

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, October 2nd, 1912

## CAN'T STAND THE STRAIN

The Canadian Manufacturers' association held its annual convention in Toronto last week and the president delivered his annual address breathing deep love to the Motherland. We thought the time opportune to ask if the manufacturers were ready to help bring Canada closer to the Motherland by reducing the tariff on British imports, so we sent the following telegram to the president:—

Winnipeg, Sept. 25, 1912.

"Nathaniel Curry, Esq.,  
President Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Ottawa.

"The Western Grain Growers are anxious to know if the Manufacturers' association is willing to join hands with them in an effort to bind Canada closer to the Motherland, by urging the government to reduce the tariff on British imports to one-half that charged on American imports with a view of complete free trade with the Motherland in ten years. The Grain Growers feel that this would be a tangible form of showing their patriotism and would develop a much greater trade with the Motherland and thus strengthen the ties of Empire, and show the world that Canada's loyalty to the Motherland is deep and abiding and not merely words. It would also show the world that Canada stands behind the Motherland to uphold the traditions of the Anglo-Saxon race and keep the Union Jack in the proud position it has held for a thousand years. Such an action would also be undoubted proof that Canada has no desire for political union with the United States. Would you kindly bring this matter before your annual convention now in session in Ottawa and ascertain if the manufacturers present are willing to join hands with the Grain Growers in this great imperial scheme."

This is what the organized farmers demanded at the "Siege of Ottawa" on December 11, 1910, and have since adhered to. We felt that by emphasizing the patriotic feature of closer trade with the Motherland that the manufacturers would enthusiastically and with one accord cooperate with the Grain Growers, as the manufacturers have on every occasion declared their loyalty and love of the Motherland. What was our amazement to see in press dispatches that when the president read our telegram to the manufacturers' convention it was greeted with laughter. We received the following reply on Thursday afternoon:—

Ottawa, Sept. 26, 1912.

"The Grain Growers' Guide,  
Winnipeg, Man.

"The association acknowledges receipt of the message from the Grain Growers' Guide dealing with two questions. First, Canada's loyalty to the Motherland; second, the question of a larger preference on British goods. Our association believes that all Canadians, regardless of their calling, are doing what they can to promote the feeling of loyalty and closer union between all parts of the British Empire. The attitude of the Canadian Manufacturers' association on the British Preference has been set forth in resolutions adopted after long and careful consideration of the varied interests involved. It believes that no adequate consideration of such a sweeping proposal as that embodied in your telegram, received only this morning in the closing hours of the convention, is possible. If any organization or organizations representative of all the great producing interests of both the middle and the farther West desire a conference on any matter looking to the advancement of Canada as a whole, or an integral part of the British Empire, this association will gladly co-operate.

N. CURRY,

President."

What a disappointment it was after the loud protestations of loyalty by the manufacturers to learn that their loyalty was only in words. They still stand by their resolutions that they are in favor of the British Preference, but that there is already enough preference. Yet they know that Canada is today taxing British imports more heavily than American imports. When

the test of their loyalty reaches to their pockets the manufacturers can't stand the strain. In view of the conference suggested by President Curry we felt that the Grain Growers would be glad of any assistance in securing closer trade with Great Britain, so we gave the following statement to the press on Friday last:—

"The Western Grain Growers have repeatedly declared for an increase in the British Preference and eventual free trade with the Motherland. If the Canadian Manufacturers' association is prepared to assist the Grain Growers towards this end there is no doubt but that the Grain Growers will be glad of the assistance of the manufacturers, as they realize that the manufacturers have great influence in the tariff making. Freer trade with the Motherland would reduce the cost of living to every Canadian and bind closer the greatest overseas Dominion to Great Britain. Every loyal Canadian will be glad to know that the Canadian Manufacturers' association is not opposed to lower taxes on British imports. If the Manufacturers' association is prepared for a conference with the producers to assist in securing free trade with Great Britain in ten years it will be a welcome message to every Western Grain Grower.

"THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE."

This is merely the attitude of the Grain Growers on the British Preference expressed in a few words. We know that every Grain Grower in the West will be only too glad to have the hearty assistance of the Manufacturers' association in having the tariff wall against Great Britain broken down.

