

The Mail Bag

EXPERIENCE WITH RYE

Editor, Guide:—The first thing I saw when I opened my May 1 Guide was a reply to F. B. A.'s (Airdrie, Alta.) questions re Rye. If twenty years' actual experience in growing and feeding rye counts for anything, I can claim to be an authority on the subject, and I differ in every particular with your answers. I do not want to take up too much of your space, so will state briefly my opinion. I raised rye in the Rain Belt of Colorado for both grain and hay, and will say under the system then in use rye (spring) was the only successful crop we could raise. Rye ground fine and fed to hogs is second to corn only for fattening, and made into slop or soured makes good feed for sows and young pigs. As a grain ration for work horses it should be only cracked or ground coarse. One quart is equal to three quarts of ground oats. For hay, it should be cut when about in head. If sown early it usually makes two crops of hay and can be fed to anything that eats hay. I have always found it a better hay crop than oats because there is less waste and there is no crop that combats weeds so well as rye.

If F. B. A. will send me a self-addressed envelope I will give him more particulars.

J. R. DININNY.

Mountain House, Alta.

QUERY FROM ENGLAND

Editor, Guide:—Your paper has been sent to me regularly for some years past, from your office, by order of some Alberta friends, and I have been interested in following its progress and noting the opinions expressed from time to time by your correspondents. I notice in your paper of May 15 a letter signed by T. W. B., in which he provides what he calls "scientific proof" in favor of his arguments and says "land of moderate quality and furthest from populous centres brings \$150 an acre." Would T. W. B. mind telling us where the land is to which he refers. It is a pity to spoil an argument by giving as conclusive evidence a general statement which may be described as absolutely incorrect when apparently he is in a position to be more precise and prevent the possibility of a suggestion that he does not know the facts, and is arguing on incorrect data.

J. H. P.

Moatlands, Kent, Eng.

WHAT THE MADE-IN-CANADA TRAIN TEACHES

Editor, Guide:—Whatever may have been the intention in sending the Made-in-Canada train through the country, it teaches one most obvious lesson, viz., that the time has come when our manufacturers can stand on their own merits without the aid of protection. This is the day Sir John A. Macdonald, a believer in free trade, looked forward to when he introduced his National Policy, or Protection to the infant or unborn industries of Canada, till such time as they could do without that support, and no longer. Any failing to hold their own after a fair trial are obviously unadapted to this country and climate (the wool trade, for instance), and had better cease to be a heavy charge on the country, and their labor and capital put to more natural purposes.

If the government were meditating free trade they could not have hit on a better way of convincing the voters of Canada that the time, looked forward to by their great and honored leader, Sir John A., was fully ripe for it, than by sending such a sample train through Canada, it is just what was needed. Do

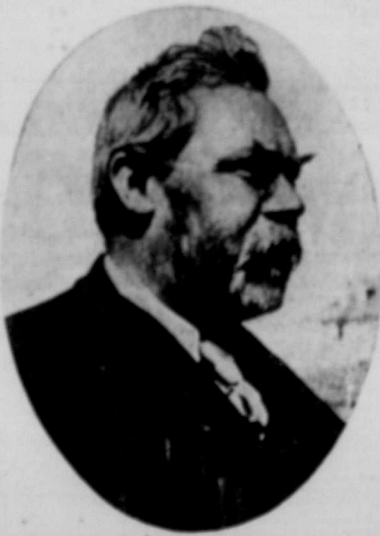
not let us forget it at the next election, and at all times.

F. W. GODSAL.

Cowley, Alta.

