

# The Mail Bag

## A NEW BRUNSWICK CO-OPERATOR

Editor, Guide:—I notice in the last issue of your paper that you make the statement that in the Maritime Provinces there is already a wholesale association for the benefit of retailers. I am very anxious to get in touch with this whole situation and would kindly ask you to give me the address of this firm. Up to the present time it has escaped my notice, although I am aware of several retailers.

In Upper Sackville here we are working along this line just as fast as we can. We intend to properly organize this fall, but in the meantime have taken up the question of fertilizer and already have saved ourselves several hundred dollars by buying the chemicals and mixing ourselves. We have also ordered two cars of flour and some feed which we will let go at a small advance. We have had a sample of this and feel sure of what we are doing. We can land it here for some \$1.40 less per bbl. than the retail price. Possibly this wholesale association in our provinces may be able to help us even yet. We have run against some nasty snags but we are coming.

I enjoy your paper and also the book on the tariff. I am beginning to learn. Keep up the work.

G. FRED FAWCETT.  
Upper Sackville, N.B.

## MR. GREEN AND MR. LAMB

Editor, Guide:—I note you have published in your Mail Bag of August 6 issue an attack on me signed by Mr. Lamb in part as follows:—

"Mr. Green is, instead of trying to break the trusts, busy helping them to strengthen their work for he seems to be doing all he can to break up the Local Association. I will give you my reasons for so doing. About the last 4th of May I wrote him in regard to a speaker for our newly organized Association, and to the time of writing we are as near as we were. Then the questions we ask for our guidance in building up the Grain Growers are answered so briefly and with as little interest as though these matters were too small for a powerful organization as the Grain Growers."

I will not attempt a reply at this time. I herewith attach a copy of the

correspondence. Interested parties may judge as to the brevity, lack of interest or necessity for such a letter as you have published.

March 29, 1913.

F. W. Green, Esq.—  
"We have a public meeting arranged for the 19th of April to be held in Ogema at 7 p. m. Can you arrange to have a good speaker there? If Mr. Hamilton of McTaggart is at liberty we know him and would be pleased to have him. Kindly write me early so that I can arrange the meeting."

J. J. LAMB,  
Sec'y, Ogema G. G. A.  
April 5, 1913.

J. J. Lamb, Esq.—  
"Re your meeting on April 19. This is a very bad time of year, it seems to us, to hold a meeting, as seeding will not be finished. However, you should write to Mr. M. P. Boddy of Rouleau, who is district director for the Soo line and the C.N.R. line, and ask him if he can send Mr. Hamilton. Doubtless he will arrange to suit you."

F. W. G.  
June 28, 1913.

F. W. Green, Esq.—  
"I am writing my final letter as secretary of the Ogema G.G.A. unless I can get better satisfaction than I have hitherto. I wrote asking for a speaker for a public meeting. The answer I get is to refer me to a Mr. Boddy of Rouleau. I wrote him asking him to arrange for some one, Mr. Hamilton preferred. On the 14th May he answered saying he would see what he could do. I wrote him again on the 2nd of June and at the time of writing have got no answer."

"Now this does not seem to be at all business like to keep this fooling up for six weeks. I have held back from the G.G.A. for some years on account of the newspaper comments and now I feel like jumping out of it from my personal knowledge. What is wrong? Are the G.G.A. so busy that they have not time to attend to the small fry in the organization? I would like some satisfaction. Either you have not speakers or that we are to go on ourselves without aid. Please let me know what we are to do in this matter."

J. J. LAMB,  
Sec'y, Ogema G. G. A.

J. J. Lamb, Esq.—  
"Yours of the 28th ult. to hand. I note that you say this is your final letter unless you get satisfaction. You wrote for a speaker for a public meeting and I referred you to a Mr. Boddy of Rouleau. You wrote him asking for a Mr. Hamilton. On the 14th he answered he would do what he could."

"I am sorry you feel like jumping the job. We are holding scores of picnics these days. We have between six and seven hundred local Associations, a large number of which are holding picnics. A great many of them would like speakers. Men that are any use as speakers are usually busy men. It is not the easiest thing in the world to get a man to promise definitely to go out to a place like Dahinda. Personally I should like to go, but it would take me three or four days unless I attempted to drive there with an auto, but owing to the condition of the roads it is hard to say how long it would take."

"I have written Mr. Boddy. He is going to Midale on the 4th. I have also written Mr. Teggart of Rouleau and tried to get him to go out to Dahinda. I have also written Mr. Conlon, district director of district 15, and endeavored to get him to go to Dahinda."

"We had decided to leave this matter in the hands of these district directors. The district directors were appointed by the delegates at the convention to manage this class of work."

"You ask, 'What is wrong? Are the Grain Growers so busy that they have no time to attend to the small fry in the organization?' I might answer that most of the executive officers are very busy. They do not get their living out of the Grain Growers' Association. They are only men like yourself. I am the only paid officer the Association has and it is simply impossible for me to attend to the duties of the office and go to all the special meetings at the same time. Nothing would please me better, I can assure you, than to be there. However, I feel sure that either Mr. Boddy, Mr. Teggart or Mr. Conlon, or perhaps Mr. Hamilton, will be at your picnic and I hope if they are that an opportunity will be given them to speak."

"Personally, I have travelled many weary miles to reach picnics and when I got there the directors seemed to think the most important part was for me to

watch the sports. I have no need to go that far to see sports and I imagine this holds good with many of our men. When a speaker travels a long way to give an address I ask you as one of our officers to give them the best kind of opportunity to deliver that address. He comes with a message. Give him a chance to deliver it."