These telegrams which we have interchanged were published simultaneously in the leading newspapers all over Canada. It now remains to be seen if the manufacturers have the patriotism they have so long boasted of. If they fail to co-operate in increasing the British Preference then the president's telegram was only a bluff. They must now either "produce the goods" or keep quiet on loyalty and admit the "communism of self." Canada cannot be drawn closer to the Motherland by noise. The Ottawa Citizen, one of the leading government supporters of Ontario, takes the manufacturers severely to task for their reply, as seen in another column.

## SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

Here is a letter we have just received:—

Myrtle, Man., Sept. 27, 1912.

"Grain Growers' Guide,  
Winnipeg, Man.

"Dear Sirs:—You ask as to my success with the car of barley shipped to Minneapolis last winter. Andrew Mitchell, of Myrtle, and I going together made up a car of barley which we shipped over the Great Northern Railway to Minneapolis on 12th of December last year. Without going into details, which can be verified, we made a profit over what we could have got in the home market of \$237.00. If we had not had to pay the duty of 30 cents per bushel we would have had a clear profit of \$646.00.

"Hoping this information may be of service to you, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) PETER WRIGHT."

Mr. Wright thought he made \$237.00 by shipping barley to Minneapolis, and any other farmer would have thought so. But according to the Winnipeg Telegram and Canadian Manufacturers' association he must have lost. Surely the farmers will not be fooled much longer. Mr. Wright is one of the directors of the Manitoba Grain Growers' association and will substantiate the facts set forth in his letter.

## TELEGRAM IN TROUBLE

The Winnipeg Telegram has gotten itself into a peck of trouble over quoting comparisons between Winnipeg and Minneapolis wheat prices. A few weeks ago the Telegram was most gleeful over the fact that

Winnipeg was much higher than Minneapolis on contract grades. The spread has been gradually lessening until now Minneapolis is higher than Winnipeg, and the spread in favor of Minneapolis will steadily grow. Here are the quotations for three days last week, and it must be remembered that Winnipeg wheat is fully a grade higher than Minneapolis:—

Wheat		
September 24—	Winnipeg.	Minneapolis.
Grade—		
1 hard .....	95	91½-92
1 northern .....	93	87½-91½
2 northern .....	94	85½-89¼
3 northern .....	91	83-87
September 25—		
1 hard .....	90	91½-92½
1 northern .....	88	88½-92%
2 northern .....	88	86½-90
3 northern .....	86	84½-87%
September 26—		
1 hard .....	89	90%-91
1 northern .....	87	87½-90%
2 northern .....	87	85-89%
3 northern .....	85	82½-86%

The Telegram is valiantly keeping the prices on its front page every day, even when it is going against them. They deserve credit for keeping it up. We hope they will keep the comparisons on their front page for the next three months. When the Minneapolis prices were higher the Telegram shouted that Canada had the best market and that reciprocity would cause a loss to Canadian farmers. Now, when the southern market is the best, The Telegram, not to be outdone, swallows itself and says that Minneapolis and Winnipeg prices are both based on the world's market and that therefore Minneapolis market cannot be any better than Winnipeg. You can't beat the Telegram. It will argue from prices when opportunity affords, but double up like a jackknife and hunt up another argument when prices change. If a man took the Telegram doctrine for his financial barometer he would never know whether he was a millionaire or a pauper.

## SHAUGHNESSY REFUSES

Last week we published an article showing conclusively that the railways would be congested this fall and winter worse than last season, and urged that preparations be made immediately for opening the route to the south for the relief of Western farmers. Our statement appeared in the Montreal papers and came to the attention of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the C.P.R., on September 24, and he gave the press the following statement in reply:—

"Everybody in the West appears satisfied, and there is no reason why they should not be, for the farmers of the West are the richest agricultural people in the world. The grain crop will be a bountiful one, but the wet weather is retarding the harvest and delaying the movement of the crop, and this will mean a very short shipping season. We made ample preparations for the harvest before it was ready, and under the existing conditions we can only do the best we can.

"I do not anticipate the difficulties some of our friends are predicting regarding the movement of grain from the West. Of course there will be a tremendous rush. I trust we will always have that—but with a reasonable degree of patience everything will work out all right in the end."

Asked about the suggestion of the Grain Growers' Guide that the rates via the south should be secured, Sir Thomas replied: "We have heard so many fears expressed in the past that there must be an extraordinary condition in the grain traffic that we have become rather accustomed to it and realize that many people are given to exaggeration. There will be difficulties of course, as there are always difficulties in connection with the handling of so much grain during the short season before