



The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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TIME TO STRIKE IS NOW

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is now on his way to Ottawa after his two months tour of the West. The farmers of Lethbridge met him last week and convinced him that feeling upon the Tariff was the same in Southern Alberta as at all other places on the prairie. The Western farmers have added greatly to the responsibilities of Sir Wilfrid as leader of the government. They have brought home to him the fact that they believe in the Tariff policy enunciated by him in 1893-4, and not in the Tariff policy enforced by him since he has been the leader of the government in Canada. Sir Wilfrid has declared that Free Trade is his ideal and that he is a "democrat to the hilt." That is the kind of talk the Western farmers like to hear but they like to see action upon the same lines. But Sir Wilfrid attempts to prove that his administration has been consistent with his old-time enunciation. As Sir Wilfrid says, nobody has ever accused him of being a fool. On the other hand he must not think that the Western farmers are fools. His efforts at tariff reduction have amounted to reduction largely on raw materials used for manufacturing purposes. He has carried out an enormous scheme of bounties and has buttressed the special privilege faction and given them opportunities to rob producers which they never had in the olden days. At a conservative estimate it will take at least 40 years to get the tariff down to a revenue basis at the present rate of progress. The British preference tended towards freer trade in British manufactures but that preference has been so reduced that it is now of little value to Canadian consumers. There has been no honest and sincere attempt to secure better trade relations with United States. The great republic is our natural market. The farmers of Canada are just as loyal to the British crown as Sir Wilfrid but they fail to see how their loyalty can be proven by paying tribute to the protected manufacturers. It is the special privilege class that have prevented a lower tariff and freer trade with United States. Sir Wilfrid and R. L. Borden stand on the same platform as regards the tariff. Both stand to compel the farmers of Canada to pay tribute to the big interests. These men do not represent the will of the people. Now is the time for the people to assert their rights. The Western farmers want tariff reduction and better rela-

tions with United States. They want the Hudson's Bay Railway owned and operated by the government; they want the terminal elevators owned and operated by the government; they want a chilled meat industry owned and operated by the government, and they want general co-operative legislation enacted that will give equal rights to all and special privileges to none. Sir Wilfrid has given a satisfactory answer only upon the last question. He has given his assurance that co-operative legislation, such as the farmers ask for, will be enacted at the session of parliament this winter. Now that Sir Wilfrid has given his word upon this question the opposition of the Retail Merchants' Association should not have much effect at Ottawa. But in regard to the other questions Sir Wilfrid did not give the farmers much hope for satisfactory legislation. He promised that the situation in the terminal elevators would be remedied. Whether he grasped the fact that the reputation of the Dominion of Canada was at stake in the terminal elevators we do not know. But he does not favor the policy of government ownership. Everything else has been tried and has failed. Sir Wilfrid doesn't believe in the principle of government ownership—and neither do the classes of special privilege. The elevator companies last year robbed the farmers of \$40,000 through manipulating the grain in the terminals. A government ownership system surely couldn't do any worse than that no matter how badly it was run. And then there would be the saving of the salaries of 70 government inspectors that are doing duty at the terminals now. There would be another \$100,000 to save. If Sir Wilfrid's government couldn't save a part of that \$140,000 a year to the farmers then it is a pretty poor government. Then Sir Wilfrid and Mr. Graham say they don't believe in government operation of the Hudson's Bay Railway. They say the Intercolonial railway is run so badly that they don't want the government to run any more roads. This is an admission that Sir Wilfrid's government cannot conduct its business honestly. It cannot be regarded in any other light. Then why doesn't he let Judge Cassels go ahead and investigate every department as he did the marine department. All Canada would stand behind Sir Wilfrid for a thorough housecleaning. The Hudson's Bay Railway will be of little use to Western Canada unless it is operated by the government at cost and so afford competition with existing railways. The scheme to hand the road over to Mackenzie & Mann is one that will find favor only in the eyes of those two gentlemen. It is directly opposed to the desire of the Western people. The chilled meat proposition Sir Wilfrid has promised to investigate. It might be well to have Dr. J. G. Rutherford as a member of that investigating commission. Dr. Rutherford is the Dominion government's expert on live stock matters and has already given his opinion on the subject in favor of the government taking hold of the dead meat export trade. But Sir Wilfrid did not hold out much hope of anything satisfactory being done.

