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The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, November 26th, 1913

BALLOT NEXT WEEK

The next issue of The Guide will contain the ballots on which our readers will record their votes on the eleven questions included in The Guide Referendum. There will be two ballot papers, one for women and the other for men, but both will contain the same questions. A number of readers have mistaken the announcement which has been published in The Guide each week for the ballot paper and have marked this and sent in it. Votes recorded in this way will not, however, be counted. All votes must be made on the official ballot, which will appear only in The Guide of December 3.

FARMERS MUST STAND TOGETHER

The season has now arrived when the Local Grain Growers' and the United Farmers' Associations throughout the West should begin preparations for their winter work. Association work lags during the summer time, when the farmers are attending to the work of seeding and harvesting. The intelligent farmers, however, have learned that unless they organize and get together in the winter for self-protection their labor during the summer will bring only small reward. Farming is the only important industry in Canada today that is not properly organized for self-protection, and this lack of organization and mutual sympathy and support is the reason why agriculture is not flourishing in Western Canada. The fault lies chiefly with the farmers themselves, because even when their eyes are opened many of them are not willing to raise a hand to help improve their own conditions. There are thousands of farmers in Western Canada today who are protesting with the utmost vigor against the toll of the protected manufacturers, the high freight rates, and all the other injustices from which the agricultural industry suffers. And yet these same farmers will not raise a finger to help the only organization that is trying to help them. They ship all their grain to private elevator companies, they get their political views entirely from hide-bound party newspapers and will not read their own paper, neither will they even pay \$1.00 to become a member of their own association. It is pretty hard to deal with such unfortunate individuals, and yet they must be aroused and brought into the organization with the rest of the farmers, if the agricultural industry is to be freed from its present burdens. Even inside our organization there are farmers who think that when they have paid \$1.00 to join the Association that is all that is required of them. There are even some local secretaries and presidents who have not sufficient interest to call a meeting of the local branch. Sometimes you will even hear these men finding fault with the Association, or with The Guide, or with their own Grain Company. These men are the men that are doing more harm to the farmers' movement than all the combination of manufacturers and other magnates that Canada could produce. Practically every local association that is a success depends upon half a dozen men or less who really put their shoulders to the wheel and do the work. It has always been so and will always be so. It is up to every farmer who believes in a square deal to get busy right away and see that his association is galvanized into life and strength and getting at the winter's work in earnest. Co-operative buying has proven a splendid means of bringing the farmers together, because by so doing they can save themselves hard cash in the purchase of the necessities of life. Freight rates, interest and the tariff can all be remedied by the farmers themselves

if they will only meet together and take united action. But it cannot be done if the farmers refuse to join hands and continue to find fault with their own organizations. The only way to make the organization a success is to get in on the inside and push, instead of standing on the outside and kicking.

FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

In the next issue of The Guide will appear two Referendum Ballots, one for the men and one for the women, upon which they will write their answers to the eleven questions which have appeared in The Guide for the past few months. There will be nearly 33,000 copies of The Guide mailed out to western homes and we hope our readers will take sufficient interest in the questions to mark their ballots and mail them into our office, in order that we may tabulate the results, and show what our readers think about these very important questions. There is one question to answer which will have a most important bearing upon our national life. It is as follows:

"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?"

Each of our political parties is endeavoring to fasten a tax of \$35,000,000 or more upon us for the creation of a navy. The Conservative policy is to contribute three dreadnoughts to the British navy, and naturally this is regarded more than favorably by the big armament firms in Great Britain, who have a very powerful influence in the public life of Great Britain. The profit on these three dreadnoughts will be at least \$3,500,000, so, of course, it will be a pretty nice contract for any armament firm to get, and they would hardly be expected to be opposed to it. If the Conservative policy is adopted it will be merely a temporary one to be followed by the contribution of four or five dreadnoughts additional in the course of two or three years, because another war scare will be brought up, and the patriotic sentiment of the people of Canada will be played upon to provide more profits for the armament companies. The Liberal policy is to build a Canadian navy, half on each coast. Immediately this policy is adopted the patriotic sentiment of the Canadian people will be played upon to build a larger navy until Canada becomes one of the first class naval powers. We will then develop a class in our society whose position and prestige will depend entirely upon the amount of international trouble into which Canada can be entangled, with the prospects of war always in sight. It will also mean that there will be built armament factories in Canada, protected by the tariff, and shipyards bonused from the public treasury. In fact three of the British warship building concerns have already made arrangements to build dock yards in Canada, for this purpose. No matter which of these policies is adopted the people of Canada will have to face an additional tax of \$35,000,000 or \$50,000,000 which within a year or two will become an annual tax and will be steadily increased. And all this tax is absolutely unnecessary because Canada has no use for a navy, either of the Liberal or Conservative type. Canada has a magnificent opportunity to assist in bringing about an agreement for International Peace and the settlement of international difficulties by arbitration. One of the very best moves that could be made by the leading nations would be an agreement guaranteeing the safety of neutral shipping in time of war. This has already

been agreed to by the United States and Germany but has been refused by Great Britain. Great pressure is now being brought upon the British Government by the British people to unite in an international agreement for this purpose at the forthcoming International Conference at the Hague. If the Canadian Government will provide \$1,000,000 with which to send representatives of various classes of Canadian society to Great Britain and France and Germany on a mission of good will, it would do more to bring about international peace than all the money that could be voted for naval construction. But the people of Canada themselves can check both political parties if they go about it in a determined manner. Neither political party has any mandate from the people to spend one cent of the public money for a navy and the matter should be put to a referendum of the people, where each voter can express his opinion upon the single question of the navy. We want every one of our readers to write "yes" or "no" after the above question in our Referendum. Each reader is welcome to vote either way, but we hope to see a very large majority vote in favor of International Peace.

FARMERS NEED PROTECTION

Events following the annual meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Company have amply justified, if justification were needed, the action of the organized farmers in establishing their own journal, The Grain Growers' Guide. Two years ago, at the time of the annual meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, the Conservative newspapers, led by The Winnipeg Telegram, published false reports of the proceedings of the meeting, and, in the face of a unanimous resolution of repudiation passed by the 350 shareholders present, still maintained that their false report was correct. At the last annual meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, held two weeks ago, the Winnipeg Free Press, the leading Liberal journal of Western Canada, published a garbled and misleading report of the proceedings of the meeting, and in the face of a resolution of repudiation by the 450 shareholders, still maintained the correctness of its report. The report contained some truth but a lot of falsehood and was hostile in the extreme. This report was evidently furnished to The Free Press by some shareholder of the company, who was certainly not friendly and was anxious to injure the Farmers' Company. The Prairie Farm and Home, which is the weekly edition of the Regina Leader, in its Nov. 19 issue, publishes verbatim the misleading report from The Winnipeg Free Press, but, unlike The Free Press, the Regina Liberal paper does not publish also the correct report of the company's proceedings furnished to the press by the company. Just why these two journals have assumed the attitude of hostility to The Grain Growers' Grain Company is difficult to understand. But all Grain Growers will agree that there was much wisdom exhibited by those men who, some years ago, decided to establish The Grain Growers' Guide in order that the truth might reach the farmers and that they need no longer depend upon the tender mercies of the party press.

STAND BY YOUR FRIENDS

The only way to have real friends is to stand by them. In the early days of the co-operative movement in Great Britain the retail merchants used every device to lure the workmen away from their own store, the wholesalers tried to boycott them, and it