Aird the manager of your North Saskatchewan branch at Saskatoon asked me to call on him which I did. He stated that we the organized farmers of the province were hitting the Massey-Harris Co. below the belt, a thing unfair to the company and also to those farmers who were not in the organization. He also stated that the Massey-Harris Co. were as interested in the development of this

great country as the Grain Growers' Association. I noticed he had a copy of THE GUIDE on his desk.

His grievance was that statements were made at Prince Albert that under the present system of high protection enjoyed by you and the other manufacturers of Canada you sweated the home consumer to cut prices abroad. In other words your implements are sold cheaper in foreign countries than they are in the home market.

Mr. Aird challenged the Association to prove that statement, at the same time handing me a copy of your speech on the French treaty bill, as taken from Hansard Dec. 2, 1909, in which after extolling the quality of Canadian made agricultural implements, you go on to say that the statement that they are sold cheaper in foreign countries than at home is entirely incorrect and not even in Free Trade England are they sold as cheaply as at home.

I at once wrote to my cousin farming four miles out of the city of Hereford, England, for a price list of Massey-Harris implements as retailed in that city. In the reply which I submitted to Mr. Aird it states that your six foot binder is sold there for £27, 5s. 0d. which works out in Canadian money \$132.43 (\$4.86 to the £1)

	£ s. d.
The five foot binder is sold at	26 0 0
4½ foot mower	9 10 0
Singleband straw trusses	23 10 0
Double band straw trusses	34 0 0
Drill, 13 spout	18 0 0
Drill, 17 spout	21 0 0
Cultivator, 13 tine	9 9 0

Mr. Airds reply is as follows:—  
Saskatoon,  
March 31st, 1910.  
John Evans Esq.,

Dear Sir:—  
We thank you for your letter of the 29th inst. giving us the opportunity of reading the references in that of Mr. Edward's letter from Densall Court, Hereford, as to prices and quotations on implements in the British market. From data before us we know that no mistake has been made by the Hon. Melvin Jones, and feeling satisfied on this we have written him submitting what you have laid before us. As we said to you when here, farm implements of one character and another as marketed over the seas are not always in their equipment similar to the Canadian equipment and although as mentioned to you we are not posted with every detail as to their equipment for the British and other foreign trade, yet we are sufficiently satisfied that there are differences in this respect and otherwise that will satisfactorily explain the information that has been sent to you. Indeed Mr. Edward's letter if anything goes to confirm our impressions.

We have taken the opportunity meantime to lay before our company his letter together with your own, but though having done so we will see as you ask to its being returned to you in due time.

Yours truly,  
H. AIRD.

My own letter referred to above is as follows:—  
Nutana,  
March 29th, 1910.

Dear Mr. Aird:—

I am herewith sending you the price of your implements as sold in the city of Hereford, England. I am sending you the whole letter as it is rather mixed and I want you to satisfy yourself that it really did come from Hereford.

How the Hon. Melvin Jones can mistake facts as he has done as shown by the copy of Hansard you handed me is beyond my comprehension.

Yours truly,  
JOHN EVANS.

On Mr. Aird suggesting that the difference lay in the equipment I at once wrote for information on that point. The reply is as follows:—  
Dewesall Court,  
Hereford.

The price of the Massey-Harris binder as sold by the largest agricultural implement firm in Hereford is as follows:—

	£ s. d.
Six foot binder	27 0 0
Large sheaf carrier for same	1 10 0
Double wheel for carriage	1 16 0
Total	30 0 0

or in Canadian money \$147.84  
This information you can absolutely

The Guide is publishing every week information of the utmost value to every farmer in Western Canada. Despite the rapid growth in our circulation there are yet thousands of farmers who have never heard of the Guide. To introduce our paper more widely we will send The Guide 13 weeks for 10 cents to any new subscriber. Old subscribers cannot take advantage of this offer. Our regular subscription price is \$1.00 a year.