THE DIRECTORS' CONTROVERSY

Editor, Guide:—Please permit me space in your valuable columns to comment briefly on the unjust censure of E. A. Partridge, D. Railton and others in their open letter in your issue of the 5th inst. against T. A. Crerar, John Kennedy and R. McKenzie as officers of the Grain Growers' Grain Co. As one experienced in handling grain and familiar with the intolerant conditions prevailing here before the said Grain Growers' Grain Co. was established, and the wonderful abuses that have been corrected, and hundreds of thousands of dollars that have been saved to the producers largely through the existence of this said Grain Growers' Grain Co., and one who is in full sympathy with the purpose of such Grain Co., and the farmers' co-operative movement in general, I believe the censure is very unjust to say the least. I am confident no other organization in this Canadian Northwest has made such phenomenal success in so short a time. If this is true, who are the parties entitled to the credit for such success? Surely the managers, Messrs. Crerar, Kennedy, Mills, and the directors, including Mr. McKenzie. These men certainly have been careful, energetic and strong. It is beyond human possibilities for any man or company to have pleased everybody in its transactions while doing an enormous business aggregating many millions of dollars as this company has



A. H. LONGTON

Independent Farmers' Candidate for Lloydminster Constituency. Mr. Longton was head master of an English public school for 26 years, but has latterly been farming in Saskatchewan. He is a strong supporter of Direct Legislation.

done, and gradually built up such an organization from nothing. From personal acquaintance with the managers of the company I am confident that any errors that have been made have been purely those of judgment and not of intent, but the errors are very small in the aggregate as compared with the success of the company.

It is to be hoped that if these "knockers" wish for the company to be a permanent success they will not take steps that may disrupt it like so many similar organizations have been across the line in the States. Farmers and stockholders in the Grain Growers' Grain Co., are you going to put out Messrs. Crerar, Kennedy and McKenzie that have been tried and proved a success, and substitute Messrs. Partridge, Spencer and friends, who have not been tried?

Better "let well enough alone."

C. J. McCOLLUM.

Winnipeg, Man.

CO-OPERATION VS. ANTAGONISM

Editor, Guide:—Isn't it time we had dropped the assumption that the East is benefited by protection, unless we also assume that a few hundred manu-

facturers constitute the East, even as a certain Louis constituted France. We seem to have taken at its face value the claim of the Canadian cotton trust that it could not pay its operatives a decent living wage because it was not adequately protected, when at that very moment it was paying five per cent. dividends on stock 90 per cent. water.

The Pittsburg survey and the Lawrence investigation have only added to the mountain of proof that laborers, even in the protected industries, do not share in the benefits of protection, while at the same time their cost of living is increased.

Here is a morsel from the report of the United States tariff commission last winter: "American weavers, tending from 14 to 20 looms each, receive a lower wage than the English weaver who tends four looms. Also, the labor element in the cost of American fabrics is 8 to 40 per cent., while the tariff is 50 to 200 per cent." When Tom Johnson was in Congress, representing a great manufacturing district in northern Ohio, the cloakmakers' union once asked him to support an increase in the tariff on cloaks. Johnson flatly refused to vote for any law that would compel the women of the United States to pay a higher price for their cloaks. But he went further, and showed the union that because of free trade in the labor market the laborers could get none of the advantages of protection in goods.

It is true that there is no general recognition of this truth in labor circles, and herein lies the essential weakness of the free trade movement. A large, increasing and compact voting element, whose interests, if they only knew it, are on the side of free trade, persistently vote for protection. If the labor vote of Canada defeated reciprocity, that same vote, constantly growing, will be at the call of the tariff barons to veto any future step towards free trade. The old Farmers' Alliance, in the States, before it died in the attempt to create a political party, had a running arrangement with the Knights of Labor for the exchange of lecturers. I remember, as a lad, several "knights" who travelled over my state, telling the farmers about the wage earner's troubles and his efforts to cure them. I consider it nothing short of a tragedy that that movement, so nobly begun, should so shortly have been blinked out. Is there not in this a suggestion for us? Here is an army fighting against us that, properly enlightened, might be enlisted under our own banner. Also, what service might we not render them, could we add their point of view to our own. A Scotch farmer had a dispute with his neighbor, and went to a lawyer to see about suing him. His neighbor, though, had got ahead of him and retained the same lawyer. The lawyer, not mentioning this, told the farmer he could not take the case, but would give him a letter of introduction to another lawyer. The farmer, becoming suspicious, tore open the letter and found it to read: "Here are a couple o' fat geese. You pluck the ain and I'll pluck the ither." How long are the farmers and wage earners of Canada going to act the part of the "couple o' fat geese?"

