



NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

This department of The Guide is maintained especially for the purpose of providing a discussion ground for the readers where they may freely exchange views and derive from each other the benefits of experience and helpful suggestions. Each correspondent should remember that there are hundreds who wish to discuss a problem or offer suggestions. We cannot publish all the immense number of letters received and ask that each correspondent will keep his letter as short as possible. Every letter must be signed by the name of the writer, though not necessarily for publication. The views of our correspondents are not of necessity those of The Guide. The aim is to make this department of great value to readers and no letters not of public interest will be published.

RE SASKATOON MEETING

Editor, GUIDE.—A meeting of vital importance to all interested in farming and kindred industries was held in Saskatoon recently, when the Grain Growers' of the district were invited to meet the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, premier of Canada, and several of his more important departmental chiefs, in order that they might present as clearly and briefly as possible the several problems, the proper solution of which would add to the prosperity of their undertaking. We learn that "the farmers approached their subject with an earnestness and directness that made them impressive and to the point." "Speeches of good sense and involving direct replies were made at considerable length, and it may be said in fairness that these on the whole were free from political savor, and that Sir Wilfrid's treatment of them was simple and was apparently received with satisfaction. . . . The meeting was a business conference; it might have been a friendly discussion between employees and the managing director, with the latter expressing anxiety to remove difficulties and effect improvements."

And yet we learn that several of the delegates were so deeply hurt with the remarks that were made by the chairman in his address to the premier that they considered it called for a later personal interview with the premier in order that they might disassociate themselves from any sympathy with his remarks. It would seem there is something here which calls for investigation. We are all agreed that our argument is so just and strong that we do not need to be loud and vulgar in presenting same. To stick close to our question, to be united, cool and strong in it is all that is necessary to secure complete and early success. We should be sorry to learn that one who had been particularly chosen to lead us in this controversy had been either vulgar, rude or personal, and shall reserve judgment until more fully advised, but cannot help but think that if such an unhappy and unfortunate thing had really happened at so important a meeting, there would have been sufficient men of education and address there present to take up the matter at once, so that on the spot where it is stated the wrong or offence had been given a full and dignified explanation would have been made and an apology tendered in the name of the association as a whole. If, on the other hand, the chairman had not, in the opinion of the majority of representatives, given cause for offence, would it not tend to weaken the arguments advanced by the association in the mind of our premier if only a small portion of the representatives sought such an interview as has been described? Would it not be looked upon by this very experienced man and his councillors as a point of disunion and weakness, as an apparent breach through which could be marched any army of opposition to any proposal that might prove either difficult or distasteful?

It would seem that in order to secure success we should not be predisposed to look upon every shadow of seeming opposition as political bias, but when the interests of the Grain Growers are involved, to sink all party distinctions, which, under the circumstances, are a sure sign of weakness, that will, you may be sure, be used by clever men as a means to our early and complete undoing. It was, and still is, the conviction of all who are at all interested, that this most important delegation was given clear instructions which were to be politely but definitely put, that its chief purpose

was to vindicate the rights of the farming community of the West as the sole agents of commercial prosperity and progress, and by pointing out the legislative alterations and additions which are essential to their legitimate progress, thus to give an opportunity to the present administration, by early and wise measures and enactments, to assist the farmers in securing the fullest possible measure of protection from fraudulent combinations, and such ultimate success as their paramount position of commercial worth now warrants them.

—W. H. TALLIS.

Borden, Sask.

P.S.—Since writing the above the action that I feared has already taken place. In The Phoenix, of Saskatoon, August 2, reference is directly made to the private interview given by Sir Wilfrid to two members of the Grain Growers' Association (the third mentioned, Mr. Wainwright, was not at the meeting nor was he present at this interview) and their words and action have been used as a pretence to demonstrate what is claimed as the sentiment of "a great majority of the dissatisfied Grain Growers who were present." The verbatim report of Mr. John Evans' address given in The Capital, of Saskatoon, August 1, seems to be a clear and straightforward statement of the sentiments expressed at the various Grain Growers' meetings it has been my privilege and pleasure to attend.

