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# The Brain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, April 18, 1917

## WAR AND DEMOCRACY

The Allies have been making very considerable headway against the Kaiser and his forces on the western front the past fortnight. The famous trenches which the Germans prepared and which were supposed to be absolutely impregnable have been literally ripped to pieces by the British and French artillery. Slowly, but surely the Kaiser and his troops are being forced out of France. Russia is keeping up the fight on the eastern front, though there seems to be considerable internal trouble in the new democracy. Every democrat will pray that the Russian ship of state may weather the storm of the revolution and safely reach the goal for which it started. A council of war is already being held in the United States attended by representatives of the allied powers. The American republic is going into the war in real earnest. It will be impossible to put an American army in the field for many months, but the navy and the resources of the country may be used immediately. The first great object is to smash the submarine blockade completely and effectually so that the supply of food and munitions from the outside world can continue to reach Britain and France without interruption. The prospects for an early conclusion of the war grow steadily brighter and the prospect for a real peace is more promising than ever. Around the council board when the peace terms are made, the four central figures will be the representatives of Great Britain, France, Russia and the United States. Three out of the four will represent republican governments and it is doubtful if they will agree to any peace terms which will not eliminate the royal dynasties which have so long lorded it over the people of Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey. There is more than a likelihood that Europe will be very much republicanized at the conclusion of the war. President Wilson's proposal for a league of nations to maintain peace contains the best hope for permanent world peace. Lord Bryce advocates the same proposal. President Wilson is the only ruler who has so far given it unquestioned support and his support is likely to carry it into successful operation. For the first time there begins to appear through the war clouds the bright and shining possibility of a real permanent peace based upon absolute democracy.

## OUR HOUSEHOLD NUMBER

It is difficult for The Guide's Annual Household Number to keep pace with the ever-widening activities of women. Even in regard to such age-long interests as the raising of children the women of Canada have, within the last four or five years, developed a new point of view. Instead of thinking of their children as independent units who may bring credit or disgrace to themselves, the modern mothers tend more and more to think of their children as part of the community, and to feel a responsibility to the community for making them into good citizens.

As a result of this new sense of social responsibility many mothers have asked us to undertake a campaign against the neglect of the health of the children, and the utter disregard of the interests of the community in regard to disease, which is found in some sections of the country. The Guide has already dealt with this question on several occasions, but it is of such importance that Dr. Mary Crawford has been induced to write an article for the household number on this subject, and it is hoped that the authoritative advice and information contained in this article may be the means of impressing upon the minds of all parents the seriousness of their obligation

to the community in the matter of health. Co-incident with this broadening of the woman's outlook upon life has come the demand on the part of farm women for financial independence to a greater or less degree. Unfortunately, at the outset, this desire led very often to pathetic attempts to compete in hand work with city women, who though not more able, had more leisure, more sources of inspiration, and infinitely greater marketing facilities. Naturally the country woman was worsted in the unequal struggle. But of late the tendency has been for the country woman to look for her independence to industries which are native to rural life, the raising of garden truck, fruits, poultry, dairy products and stock, and her labors have been crowned with outstanding success.

But for all her new and bigger outlook on life the modern woman has not lost her interest in pretty clothes, so The Guide has had an experienced teacher of millinery prepare an article on the making of the fashionable new sailor, giving the exact detailed information a novice requires when she sits down before a bit of canvas, wire, braid and silk, resolved to evolve an up-to-date hat therefrom. It is hoped that the readers will feel that the household number has kept pace with the many-sided development of the modern woman, without neglecting the eternal feminine, which is another way of saying her love of beauty and charm.

## FREIGHT RATES HELD UP

The Railway Commission has decided to hold up the new increases in freight rates all over the west and give the public a chance to enter protests. It is hard to understand why the Railway Commission would ever think of permitting increased freight rates in the west without giving the opportunity of a public hearing. It is a well known fact that freight rates today are at least 60 per cent. higher than they are in the east and that without any justification whatever except that the railways demand it and the Railway Commission permits it. The railways of Canada exercise a greater taxing power than even our Dominion government and their tax is more universal because it reaches every human being in the Dominion. There seems no reason, however, why the railways should be allowed to hog the whole thing. The C.P.R. last year had a profit of \$49,000,000 and the prospects are that it will have just as much for the current year. The C.N.R. also is increasing its earnings. Why the railways should demand an increase in freight rates now is inconceivable. The only explanation is that everything is going up and the railways think it is an opportunity for them to make a grab. From the standpoint of protecting the common people against the railway, the Railway Commission can hardly be called an outstanding success. This is a case in which the organized farmers should take a deep interest because they and their families will pay the greater part of any increase in the freight rates. The increase will be charged on manufactured goods; the manufacturer will pass it on to the wholesaler, who in turn will pass it to the retailer, who in turn will pass it on to the consumer. The consumer in the west is chiefly the farmer and he doesn't have any goat on which to load the burden. The farmer pays the tax and he pays it out of his own pocket. The farmer has been paying pretty thoroughly for everything and it is about time the railways were forced to content themselves with something reasonable.

We would suggest that a royal commission consisting of ten expert detectives be appointed

to try to discover what the other royal commissions are doing.

## IMMIGRATION AND PROTECTION

Western Canada needs immigration. She never needed it more than in this year of grace. The natural inflow of men has been enormously curtailed by the war. Enlistments from the farms have been heavy. An under-manned agriculture is the result. Meanwhile the cry is for more and still more of the products of the farm. To meet this demand we must do more than keep up our former rate of production. We must speed up the factory and increase the floor space. Better manned farms and more of them is the crying need. The only outside source from which we can now draw men is the United States. The government recognizes this and maintains a costly immigration service to secure recruits for western agriculture. The great drawing card which they have to play is cheap land. But land is only one factor in production. If the other factors are dearer than in the United States, the advantages of cheap land are neutralized, and the result is a decreased flow of immigration to prairie farms. To increase the cost of those other factors we have allowed parliaments, at the suggestion of a coterie of capitalists with axes to grind, to build up a tariff wall. While Canada is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to induce a large American immigration, she maintains senseless regulations, the effect of which is to keep immigration out. The amount of settlers' effects which can be brought in free of duty is strictly limited. If the intending settler exceeds this amount he is fined for so doing. The result is that many of the best farmers are restrained from moving to Canada. This is well illustrated by an incident which recently came to light. A Wisconsin farmer had, by years of patient work, built up a dairy herd of sixty-five cows. He wished to move to Manitoba, but was informed that he would have to pay duty on the greater part of his cows to get them in. To avoid paying the duty, he was told that he could sell his cows and buy again in Canada, thereby losing the benefits of his careful breeding operations extending over years. The result is that he is still farming in Wisconsin. With the grain grower, machinery is one of the largest items of expense in production. Reasonable prices for farm machinery would be one of the strongest inducements to the American farmer to enter Canada. Yet he knows full well that if he comes to Canada he will be fined under our iniquitous tariff laws at least \$30 for every \$100 worth of his purchases on this account. The introduction of a few common-sense business principles into our national affairs would do much to encourage the immigration of well-to-do farmers from the United States.

## RISING WHEAT PRICES

Unfavorable crop reports issued by the United States government pushed wheat prices last week to the highest point ever recorded on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and the Minneapolis and Chicago markets responded accordingly. Farmers who have held their wheat until the present time will get a very handsome return for the labor involved in its production. The rising prices have caused considerable speculation on the part of the Western farmer as to the possibility of the crop being commandeered at a fixed price by the Canadian government to be turned over to the British government. The proposition made by the Canadian Council of Agriculture last month was for a minimum price of \$1.50 with a maximum of \$1.90 or a fixed