"Trusting someone will be at your picnic and should they fail, select from among the men gathered there one or two to address the gathering on organization, co-operation and problems of the day. Train men to take an active part in our Association. Do not get discouraged. Throw your head up and shoulders back. Plant your feet firmly and assist in the work of building up this farmers' organization. Mark you, it is not easy and we cannot afford to lose such men as you."

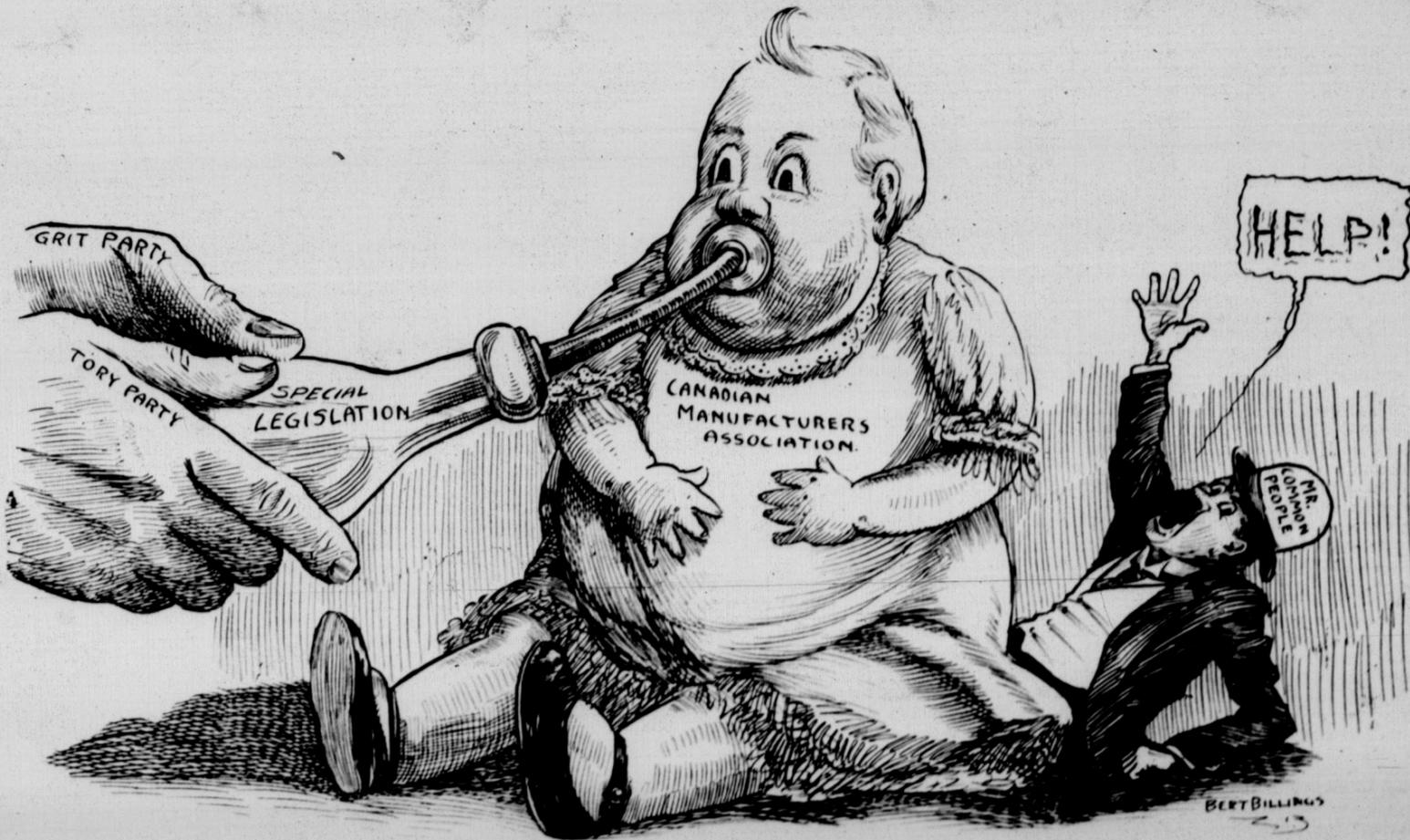
F. W. G.

On July 26 I wrote him again as follows:  
"Yours of the 21st inst. to hand. Glad to note that your people are realizing that your Local Association is an Engine of Democracy within itself. Our power is made up of a power generated at each of the Local Associations. There is no power at the Central but such as is made up of the power of each of the Local Associations hitched together. Our annual convention today, to a very large extent, controls the policy and destiny of Canada and your Association is a part of it. Talk about disbanding in face of all the problems that are to be solved by the men who own the land! The very mention of disband makes my blood boil."

"I am convinced there is no salvation from adverse conditions except such salvation as is wrought by a combination of the men who suffer. Whether you succeed in getting a speaker or not, there must be men amongst you who can express the difficulties that beset you and word a resolution expressing what you think would bring relief. Whatever it is you men at Dahinda want to see done, put it in the form of a resolution. Make things hot around Dahinda. Train half a dozen good speakers in your neighborhood that we may send out to arouse and enthuse the men in a wider field to a necessity of organization and co-operation."

Whether Mr. Hamilton or Mr. Teggart should reach you in time for your meeting on August 2 or not, do not be discouraged.

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"BUILDING UP A WELL-ROUNDED DOMINION"