



The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



Published under the auspices and employed as the Official Organ of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and the United Farmers of Alberta.

Canadian Subscriptions, \$1.00 per year in advance.
 Foreign Subscriptions, \$1.50
 Single Copy, 5 cents.
 Advertising Rates on Application.
 Address all communications to The Grain Growers' Guide
 Winnipeg, cc.

Change of copy and New Matter must be received not later than Friday noon each week to ensure insertion.

JULY 20th 1910

GRAIN GROWERS' ANNUAL

The annual meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Company was held last week in Winnipeg and from every standpoint the result of the year's work was highly satisfactory to the shareholders. It is a matter of great interest, and also of surprise in many quarters, that farmers should be able to conduct business in the way they are doing. Nowhere on the continent of America are the farmers taking hold of the live problems of the day and solving them in as practical a manner as in Western Canada. They found years ago that the grain trade of the West was organized on a basis which was entirely unfair to the growers of the grain. Conditions generally were unfavorable to the agricultural classes, and the Grain Growers' Grain Company was organized as a protest against these conditions. It was not organized to make big profits for their shareholders, but rather to secure for them a square deal. The motives of its promoters, who are themselves practical farmers, and pioneers in this country, was not merely a commercial one, but also a moral and social one. The human side was always in their minds. It was a protest against the system by which the classes of special privilege exist at the expense of the producer.

The Grain Growers' Grain Company was the outgrowth of the organization of the Grain Growers' Associations in the Western provinces. The work of the associations was good in so far as it went but it needed an organization strong financially to cope with the organized forces of special privilege. The Grain Growers' Grain Company is composed of farmers and farmers only of whom upwards of 8,000 are shareholders. The result of this organization and its unparalleled progress has been that today the farmers are securing a much better price for their wheat than they ever did before in Western Canada. The elevator combine has, to a great extent, ceased to exact unjust profits from the farmers for handling their grain. By the efforts of the farmers through their associations, the prospects are that they will shortly be a system of government owned elevators all through the three western provinces and also government owned terminals at the Lake front. But despite all this (and it is a great deal), the farmers' organization in the West has accomplished that which is of infinitely more value. The farmers of the

West have today confidence in themselves which they never before had; they realize that the tillers of the soil are the men who make the country, and that when abuses are to be reformed the burden of that reformation rests upon their shoulders. They realize that now they are on the road to securing conditions which will make the big farmer, the small farmer and the homesteader in his shack, with their families far more happy and comfortable and contented than they ever have been before. This is the great work that the organized farmers are accomplishing through their own efforts and surely it is worthy the efforts of any man and deserving of more general support.

The promoters of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, the men who have conducted the business, and the shareholders who have loyally supported it are deserving of the thanks of every farmer in Western Canada. Every farmer has been benefitted through the work of the organization though by no means all of them have joined its ranks.

What will the future be?

This is a question that no man can answer and few have even the boldness to prophecy. The farmers of Western Canada have now in their hands an instrument with which to accomplish untold good, and which if properly conducted will level the fortresses of special privilege and give to every farmer in this country the proper remuneration for his labor and the contentment which an easy conscience and the feeling of honest work well done, brings to every man.

THE WHEAT IS BURNING

The prospects of another bumper crop in the West have been steadily fading away as the intense heat has scorched the young plants and dried them up. Last year was the best in the history of the West, but this year will go far down the scale. For several weeks past we have received reports from all parts of the West and in the general they have been very discouraging. Southern Alberta has suffered more than any other section, but the loss has been very heavy in the southern part of the other two provinces. No wheat could resist the continued dry weather and the unprecedented heat of the past few weeks. In many cases farmers have already plowed up their wheat and will have absolutely no return for their work. Others will be well satisfied with seed. Dame Nature is fickle and this year the Western farmers must in many localities face very hard times. Last year's bumper crop and good prices, however, left them in good shape for losses and every year can't be a huge success. The highest estimates of the Western wheat crop do not pass the 80,000,000 bushel mark. But each hot day is taking down the total with amazing speed. So far as our information goes at present there will not be more than half an average crop in the West this year. It will be a hard year on every line of business but harder on the farmers than on any. They have their bills to meet, and if they can't meet them this year they must do so next with the accumulated interest. But no one is to blame and what can't be cured must be endured. The crop in the northern States is also badly burned and prices should be high. In return for the bad crop, the farmers who have good wheat will get a better return for it.

