

The Guide Referendum

The Grain Growers' Guide believes that the will of the people should decide all questions of public policy. It believes that the Referendum is the best way to find out exactly what the people think. Accordingly The Guide will hold another Referendum this December, by which its readers, men and women alike, are invited to express their opinion upon eleven questions of pressing national importance.

What do the people of the Prairie Provinces think upon these eleven vital questions? That is what The Guide Referendum is being conducted to find out. This is the only opportunity any part of the Canadian people have of pronouncing upon these progressive measures, and we trust every man and woman entitled to vote will mark their ballot, to be published in the issue of next December 3. These questions concern the whole Dominion and not only the Prairie Provinces, so we want our

readers to combine to make the Referendum a full expression of their opinions, no matter where they live. Canadian public opinion must deal one way or another with the Taxation of Land Values, the system of Protection, the danger of Militarism, and the various other problems mentioned. By addressing themselves to these up-to-date issues, Guide readers will not only stamp themselves as the true Progressives in this country, but will also do themselves a lasting benefit.

The Questions

1. Are you in favor of having the Initiative, Referendum and Right of Recall placed upon the statute books of your own province, in such a form as to give the people complete control over all legislation and legislators?
2. Are you in favor of Free Trade with Great Britain?
3. Are you in favor of the complete abolition of the Canadian Customs Tariff?
4. Are you in favor of having all school, municipal, provincial and federal revenues raised by a direct tax on land values?
Note.—"Land" here is used in its economic sense to include all natural resources.
5. Are you in favor of placing a special surtax of \$25 per quarter-section upon all vacant farm lands?
6. Are you in favor of placing a special surtax of \$25 per quarter-section upon the land held by one individual or corporation above four quarter-sections?
7. Are you in favor of having all railways, telegraphs, telephones and express services owned and operated by the public?
8. Are you in favor of extending the franchise to women on equal terms with men?
9. Are you in favor of Dominion Legislation providing for the incorporation of co-operative societies?
10. Are you in favor of the nomination of Parliamentary candidates pledged to support the farmers' platform, regardless of the action of both political parties?
11. Do you believe that Canada, instead of spending millions for naval armament (either British or Canadian), should devote her energies and spend millions, if necessary, towards the establishment of universal peace and disarmament and the settlement of international disputes by arbitration?

RULES

1. The official ballots will be published in The Guide only once, on December 3, 1913. Extra copies of that issue cannot be secured, since this Referendum is for Guide readers only.
2. There will be a woman's ballot and a man's ballot, both exactly alike, so that the wives, mothers, and any woman 21 years of age may vote as well as the men 21 years of age.
3. Each question should be answered simply by writing "Yes" or "No" after the question.
4. The ballot will be absolutely secret. Readers must sign the ballot, otherwise it will be rejected as a spoiled ballot. No names, however, will be published, but only the total numbers voting "Yes" or "No" on the questions.
5. The ballot should be mailed to "Referendum Editor, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.," as soon after December 3 as possible.
6. Letters to The Guide are invited dealing with any of the questions in the Referendum. Letters opposed to The Guide's policy are just as welcome and will be published just as freely as those in favor, but all letters should be kept as short as possible.

WOMEN MAY VOTE

The Guide has always been a staunch champion of Woman Suffrage. In this Referendum it will give practical proof of its belief by having a woman's ballot as well as a man's ballot, allowing the women to vote on the self-same questions as the men. The only qualification needed is that of being a woman reader of The Guide, 21 years of age. This is the first time in the history of Canada the women have been invited or even allowed to express their views

upon matters of vital public welfare. The privilege thus thrown open to the prairie women carries with it a responsibility. Those who feel themselves poorly informed along certain lines have time to study the eleven questions in the two months before the voting will take place. Without doubt the democracy of the twentieth century demands the wisdom, sympathy and insight of woman for its full development, and Canadian women cannot set themselves too soon to the solution of the problems now affecting the economic and social well-being of the Dominion. Most men are free to confess that they have made more or less of a botch of trying to run the government by themselves. We look for a new moral impetus, a saner outlook and wider human sympathy to enter into the settlement of our public questions with the advent of women into public affairs.

AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

While we are anxious for as large a response as possible, the educational effect of the Referendum is still more important than the actual voting. Readers will be able to study all these questions at their leisure, discuss the doubtful points through the columns of the Mail Bag during the next two months, and make up their minds calmly and deliberately, free from all outside influences, such as party leanings or the personality of political candidates. No one knows everything about these eleven national questions. Here is a splendid chance for us to learn more about them from each other. By December 3, we hope that over 33,000 of our men and women readers will have come to their own conclusions on these questions and be ready to cast their ballots in The Guide Referendum.

Military Madness

The Extravagance of Col. Sam

(By The Guide Ottawa Correspondent)

Ottawa, Oct. 30.—Signs are not lacking at the capital these days that the government is beginning to give a serious second thought to the important matter of military expenditure. That the extravagant ideas of the Hon. Sam Hughes, bordering almost upon military madness, are not at all popular in the country, more particularly the farming districts and the industrial centres of the great cities, is a fact which is becoming more apparent to Premier Borden and his colleagues (apart from the Minister of Militia, of course) every day. It is no secret here that the government has determined that if some steps are not taken to check Col. Sam and his plans the annual expenditures of the militia department will be trebled before the next appeal is made to the people. Successful defence of them would be practically impossible. In two years since the government came into power the expenditure has been practically doubled, as will be shown in figures to be given later, but it is still four million dollars below one-tenth of the annual revenue of the government, which, in the opinion of the Minister of Militia, should be spent by his department.