Now that is the situation. It isn't promising to say the least. What are the Western farmers going to do? Some might say turn out the government. But what then? Mr. Borden promises nothing better and will make the tariff even higher. Are the farmers of the West going to lie down and let these two political leaders, backed up by the special privilege classes, rob them of their birthright? That is just what it amounts to. Or are the farmers going down to Ottawa this fall and tell the members of parliament what they are there for? If the farmers expect to get a square deal from Ottawa they must get it this winter. If they don't there is a strong probability that an election will be held next year and when that is over the people will whistle for what they want. Some might say that is talking politics. Surely we have our eyes wide open now. Certainly it's politics but it isn't party politics. What

are the farmers going to get if they don't talk politics? What are these problems but politics? The farmers must keep on talking politics and talk it loudly. Talk the politics of a square deal and insist upon getting it. There should be a delegation of about 500 farmers from the West go to Ottawa this fall when harvest is over and put the pistol to the heads of Laurier, Borden and every member of parliament and demand a square deal. The farmers of Ontario and the East will stand up for the same policy. The only hope is to make a descent upon Ottawa. Let us hear what the local branches think about this. Have they anything as good to offer? Every branch can find a man to represent them. Now is the time for the farmers to take hold of the matter or their cause will stand still for another five years.

COWARDS UNDER COVER

On another page of this issue we reproduce an editorial attack upon the Grain Growers, published in the Winnipeg Telegram on August 31st. It accuses the Grain Growers' Grain Company as being the same sort of a plunger on the Grain market as James A. Patton, the well known robber speculator of Chicago. The Elevator Combine could not have better support than the Telegram is giving it. The Telegram refuses to answer the questions asked by THE GUIDE. It dares not answer these questions, but rather in its anger continues its abuse and untruthful charges. The Telegram in its wrath at being cornered does not hesitate to call the 8,000 farmers comprising the Grain Growers' Grain Company a bunch of scoundrels. Such a charge, utterly without foundation, made by a great daily journal is the most astounding thing in the history of Canadian journalism. But there is a reason for this action on the part of the Telegram. If the Telegram will but answer the questions asked in THE GUIDE we will guarantee to explain fully the reason of its attack upon the Grain Growers. Directly or indirectly the Winnipeg Telegram or the men behind it are plainly associated with the Elevator Interests. This is a strong charge for us to make, and we realize it, but if the Telegram will answer our questions we will guarantee to prove it to the hilt. Here are our questions:

Give the names of the men who own the Winnipeg Telegram and the method by which they have made their money during the past twelve years.

Tell the various changes in the ownership of the Telegram that have occurred in the last decade.

Tell the relationship existing and that has existed between Mackenzie & Mann, the Telegram and the men behind the Telegram.

Will the Telegram tell its readers from what direction it receives the largest financial support and how much of the public monies it has secured by fraudulent means and also if that money has ever been refunded.

How much money did the Winnipeg Telegram receive from the elevator interests for publishing the "Observer" letters last year?

If the Winnipeg Telegram will answer these questions and allow its answers to be verified by any reliable authority, THE GUIDE will undertake to prove that the Telegram and its backers are in a conspiracy to smash the farmers' organizations. But of course we know that the Telegram would never dare to answer those questions. Rather than answer the questions the Telegram will continue to heap abuse and falsehood upon the organized farmers of the West. The Telegram admits that its aim, and therefore the aim of the men behind the Telegram, is to break the Grain Growers' Grain Company. During the four years of its history many attempts have been made to break the farmers' company. Each one of these attempts has proved a boomerang as the Elevator Combine can truthfully assert. This present attack of the Winnipeg Telegram and the designing gentlemen behind it, will end