



THE MAIL BAG

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. Each correspondent should remember that there are hundreds who wish to discuss a problem or offer suggestions. We cannot publish all the immense number of letters received and ask that each correspondent will keep his letter as short as possible. 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. The aim is to make this department of great value to readers and no letters not of public interest will be published.

MR. TREGILLUS VIEWS

Editor, GUIDE:—The letter of Mr. D. A. Ross, of Glenora, in your issue of February 23 deserves more than passing notice. I have felt that something of the character he proposes would be a great help. Our provincial conventions are growing so rapidly as to be too large to deal with every question, it seems to me that a district union, or district convention, would be able to take up many questions of a local or sectional character and deal with them more intelligently than could possibly be done at the convention proper, which would be much relieved and could deal more satisfactorily with the broader and more important questions. We, as farmers, would then have graduated bodies, increasing in power from the local unions to the National Council of Agriculture for Canada.

W. F. TREGILLUS,  
Vice-Pres., U.F.A.  
Calgary Alta.

HOW IT IS DONE

Editor, GUIDE:—I take the liberty of sending you a few lines. I feel so pleased at the way in which things of interest to the Grain Growers' movement are progressing at the present time in this north-western part of the province. Since the convention at Brandon last December, the ten delegates who attended from this branch came home full of enthusiasm, and it has proved contagious and everybody seems to be affected with it more or less, and as a result our branch has passed our high water mark and we have only had two meetings this year as yet. We are already well up towards the 150 mark, having an accession of over 50 members at last meeting, one member, our president, bringing in a list of 17 by his own personal effort. I followed with 11 and James McCurdy with 10, and others with several members each. We aim at a membership of 200 this year.

J. A. FORTUNE.  
Gilbert Plains, Man.

HAYSEED GROWS TOUGH

Editor, GUIDE:—You often hear farmers called "hayseeds." Well, in early days, when hayseed was scarce on this prairie the combines and monopolies of all kinds tramped hayseed in the ground and fed on the green growth that sprang up, and the more hayseed that was tramped in the ground the more it grew, until now we have a compact sod over this sunny Canada of ours, from the Pacific Ocean to the foot-hills of the Rockies, and are uniting so strongly that hayseed resists the tramping of combines (cattle) and monopolies (mules) and the pasture is growing so strong and tough so that the cattle and mules do not care to feed on it, and before a great while they will die of starvation.

W. E. OBERLIN.  
Broomhill, Sask.

NURSERY STOCK

Editor, GUIDE:—I have just noticed letter from "Nurseryman" in your issue of February 9, which is all right as far as it goes and quite true, except in one particular. It states that it costs about 30 per cent. of the price to deliver stock sold through agents. If this had been put at 60 per cent. it would be quite close to the actual cost, counting commissions, transportation, delivering to buyers, collecting, remitting, losses, etc. Some nurseries place the cost at 65 per cent. This shows how the farmer pays through the nose when buying nursery stock

from irresponsible agents, instead of going direct to some responsible home dealer.

ANOTHER NURSERYMAN.

THE SIMPLEST WAY

Editor, GUIDE:—I can see no better or simpler way of working for the Grain Growers' Association than by spreading the circulation of your paper. I have handed along my copies to others and they all agree that it fills the bill to a nicety.

W.H.E.

FARM LABOR SUGGESTION

Editor, GUIDE:—Enclosed please find \$1 for my subscription to THE GUIDE. It is without doubt the best dollar's worth I have had for many a day. I am glad the farmers could not be content to work for trusts and monopolies all their life.

I have seen in THE GUIDE a lot about securing farm labor. Now, it seems to me that the biggest difficulty in this line is because the farmers cannot give employment the year around. Would it not be possible for the farmers to start a manufacturing plant in the west to

have been receiving a sample copy of your valuable magazine, and we have subscribed. I am also sending subscriptions for two others. I am a true friend of the farmers, also a thorough farmer's wife, and as much interested in the subjects of most of the articles printed in your paper as it is possible for a farmer's wife to be, and read them with interest. The woman's page is alright, and I for one would like to exchange views on certain industries pertaining to the farm on which I have spent a good many years, and I trust not unprofitable ones, for I think the right kind of a farmer's wife can do a good deal to help make a small farm profitable. You may hear from me later.

JUST A FARMER'S WIFE.

