

vertising revenue, which is continually growing, and which will grow faster if our readers, one and all, will help us by patronizing our advertisers when making their purchases. Our immediate need is to have every subscriber renew his subscription promptly, so that we may have every one of them paid in advance. It costs us, as we have said before, \$3.50 per year to publish The Guide. Of this \$3.50 we get \$1.00 from the reader and \$2.50 from the advertiser. Now, if the reader does not send us his \$1.00 we are just that much out of pocket. We would urge, therefore, that every farmer who is in arrears would immediately send us his renewal for anywhere from one to three years. This will give us a large amount of ready money just at the time when we need it. Every reader can tell by a glance at his label on his paper whether he is in arrears or not. We hope we will receive a large number of renewals in the course of the next few weeks. Remember, if you mail \$1.50 before April 1 it will pay for three years' subscription, but after that date it will pay for two years. It costs us a lot of money to send out renewal notices, and everyone who pays his renewal promptly saves us the expense of notifying him that he is in arrears. All those who want us to keep on with the good work will send us their renewal during the coming week.

MISUSE OF POSTOFFICE

A short time ago we received an official postcard from the assistant postmaster, at Harris, Sask., together with an enclosure with the labels torn from fifty-nine copies of the same issue of The Guide addressed to subscribers at that postoffice. The notice on the postcard said that all these Guides were "refused, gone, etc." As we had over eighty subscribers at Harris postoffice it naturally excited our suspicions when fifty-nine of them were thus ordered to be cut off. We immediately instituted an inquiry and sent a letter to each of these subscribers, the result being that we ascertained the truth of the matter. There were three subscribers, none of them farmers, who wished The Guide discontinued, the others had given the postmaster no instructions to stop the paper, and there were only six who had changed their addresses. The matter was so serious that it was laid before the three local branches of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association whose mail goes to Harris, namely, Bearhills, Hillview and Muirland. Hillview Association passed a strong resolution condemning the postmaster's action, and Muirland Grain Growers expressed themselves in a similar manner. The assistant postmaster presented an apology to the Bearhills branch, which, after consideration, was accepted. We are informed by our subscribers that the postmaster at Harris is also the local merchant, and that he is very much opposed to the action of the Association in taking up co-operative buying, because he considers it his prerogative to charge his own price on whatever the farmers of the surrounding country require. In this case the postmaster, or his assistant, entirely overstepped the bounds of his duty, and, indeed, cut off subscriptions that were already paid for several years in advance. This incident will give the organized farmers an example of the lengths to which their opponents are prepared to go in order to prevent the organization of co-operative work. It also demonstrates to each local association the influence it has for the maintenance of justice when properly used. Those who are opposed to co-operation naturally blame The Guide, because the educational work in favor of co-operation has been carried on thru its columns. It would be well if local associations, and subscribers everywhere, were to see that their subscriptions are not cut off by postmasters who may happen to

be local merchants. We give every subscriber a reasonable time to renew his subscription, and we always notify him before it is cancelled, so if The Guide stops coming before the final notice is received there is something wrong somewhere, and a notice should immediately be sent to our office. The final result of the Harris incident is that our subscription list has grown at that point and will continue to grow, as the farmers are indignant at the underhand and unscrupulous methods adopted to injure The Guide.

THE BEAUTIES OF PROTECTION

The apple growers of Nova Scotia use large quantities of fertilizer in the cultivation of their orchards. One of the chief ingredients in this fertilizer is basic slag, which is a by-product in the manufacture of steel. For some time this fertilizer has come into Canada duty free. The big steel industry in Sidney, however, saw a chance for extra plunder and immediately got busy at Ottawa, with the result that the Board of Customs held a meeting at Ottawa, on September 9, 1913, and placed a duty on basic slag, by which the farmers' fertilizer will now cost them \$1.00 per ton more. The United Fruit Companies of Nova Scotia are this year buying 6,000 tons of fertilizer for their members, and are in a position to show just what this extra duty will cost the farmer. It is \$6,000 taken out of the pockets of the fruit growers for the benefit of the steel magnates in Sidney. The steel industry has fed at the public trough for the past generation and has been bonused from the public treasury by millions and millions of dollars, which would have paid more than the entire wage bill of the industry. Not satisfied with this, however, they have decided to plunder the fruit growers of the Province. It is pleasing to note that the fruit growers are resenting this robbery, which is entirely without justification. This new tribute will have one good effect in that it will teach the fruit growers the folly of being Grit or Tory, and will clearly show the benefits they can secure by standing shoulder to shoulder for the protection of themselves and their families.

