

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, July 21st, 1915

DEATH OF F. W. GREEN

There will be deep and genuine regret throuth the entire farming districts of Western Canada at the sudden and untimely death of Fred W. Green. He has for the past ten years been one of the most prominent farmers of Western Canada. He came to the West when both he and the West were young, and built his homestead cabin where the "wise ones" told him wheat could not be grown. But Mr. Green had the faith and the energy and developed one of the finest wheat farms in the world. From the quarter section on which he homesteaded his farm steadily expanded until it covered three sections. His farming knowledge grew with his years, and he was regarded as one of the best and most successful bona fide farmers in the Prairie Provinces. He was one of the many "green Englishmen" who have made abundantly good in this country. Mr. Green was associated with the Grain Growers' organization from its very beginning and held important offices, having been Secretary-Treasurer and Managing Director of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association from 1909 to 1914. To him belongs the credit of placing that great farmers' organization upon a sound financial footing with a handsome surplus in the treasury. Mr. Green possessed extraordinary energy, of which he gave to the very limit to the cause of the organized farmers, at considerable financial sacrifice to himself. Aside from his work in the Grain Growers' Association, Mr. Green held high positions in practically all the agricultural organizations in his province. The farmers of Western Canada have lost one of their best friends, and the cause of agriculture one of its warmest supporters.

OUR SECOND CROP REPORT

This issue of The Guide contains the second crop report which covers conditions up to July 10. A general summary of the 640 reports received indicates that so far crops are average. Repeated frosts and lack of rain in some localities, cool weather and too much rain in others, have kept crops from making the best possible growth and, as a consequence, harvest is expected to be from one to two weeks later this year. Since the last report on May 29, the actual damage to crops has been slight. Hail storms have occurred in some localities, but little actual damage has been done. Cutting seems likely to be general about the second week in August. With favorable, sunshiny, hot weather from now on, interspersed with weekly showers, there is every reason to expect a good average crop being harvested this fall. In some districts, where scarcely any crop was harvested last year a very greatly increased demand will exist for help when cutting starts. There is every appearance of labor being scarce this year and altho a large number of reporters mentioned that no men will be required until harvest time, it would seem to be best to hire men now, so that no delay will be experienced when the grain is ready to cut. There are two other features of this report worthy of notice. Summer-fallowing, wherever practised, seems to be nearly all completed. This shows that farmers generally are looking far-

ther ahead than merely this year's crop, and indicates that a large portion of land will be in good condition for seeding next spring. In Southern Alberta, where crops have been virtual failures for a number of years, owing to drought, an abundant rainfall has made crop prospects extremely favorable this season. If nothing untoward happens, the good crop as promised this year will do a great deal to assist in the development of that part of the West.

LIVESTOCK MARKET NEEDS

The keeping of livestock is the basis of the only permanent system of agriculture. This fact cannot be too often nor too strongly emphasized. Many objections are advanced against the keeping of livestock but, except where natural conditions are not suitable, not one of them is really tenable. Abnormal conditions exist at present, feed is high priced but feeders who have been in the business for years have not decreased the number of stock they are keeping for market. In fact indications point to beef cattle prices being high for some years to come. Previous to the outbreak of the war there was evidence of a world shortage of cattle; since then enormously increased quantities of beef are being used by the contending armies in Europe. These, added to the fact that cattle for market cannot be produced as rapidly as some other classes of stock make profitable prices assured. To take full advantage of this opportunity market requirements must be considered. There is always a good demand for choice, well fitted, high grade cattle. Every farmer, by having a good pure-bred bull in his herd, can produce high-grade steers and heifers, which will be eagerly bought up as soon as they reach market. It is in the production of uniform, high quality cattle for market that money is made from livestock. Scrub stock is always discriminated against. Every farmer should consider seriously whether it would be advisable for him to raise some stock and if he decides in the affirmative he should under no circumstances use any other than a good pure-bred bull.

PROTECTING THE GRAFTERS

Among the many surprising incidents connected with the investigation of the Manitoba Parliament Buildings scandal, there is none which has aroused more public indignation than the action of the officials of the G. N. W. Telegraph Co. in destroying a number of the telegrams which were wanted by the Royal Commission as evidence. The G. N. W. Telegraph Co. recently came under the control of the Canadian Northern Railway Co., and its president is that well known patriot, Zebulon A. Lash, K. C., senior counsel and director of the C. N. R. It was learned by the commission that telegrams relating to the huge fraud had passed between some of the conspirators and their friends in the East, and officials of the telegraph companies in Winnipeg were subpoenaed and ordered to produce all telegrams which they had handled between Winnipeg and Ottawa to or from ex-Premier Roblin, Hon. Dr. Montague, Dr. Simpson and Hon. Robt. Rogers. The G. N. W. officials, however, said they were unable to comply with the orders of the commission, all

telegrams from Winnipeg to Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal and from those cities to Winnipeg having been burned on orders from the head office at Toronto, two days before. It was admitted that it was the rule of the company to keep telegrams for at least six months in order to check accounts and trace errors, but one of the G. N. W. officials declared that the commission had nothing to do with the burning of the telegrams—the company had merely decided to burn them a little oftener than before. Explanations were demanded of Mr. Lash, and that gentleman has made a lengthy statement admitting that the telegrams were destroyed in order to prevent the commission securing them, and defending the action of the company on the ground that it is the duty of a telegraph company to preserve absolute secrecy as to what passes over its wires. In the face of this it is somewhat remarkable that M. H. MacLeod, general manager of the C. N. R., had no difficulty in obtaining copies of all the telegrams in question a few days before the burning took place and handed them over to a Winnipeg lawyer acting for Hon. Robt. Rogers. If C. N. R. officials can get possession of any telegrams they choose to ask for, it does not seem as if the secrecy Mr. Lash insists upon is very rigidly enforced. It is, of course, proper and essential that ordinary telegrams should be regarded as confidential by the telegraph companies, but when the wires are used for the purpose of defrauding the public and getting away with the swag, it is certainly not the duty or business of any company or individual to protect the criminals from detection. Corporations have in the past been able to increase their profits by siding with corrupt politicians against the public. But there is a new spirit in the air today and grafting politicians and corporations which assist them will eventually meet with the just punishment which is their due.

A COALITION GOVERNMENT

There is undoubtedly all thru Canada a considerable feeling of dissatisfaction with the way the Ottawa government is conducting the business of the country. There has been a good deal of talk about a political truce during the war, but so long as there are two parties, each anxious to assume the honors and distribute the spoils of office, a political truce can never prevail. The life of the present parliament expires in September of 1916 and there must be an election before that date unless the life of parliament is extended by special legislation. Altho there is dissatisfaction with the Borden government, there is no great desire to have the Laurier government returned to power, but if an election is held within the next year, it is difficult to say what might happen. The graft investigations in Manitoba will undoubtedly cause considerable loss to the Conservative party and British Columbia would also probably return some Liberal members, while there would not seem much prospect of Conservative gains in Saskatchewan and Alberta. In Ontario and the Maritime Provinces Conservatives would undoubtedly hold their own and probably gain some seats, while reports from Quebec would indicate that the Liberals would gain considerable in that pro-