The Brain Growers' Buide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, December 2nd, 1914

RELIEF OF BELGIAN SUFFERERS

News dispatches daily tell of the sufferings of millions of Belgian, people whose homes have been destroyed, and who, in many cases, have been driven from the land of their birth thru no fault of their own. There is a very widespread feeling thruout Canada that every effort should be made to send relief to these unfortunate people, and in fact several trainloads of food and clothing have already been collected and are being forwarded from week to week. The railway companies and express companies of Canada have very generously agreed to forward free of charge any articles addressed to the "Belgian Relief Fund," and Great Britain has already sent one warship to carry Canadian contributions to the Belgian people. A "Belgian Relief Committee" has been organized in Canada under the patronage of the Governor-General, Premier Borden and ex-Premier Laurier with its branches in various parts of Canada. In Winnipeg A. J. H. Dubuc, Belgian Consul, is in charge of the work, and any supplies of clothing or food or anything else for the relief of the Belgians sent to Mr. Dubuc will be handled by the railway companies free of charge and will be forwarded by Mr. Dubuc to the Central Belgian Committee at Montreal, and from thence it will be jointly in charge of the British and Belgian Governments. Simply address parcels, "A. J. H. Dubuc, Belgian Consul, Winnipeg, Man." - Contributions are urgently needed for clothes, new or old, for women, men and children; blankets of wool or cotton, shoes, flour, oatmeal, sugar, dried fruits, dried vegetables, salted fish, bacon, pork, and beans, and other canned eatables, etc., or other material which would be of service. Mr. Dubuc is also arranging that contributions from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta shall be credited separately so that each province will receive due credit for whatever is given. Any of our readers who wish to make cash contributions may send it direct to The Guide and mark it for the "Belgian Relief Fund" and it will be acknowledged in The Guide every week. As soon as our fund reaches \$500 we will forward it to Mr. Dubuc, and will continue to do so from time to time. We believe that there is no nobler work that can be done by our western farmers than to send relief to the stricken Belgians, who are without home and without food, and with very little clothing to protect them with winter close upon them.

UNIFORM COURSE OF STUDY

sented the farmers' case in conferences with governments, commissions and the representatives of other interests, has never failed to impress those whom they have met. In order that the Grain Growers' Association and the U.F.A. may increase and widen their power and influence, however, it is necessary that the grasp of the problems of the farmer and of the citizen which is possessed by the leaders of the movement, should be extended to as many as possible of the rank and file of the associations thruout the West. This has now been made possible by the preparation of a course of study which is being published by the Canadian Council of Agriculture. The course, comprises 16 papers each dealing with some subject of vital interest to the farmers and indeed to all the people of Canada, such as the Better Farming Movement, the Rural Home, the Rural School, the Rural Church, the Tariff, Direct Legislation, Taxation, the Women's Movement, and Public Ownership.

Each paper has been prepared by an authority on the subject, and its study will give the student a thorough insight and understanding of the problem dealt with. R. McKenzie, the secretary of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, and of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, is now sending out the papers and the study classes should commence their meetings at once. To assist students we hope to publish an article in The Guide each week dealing with the lessons in turn. The first of these articles will appear in the next issue of The Guide. If the course is taken up as it deserves to be the approaching winter will be the most profitable educationally and in every way, in the history of the organized farmers' movement.

THE WAR

Chief interest in the war during the past week has been centred in the northeastern theatre, where the Russian armies are fighting tremendous battles with the Germans and Austrians. Unofficial reports a few days ago claimed sweeping victory for the Russians between the Vistula and Warthe rivers in Poland and East Prussia, but the official statements show that the positions fortified by the Germans are still holding out, tho severe losses of men and guns have been inflicted upon them. An Austrian army, however, has been routed southeast of Cracow, the capital of Galicia, and over 7,000 prisoners taken. Along the line in France and Belgium there has peen little change in the position. At a number of points attacks and counter attacks have been delivered and a few trenches have changed hands, but on the whole the position is practically stationary. On Thursday, November 26, the British battleship Bulwark, with 780 men on board, was blown up off Sheerness, and only 14 of her crew survive. The disas-ter is supposed to have been caused by an explosion in the ship's own magazine. sumer, but will continue to sell the loaf for 5 cents. The Winnipeg bakers are to be commended on their patriotic action, and it is to be hoped that other firms manufacturing and selling the necessaries of life will follow their example and refrain from adding to the misery of the unemployed by raising the cost of food.

SURTAX FOR MANITOBA?

Realization of the fact that land speculation is a bar to progress is gaining ground so rapidly in Western Canada that it is difficult to realize that a few short years ago every town and city in the West had in its pay a professional real estate booster, whose chief business was to attract speculators in town lots and farm lands. The latest important body to condemn real estate speculation is the Manitoba Union of Municipalities, which met in convention in Winnipeg, November 24, 25 and 26. The convention not only condemned land speculation, but agreed that the way to lessen the evil was to tax the speculator, and accordingly it was resolved to memorialize the Provincial Government asking that the municipalities be given power to levy a special tax upon uncultivated land owned by nonresidents of the municipality in which it is situated. We are glad to see that the municipal authorities of Manitoba, like those of Saskatchewan and Alberta, are alive to the fact that the speculator who holds land out of use in order to make a profit, is a parasite upon the community, who gathers to himself wealth which he does not produce, and as such is a fit subject for special taxation. There is, however, in this resolution an indication of selfishness which calls for criticism. Idle land is just as much a burden upon the community when it is owned by a man living near by as it is when it belongs to a speculator living in England, or for that matter in Germany. Land speculation is just as much an evil when it is indulged in by a hardworking farmer as when the speculator is one of the idle rich. We hope that when the Manitoba Union of Municipalities goes before the government to ask for the necessary legislation it will seek power to place a surtax on all idle land, whether in town, city, or rural municipality and whether owned by resident or non-resident.

SOLDIERS AND DRINK

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During the past two or three years there has been a demand from many quarters for the establishment of an organized and uniform course, designed to guide and assist the farmers of the West in their study of the many problems with which the organized farmers are grappling in their effort to improve conditions and uplift the life of the rural community. It has long been realized that' in working for economic and social progress, as in most other things, knowledge is power. The leaders of the grain growers' movement have shown on many occasions that they have a wide and intimate knowledge of the conditions which surround the western farmers and the ability with which they have pre-

Winnipeg bakers have announced that in spite of the higher cost of flour, sugar, horse feed and other raw materials of their business, they will not advance the price of bread to the conmand the greatest possible physical efficiency in every man in the service from the private in the trenches to the Minister of War at the seat of government. That is why Lord Kitchener has made an appeal to the public to refrain from offering strong drink to the soldiers who are undergoing training in England preparatory to proceeding to the front, and why Lord Kitchener's sister. Mrs. Frances E. J. Parker, has issued an appeal to the soldiers themselves to take a pledge of total abstinence at-least during the war. The late Lord Roberts was also an advocate of teetotalism for soldiers, and his testimony is given in a leaflet which has been printed in red, white and blue, adorned