Mr. Rogers Objects

The first check to the plans of Col. Hughes to plant a drill hall in every community throughout the land came during the summer months, when the department of public works, of which Hon. Robt. Rogers is the head, declined to go ahead with the construction of all the halls planned and promised by the minister of militia. The minister of public works, apart from his desire not to swell the expenditure by his department to indefensible proportions, no doubt had in view the undesirability, from a purely political standpoint, of supplying so many public buildings at once. As the minister more particularly in charge of elections, he has learned, like other ministers of public works before him, that many a constituency has been carried by the promise of a drill hall on the eve of a general or by-election. Why, therefore, queried the Hon. Mr. Rogers, should we give these drill halls away at once? Doubtless there will be elections in the future, as well as in the past and we may need them in our (political) business. This was sound reasoning on the part of the minister whose duty it is to see that the ministerial majority in the house is not impaired; but it was not the only reason which impelled Mr. Rogers, with the approval of Premier Borden and the other members of the government, to decide that a halt must be called; that the minister of militia must be compelled to curtail this branch of proposed extravagance—the spending of over three million dollars on drill halls and armories throughout the country. The reason was to be found in the increasing volume of protest from the people of the country, as voiced in the public press; in letters received by ministers and members from their constituents; and in reports from workers for the government in the by-elections, that the hardest thing they have to contend with in discussing political issues privately with the people is the waste of money by the department of militia. No effective step could be taken to cut down the items of expenditure over which the minister had himself the exclusive control, but here, thought the ministers, is a place where we can make a beginning, and so the list of drill halls which the minister so fondly planned is being curtailed. The result, of course, will be that the money which was voted at the last session of parliament will have to be re-voted in coming sessions but it will in all probability be a number of years before Col. Hughes accomplishes what he had hoped to do almost at once.

Over \$14,000,000 Voted

In view of this action on the part of the government much interest will be taken at Ottawa and throughout the country in the militia estimates for the next fiscal year. In this connection there is much speculation as to whether or not the government will be able to

induce the minister of militia to curtail the amount he wants voted for training, the purchase of arms and other departments of the service. Col. Hughes, who above all things is frank, honest and enthusiastic in his devotion to things military, has declared from the platform that he will never apologize for a dollar spent on the militia. Holding these views, and holding them sincerely, he is likely to make a tremendous fight in council when his estimates are being considered for increases over the votes for the current fiscal year. His colleagues, in view of the feeling which exists throughout the country, are certain to make a determined effort to reduce Col. Hughes' figures, and, as the minister is of a somewhat choleric temperament, it will be interesting to note the result. A glance at the militia estimates, as voted at the last session of parliament, shows that the minister, during the current fiscal year terminating on April 30 next, proposed to make away with no less a sum than \$14,057,435, made up as follows: Main estimates, \$10,500,655; drill halls and armories, \$3,118,540; supplementary estimates, \$438,240. During the 1910-11 fiscal year, which was about equally divided between the Laurier and Borden government, \$7,580,600 was spent on militia. The expenditure had been growing steadily year by year under the administration of Sir Frederick Borden, and many people were beginning to think that there should be a cessation of increases for a time at least. Col. Hughes, during his first year in office was, as compared with this year, comparatively modest in his demands. For 1911-1912 he asked parliament to authorize an increased vote of something over one million dollars, the total for the year being \$8,896,397. While the minister was carrying out his plans for the disposal of this larger vote during the last fiscal year he decided to enlarge his estimates all along the line, with the result that he came to parliament last year and asked for the enormous vote of over fourteen millions, particulars of which have been given above. Fortunately, as a result of the scare the government has received, all the money will not be spent.

Expensive Luxuries

Apart from the interest which is certain to centre about the efforts of the other members of the government to curtail the ambitious plans of the minister of militia the approaching session of parliament will see some lively debates upon certain doings of the minister of militia during the summer and autumn months. Information will be sought as to the cost to the country of the special train which conveyed Sir Ian Hamilton, Col. Hughes and entourage across the continent. This was the first occasion on which a minister of militia ever conducted a tour of inspection by special train conveying a staff, press correspondents, servants, horses and the whole paraphernalia necessary to the inspection of military units. It is stated that the cost to the country was forty thousand dollars. Then the members of the opposition will be equally curious as to the cost of the visit of the minister and twenty-three officers to the Aldershot camp in Great Britain, with side trips to Germany and France. Rumor says that the bill of expense will show that the travelling allowances of these officers alone will total ten thousand dollars, while the other expenses entailed by the trip will easily double that figure. It is not to be wondered at that the government is a bit perturbed over these evidences of extravagance and that the ministers have resolved that they must stop. But will they? That is a query which time alone will answer, and, as Col. Hughes is a determined sort of a fellow, and quite satisfied that everything he is doing is right, and in the interests of the people, he is quite likely to have his own way in the end.

Wants Compulsory Service

One thing is certain. Should the commendations made by Sir Ian Hamilton after his cross country tour with

Continued on Page 26