W. H. T.

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GET THEM MAD

Editor, GUIDE.—I was pleased to see letter of Mr. John Giambeck re better organization in yours of 3rd. The U.F.A. is going along alright, but not fast enough. We secretaries are all busy with our own affairs and cannot devote time to bring up the laggards. These latter fully recognize the benefits of union and the evils to be overcome, but have always something else to do. We want to reach them in their homes. This means plenty of literature, free or very cheap, first class writers and printing, and personal visits. Teach the farmer to rely upon his union, to bring any difficulty to it for solution, be able to appeal to it for expert legal advice; create a mighty machine that will work for us day and night and that will be able to attack instead of waiting to be hit and then defending. This all means money. We have several examples to follow in our method of raising a fund. The Salvation Army can raise tremendous sums yearly from their self denial week; the Wesleyans had a million shilling fund. These are only two cases. Why can't we do the same? For instance, a million cent fund would produce ten thousand dollars and the interest at eight per cent. would produce an annual income of \$800. Very good, but not enough. Make it a million 3 cent fund, or be ambitious and go for something big and make it a million shilling (or quarter) fund for the three Prairie Provinces. This will produce two hundred and fifty thousand dollars; income, twenty thousand dollars per annum. It pays the enemy to employ the best brains and enterprise it can procure. Will it not pay us? And who can but admire the audacity of a comparatively small body of manufacturers who dare to hold in thrall a mighty crowd of workers. It is English to put the small man in a fight on the back and to my mind it looks very much at present as if we farmers are the hulking boy who gets the kicking he asks for from the plucky little one. Put facts before the farmer, get him out of his lethargy, make him mad.

and then he will do things and not before. Please let us have the opinion of others.

JAS. STONE.
Sec.-Treas., Blackfoot,
U.F.A.

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NO POLITICAL FLAVOR

Editor, GUIDE.—In looking over some of the back numbers of THE GUIDE, I find in issue of the 29th June, a rather remarkable letter, signed, "Edgar W. Frost," president Claresholm District, U. F. A., in which this gentleman charges Mr. W. J. Tregillus, as being in company with certain members of parliament, and the meetings addressed by Mr. Tregillus, as having had a strong political flavor. Speaking for the meeting held at Pincher Creek on May 21st, addressed by Mr. Tregillus and Mr. Swift, would you allow me to say that Mr. Frost is altogether misinformed, and to my mind is guilty of the violation of that part of the Decalogue which says "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." In the letter of Mr. Frost he is assuredly bearing false witness against Mr. Tregillus. In order that we might have a good meeting I sent invitations to one hundred and ten men and as our Commons representative, Mr. John Herron was my near neighbor, I asked him to attend and give us an address. I should say that Mr. Herron is a farmer and has been a successful breeder of pure bred Clydesdale stock and also a member of our U. F. A. branch, and was very glad of the opportunity of addressing the farmers and getting information as to our views on questions affecting our interests.

None of the addresses were in any way political and the impression made by Mr. Tregillus and Mr. Swift, you can understand, when I say that at the close of the meeting, I had the pleasure of enrolling some ten or twelve who put up their dollar right there. So much for our Claresholm president, who I hope will see it to be his duty to publicly apologize to Mr. Tregillus for this misleading statement. Indeed we hope in the near future to have a return visit from Messrs. Tregillus and Swift. We are not, and Mr. Frost must know it, a political organization; at the same time we are a poor crowd, if we do not invite our representatives to our meetings occasionally, and hear from them as to what they are doing to promote the best interests of the farmers, which you and everybody knows are the mainstay of this and every other country. This would lead very properly to the further question of Direct representation, which to my mind is certain to come to the front in the near future, but as my letter is already too long, although tempted, I must forbear.

A. HENDERSON.

Secretary-Treasurer, Pincher Creek
Branch, U. F. A.