THE NEWS AND DEMOCRACY

In its issue of February 14, the following editorial article appeared in the Toronto News:—

THE GUIDE'S REFERENDUM

"On October 1, The Grain Growers' Guide called upon its readers to vote on a series of eleven questions. From week to week subscribers were urged to send in their ballots, and now the result of the contest is announced. According to The Guide, the vote shows the West to be overwhelmingly opposed to naval expenditures of any kind, and overwhelmingly in favor of Direct Legislation, Woman Suffrage, Free Trade with England, and the complete abolition of the Canadian Customs tariff. "The weakness in The Guide's contention is that while it claims a circulation of 30,000 only 4,195 men took enough interest in the referendum to send in their ballots. About 2,600 women also voted. If The Guide's proposals do not attract more than an eighth or a ninth of its own male subscribers, it has a long road to travel before its platform makes much impression on the country."

It is quite true, as the News says, that only one-eighth of The Guide readers voted on our Referendum. The News is a strong supporter of everything the Government at Ottawa does, but we will venture the assertion that the policy of the Ottawa Government is in most cases decided upon by less than one-eighth of the Government party in the House of Commons. Every Guide reader was given full and free opportunity to express an opinion upon each of the eleven questions. Those who did not vote have only themselves to blame if they do not agree with the result of the Referendum. We should like the opinion of the News upon

the methods by which the party machines stifle individual views.

Rumor is persistent that the Dominion Government intends to give further assistance to the steel industry, either in the way of renewing the bounties or increasing the tariff. Already these "infant industries" have had \$17,000,000 in cash in the way of bounties from the public treasury, in addition to untold benefits in tariff protection. If the Government gives them any protection on steel wire it will mean that competition will be stifled and the manufacture of nails, fencing and wire will become a monopoly in the hands of two large companies. It will also mean that prices will be immediately increased, and a tax will be levied directly upon every farmer who uses a rod of fence wire or a pound of nails. If aid is given in the way of bounties, it will come out of the public treasury and be an indirect tax on every farmer. Already these interests have been given sufficient aid from the public treasury to make their promoters millionaires and allow them to water their stock and plunder the public in a most shameful manner. We would suggest that every local secretary write a letter to Premier Borden immediately, and point out the attitude of the members of his association on this subject. It would be a good idea to tell Premier Borden the membership of the local association, and point out that if any industry is in need of assistance it is the agricultural industry.

During the next few months the readers of The Guide will spend a very large amount of money in the purchase of agricultural implements and machinery. We should like to point out to them that in making their purchases they have an opportunity of giving a very substantial aid to The Guide. Many of the agricultural machinery companies will not advertise in The Guide because they do not like our tariff policy. We are glad to state, however, that we have advertisers who will supply any line of farm machinery that is required, and we would urge our readers in doing their buying to do their business with those companies who advertise in The Guide. We believe that The Guide advertisers supply just as good a quality of farm machinery as any other companies, so that our readers will lose nothing by patronizing our advertisers and incidentally will help The Guide very much. If any of our readers are in doubt as to who is advertising in The Guide, we shall be glad to supply that information upon request.

Recently we pointed out that there was a lumber company in Vancouver advertising under the name of "Grain Growers' Lumber Company." We pointed out also that this company had no connection with The Grain Growers' Grain Company nor with any other body of grain growers, and we wrote the company suggesting that they change their name. But they have written us, stating "that we will on no consideration change the name we now have." We consider that the use of the term "Grain Growers" in the company's name is absolutely unjustified, and is a misrepresentation. We would advise all local associations when receiving literature from any company using the term "Grain Growers" in its name to find out whether it is really a Grain Growers' company (composed of grain growers), or whether the name is used simply to catch the farmers' business.

If you want free wheat and free agricultural implements don't let Premier Borden, Finance Minister White and your own member at Ottawa forget it. No postage is required on letters addressed to them at the House of Commons, Ottawa.