GEO. W. ATKINSON.

Ceylon, Sask.

SUGGESTIONS WANTED

Editor, Guide:—I take your valuable paper and peruse every column of it at once upon receiving it, and would not like to be without it. I think you are doing a grand work, and I am constantly urging my friends and neighbors to take it and read it. I am president of Richdale Union, No. 325, U.F.A., and am very much interested in the organization and co-operation of my fellow farmers and working men. We are some distance from railway at present, but the Goose Lake extension of the C.N.R. is now at work building their road through our locality, and we hope by fall to see it in operation. But to business. I and others of this vicinity are anxious to look up reliable infor-

mation and plans, by-laws, etc., by which we may organize ourselves into a society to own and operate either a steam or gasoline engine and thresher to do our threshing and others also, and to, perhaps, use the engine for plowing in summer. Now, some say it won't work and seem to think that such are not successful, but I claim that if we are organized under proper laws and regulations to govern same it will work. If it would not be asking too much of you, I would like such information and advice as you have at hand, and such as you may secure for us through the valuable columns of your paper. Mayhap some of The Guide's readers have had some experience with a society of this nature, and would be able to give the farmers and us in particular some valuable advice for our consideration, and if published in The Guide may perhaps put a bee in someone else's bonnet to start a similar movement. We have no threshers in this vicinity and although some are talking of procuring an outfit, talk alone does not thresh out our grain this fall, and our grain be left in stooks and stacks again this coming winter.

W. G. INMAN.

Richdale, Alta.

WHAT IS SLAVERY?

Editor, Guide:—This is a very important question for the British born to answer, because Britons never will be slaves, no, never, not if they know it. The poet Shelley wrote many years ago a clarion appeal to the working masses of Britain thus:—

"What is freedom? Ye can tell
That which slavery is too well;
For its very name has grown,
To an image of your own."

Slavery is not hard work, in itself; is not drudgery, long hours of work and short hours of rest. These are not necessarily slavery. The black chattel slaves of fifty years ago, were owned by their masters, just as a horse was owned and for the very same purpose. Horses are owned for the profit their owners have out of their labor. The black chattel slave was "owned" for the very same purpose. The essence of slavery is the fact that the "owner" gets the good of the labor performed by the slave. The slave owners were never rich, that is compared with what a rich man is today. Of course they did not work, but their wealth was "piled up by the bondsmen's years of unrequited toil," as Lincoln stated in his second Inaugural. Now a man is rich in proportion to the power he possesses to take wealth from others without giving back an equivalent. Wealth is the result of human labor, and nothing is wealth that has not in it this human element. And those who get wealth through the result of human labor without giving in return an equivalent in labor or in services, are rich in proportion to their power to take. During the past ten years a few people in Canada have become rich, not on account of anything they did or services rendered or wealth produced, but on account of what others have done. "The wealth produced by our sturdy blows, to the hands of the one forever flows." While we have been struggling to make a living and produce wealth, we have actually enriched others without effort on their part. That is, the many have been slaves and the few have been the masters. The people who labor have had a bare living, while the few who have become rich without work, are revelling in luxury. This is slavery. We do not have to be bought and sold like chattels in order to be slaves. The essence of slavery is that others, not deserving, get the good of our labor. As the poet put it:—

"The seed we sow, another reaps;
The wealth we find, another heaps;
The cloth we weave another wears,
The arms we forge another bears."

This is a condition that should rouse to activity the "British Born" every-

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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. 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.