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RE THE TELEGRAM

Editor, GUIDE.—The bitter and utterly untruthful attack being made by the Winnipeg Telegram upon THE GUIDE, the Grain Growers' Grain Company and the officers of the company requires from the Grain Growers another dose of the same medicine that the Telegram received before when they published "Observer's" letters. This is but another chapter of the same story with but one object—the discrediting of THE GUIDE, the company and the association, and the men who are at the head of the farmers' movement. There is a sure remedy for this and a quick one, and it worked well when the Telegram and other papers published "Observer's" letters. These editorials and these so called reporters of the meeting and speech of Mr. Crear's look to me like the work of the same pen, and that this reporter is, in fact, only "Observer" under a new name. If the Grain Growers who read the Telegram and THE GUIDE want this thing stopped, they can soon do it by dropping a postcard to the editor of the Telegram, telling him to stop sending his paper until he can tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about THE GUIDE. The Grain Growers' Grain Company, the men who are giving their time and brains to the stupendous task of trying to improve conditions for the Western farmer, against the secret and open enmity of not only the grain trade, the corporations, but the distinct enmity of the Winnipeg Telegram.

T. W. KNOWLES.

Emerson, Man.

A SATISFIED SHIPPER

The following letter has been received by the Grain Growers' Grain Company: "I recently shipped you a carload of wheat and I am perfectly satisfied with the returns and the way you handled it for me. I had two shares of stock before, and I have just bought two more, and you may depend upon my best efforts in behalf of the farmers' company."

JNO. McLAUGHLIN.

Plumas, Man.

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SIR WILFRID'S VIEWS

Editor, GUIDE.—During the last few months the farmers of these Western Provinces have had the opportunity of presenting their views on various public questions before Sir Wilfrid Laurier, premier of Canada. All critics must admit the very able and moderate manner in which these rural people presented their arguments. The various members of the Grain Growers' Associations had speakers to present in a fluent and convincing way, what their organizations desired to present to our premier. I must say that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a much lauded speaker, did not appear before us at Brandon in a very creditable manner. He was careful to be as polite as possible. He said absolutely nothing new. Now, knowing that he and his colleague, Mr. Graham, were to meet the farmers of the West, why did he not consult his colleagues before departing on his Western journey and come to some decision on the Terminal Elevator question, the Hudson's Bay Railway and also the Tariff? That he no doubt consulted privately with his cabinet on these questions is patent to every one, but why come before us with such childish explanations and answers? Does he still think that the Western farmers are of no account as an organization?

In presenting the case of the terminal elevator prosecution case, no mention was made of the evident desire of the prosecution to hush up and strangle all investigation. This was a great mistake. It should have been brought to the attention (in a public way) of the premier. Now, there is apparently one law of procedure for the poor people and another for these wealthy corporations in Canada. As a writer from Nesbitt stated in THE GUIDE some time ago, a poor woman who steals a loaf of bread is jailed, but he wants us to observe that in taking this loaf she had the excuse of being hungry. In the case of the elevator companies they had no excuse, except perhaps that they had the opportunity to steal and took advantage of it. But see the parental manner in which they were admonished. The paltry fine (without imprisonment) was a farce. Would Mr. Daly treat with such consideration a case of petty larceny? No, not for one moment. As regards "weighing up" these elevators, why does not Mr. Castle get busy and publish the results? A new crop will shortly be on the road towards these elevators, and I think plenty of time has elapsed since last March when Mr. Horne had his deputies after these slick manipulators of wheat, to now have something definite about the handling of goods there. Sir Wilfrid's reply to our demand for a change in the handling and ownership of these terminal elevators is more than childish, it is a farce. Does he think to put us off again for another twelve months or more, meanwhile allowing these rogues to cheat us again and again? The statutes plainly show that these companies defy the law. Well, if the cabinet refuses to act, what is there to prevent our association doing so? The expense would only be a few bits compared with the loss we suffer by these manipulators of this American clique. So think it over and see if we cannot "bell the cat." Show the world who these people really are who openly commit these crimes. Publish their names in THE GUIDE. That will start them and destroy their power to injure the reputation of our grain.

OLIVER KING.

Wawanesa, Man.

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HUDSON'S BAY RAILWAY

Editor, GUIDE.—I want to give another reason why the Hudson's Bay Railway should be built, and why the Canadian Northern wants and will build it after the completion of the Hudson's Bay Railway to Nelson. The Canadian Nor-