HUDSON BAY RAILWAY EXCUSE

At the big demonstration for Sir Wilfrid Laurier and party in Winnipeg on July 12th, Hon. George P. Graham, Minister of Railways, spoke on the Hudson's Bay Railway as follows:

"I want to make the statement, most emphatically, that this government is going to see to it that the Hudson's Bay Railway is constructed with all possible speed. We want, and you want, and Canada wants, the Hudson's Bay railway to be a success.

That being the case, it is necessary that we should have all the information possible. There is at the present time much discussion as to which is the best harbor, Churchill or Nelson. This question is now being investigated. From information I have at the present time, as far as railway construction is concerned, the Nelson route is much the better of the two, and is a good many miles shorter. Nelson harbor, too, is capable of being made one of the best harbors in the known world. At the present time Churchill affords the better harbor for a small quantity of shipping, but I am told that it has not the capabilities for development that the Nelson harbor possesses. The moment we get the information, which we expect will be during the next few months, we will proceed to the rapid construction of the Hudson's Bay Railway. It is a part of the country that ought to be opened up. We do not know what is in our Western country, but the government has the courage to find out. One thing we must do: we must proceed as rapidly as the finances of this country will allow us to proceed, in developing the country in every possible way. The shorter the time occupied in the completion of these great works the better, in my opinion."

We imagine that Mr. Graham has been cudgelling his brain for some weeks to prepare an excuse which would explain why the government has been playing with this proposition. Of course, the prime minister is the man who is to blame and not Mr. Graham, but the latter would have to adopt the same policy as his leader. Small problems are handled by the ministers, but big problems are handled by Sir Wilfrid. The reason the Hudson's Bay Road has not been built is largely due to the attitude of other big railways and their influence at Ottawa. No one can blame the big railways for their action, but it must be patent that conditions are wrong when such influences are allowed to prevail. No doubt, as Mr. Graham says, there is still some doubt as to the location of the terminals on the Bay, but this would not affect in any way the construction of a good portion of the southern part of the road. We note that the bridge excuse was not trotted out to explain the delay. Isn't it funny how politicians will act. They are the greatest explainers in the world. They never admit anything but can prepare excuses by the mile. Mr. Graham says they are going to build the road as far as they can, and Sir Wilfrid says it will be done in three or four years. Now why can't they stand up like men and admit the truth. The people of the West would like them better if they would tell the truth. It's of no use to come out here and put up such excuses. We have seen too much rapid railway building over great difficulties to take the excuses seriously. Of course if they don't intend to build the railway at once the West can't make them, but they shouldn't try to bluff the Western farmers with such arguments.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER

Canada's first citizen is now touring the wheat belt and studying conditions. Aside from political feelings every Western farmer will be glad that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has come out to this country to look us over. The position which he has held for the last fourteen years renders him a distinguished man and his ability is of such an order that he does honor to his position. Probably no other man in an English speaking country possesses the power of the Canadian Prime Minister. In a democratic country he rules more truly than any constitutional sovereign. The president of the United States possesses great executive power but is checked by congress. In Canada there is no power above Sir Wilfrid at the present time and the House of Commons and the senate are at his beck and call. Fourteen years ago he assumed power and gathered around himself the most talented ministry that Canada has ever seen. One by one most of them have disappeared or have been translated. Yet, despite this, his rule is as firm as ever. He carries in his hand the gifts most coveted by ordinary men and such gifts are distributed to those who are most valiant in his support. Sir Wilfrid is like a general