

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

No. 7

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VOL. 1

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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ENDORSED BY THE INTERPROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF GRAIN GROWERS' AND FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

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PETITION FOR GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

The petitions that have been prepared by the Interprovincial Council and circulated by the Grain Growers' Associations of the provinces, are being largely signed.

The Grain Growers of Manitoba are pushing for signatures with vigor and meeting with gratifying success. At some points every farmer is signing them, and indications are that in districts where the petitions are being circulated 90 per cent. of the farmers will be in line. In places where there are no branches of the Association there is no machinery with which to get signatures, and the probabilities are that unless some active steps are taken by the Grain Growers' officials, some important districts will be overlooked. This feature of the situation should receive early attention, for it is of the greatest importance that every farmer should have an opportunity of showing where his sympathies are in this movement.

We are led to believe that those in charge of the petitions in many instances are overlooking business men. Our towns and villages are suffering from the effects of the present system as much as the farming community. Much of the proceeds of the farm, that under proper trade conditions would go through business circles in the country, now passes directly into the pockets of the beneficiaries of monopoly. And many of our business men would gladly help the farmers to relieve the country of the

heavy drain on our resources imposed by the present system of handling our grain product.

We think that our Grain Growers make a mistake if they fail to enlist the co-operation of our business men and give them an opportunity to place their name to the petition.

A PURPOSEFUL CANARD

As we go to press the following "news" item, culled from the Manitoba Free Press of 15th January, has been brought to our notice:

"The Grain Growers' Grain company was so successful last year that it is thinking of widely extending its present sphere of activity. During the last session the company handled about 6,000,000 bushels of wheat, which, it is claimed, is close upon half the total amount sold on commission in Winnipeg. The company is now contemplating going into the business of milling, and of constructing and owning terminal elevators. Some interesting developments are expected shortly, although it is stated that no official announcement is ready to be made. Among other things it is rumored that the company may become members of the new stock exchange, and offer to handle a business in stocks and bonds for the farmers."

Need we say to our readers that while acknowledging the fact that the Free Press gives the Grain Growers' Grain Co. credit for in its gratifying business returns for the half year ending Dec. 31st, 1908, there is not the remotest shadow of truth in the wild statement which is tagged on to it.

"The Guide" is hopeful that this is merely the gossip of some Grain Exchange factotum handed out to some irresponsible member of the Free Press staff. But it has a strong suspicion that in the purpose which lies barely hidden in it, there is "something more than meets the eye."

At all events "The Guide" has been asked by the Grain Growers' Grain Company to give the most emphatic denial to the statement referred to.

If anything of the kind had been in contemplation, the entire clientele of the Grain Growers' Grain Co. at least would have been advised and consulted therein before it became the subject of Grain Exchange flim flam.

In passing, "The Guide" takes the opportunity to point out to the farming community in whose interests it is being published, the urgency an incident of this kind brings home to it of the need of an unfettered press of its own to deal successfully with canards of this kind, which seem to have been fulminated with the direct purpose of discrediting the Grain Growers' Grain Company.

It would also express its surprise that before committing itself to a statement of the kind, the Free Press, in its own interests, did not see the wisdom of inquiring at the only source where it could have obtained reliable information and where it is always at its disposal.

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