THANKS FARMERS' COMPANY

Editor, GUIDE:—A few weeks ago this letter should have been written, as it is the principal reason of this writing to publicly thank the Grain Growers' Grain Company for the favor they have done me in the case of a car of wheat which I ordered the Cartwright elevator operator to ship for me to the Grain Company. I exonerate this man from any crooked work as he does not buy for any of the line elevator companies. In shipping my car he either did not send the shipping bill, or it must have been mis-carried as the Grain Company got no record of this car. He also billed it, "Advise Jas. Munro, Cartwright." For the car I got all the bills, but not getting any word of this car, after a time I sent the Company a note asking for some advise in the matter. Two days later, receiving a note from the Grain Company that they had not heard of this car before, and therefore knew nothing about it. The next thing I did was to send the Company all the bills I had and told them to work it out the best they could. This they did in a hurry. They went to the head office of the railroad company and once there gave their bonds before they could get a new shipping bill for the missing car. A few days later



Threshing Outfit Crossing Battle River near Louisville, Alta.

make their own farm machinery and thus find steady work for men? The plant could be run at its full capacity in the winter and the slack time in summer, and closed down in the busy time to let the men work on the farms. Of course, this would mean a lot of capital but could not the government be induced to bonus such an enterprise? It would provide steady employment for laboring men and cheaper machinery for the farmers. It would also save many a poor man from being sold out because he could not pay \$200 for about \$50 worth of machinery. I would like to advise my fellow farmers, through your paper, never to give any machine company security on their chattels, no matter how their slick-tongued agents tried to get it. I have had a taste of that and lost my only two milking cows. Now I do not intend to stay on the farm, but if you continue to send me THE GUIDE I will be pleased to get it, as it is a friend of the laboring man as well as the farmer, and not like most of the papers who say "God help the rich, the poor can beg."

JAMES BECKETT.  
Kenville, Man.

A TRUE FARMERS WIFE

Editor, GUIDE:—Someone has been good enough to send in our name and we

I had my full return for my wheat, without a cent of cost and without any annoyance or trouble of any kind.

Now, the point I wish to make here is, that if I had been dealing with any of the other commission men, do you think this big blunder would have worked out so smoothly? I leave the solving of this thing to those who may have had some experience in such a case as I have. In the meantime, I sincerely thank the Grain Growers' Grain Company for the prompt and business-like manner in which they worked out the crooked thing.

JAMES MUNRO, Sr.  
Cartwright, Man.

THE IMPLEMENT REMEDY

Editor, GUIDE:—I have only just become a subscriber to your paper and am gratified to see how it is upholding the interests of the farmer. In your issue of February 9 you reported the secretary of the C.M.A. as saying, "It is in the power of the C.M.A. to paralyze the industries of the whole Dominion." Was the situation less serious, we should feel inclined to laugh at such a sweeping assertion. And yet, despite its seeming ambiguity it is true. Take the case of the implement manufacturers. What kind of a hold have they over the farmer? A full Nelson—a strangle hold! They

know that the farmer must have implements when his crop has ripened. He would be the worst kind of a fool if he refused to buy a binder because the price was not right. And none know this better than the manufacturers. And do you suppose that if the tariff were taken off the American manufactured implements that it would tend to lower the prices? I doubt it. Why is it that the Canadian Manufacturers will not underbid their American competitors? Because they know that the farmer is absolutely bound to have implements, and so long as the present state of affairs exist, they will keep up their prices. And why is it that the same binder for which we have to pay \$160 in the west can be, and is, sold in England for \$40 less? Does not this show something radically wrong? The manufacturers are "organized" against the farmers. There is a remedy for this, and it is up to you to let every farmer in the three provinces know this remedy. The Grain Growers' Grain Company is a business concern to protect the interests of the farming community. Let the Grain Growers' Grain Company start up in the implement business and they will have the support of every farmer from Nova Scotia to Vancouver. The time is past when the farmer must sit helpless and watch this manufacturing octopus out-shylocking Shylock. Let the farmer but realize his present weakness and out of that knowledge shall come forth a power that shall sweep the ogre of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association out of existence.

"DYNAMITE."

SASKATCHEWAN GAME LAWS

Editor, GUIDE:—We, the members of the Grain Growers' Association, held our second meeting February 5, and a good number of important questions were under discussion, one of which is in connection with our game law, the shooting of our favorite bird, the prairie chicken.

I see by our last GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE that the law has changed a little along this line, but not enough yet. The Game Law is more to suit the town sports than the farmer who feeds them, and the season is still at a time when the farmer is busy, and we think it is nothing but fair play that the farmer should have a voice in this matter, and have a little sport as well as our town friends.

We have seen our town people kill chickens by the wholesale and then leave them to rot. Such a state of affairs should be stopped, each hunter should only be allowed to shoot so many and anyone caught hunting on another man's farm without permission should be liable to a fine.

We, the members of Gorhen Grain Growers' Association, would like to hear others comment on this matter.

A. CRADDOCK.

Carnduff, Sask.

PROFITABLE ADVERTISING

Editor, GUIDE:—By advertising in your valuable paper I have sold all stock of breeding age, so please change my ad. and offer only young stock for sale. I think the farmers should patronize THE GUIDE more with their advertising. Wishing you every success.

G. A. HOPE.

Wadena, Sask.

ERADICATING THISTLES

Editor, GUIDE:—Seeing enquiry in THE GUIDE as to the best mode of eradicating Canadian thistles, perhaps my experience may be useful. Three years ago I detected eight or ten square rods of thistles in my crop. When they were in full bloom, but none ripe, I mowed them; the next spring I watched but they were so late starting that I began to think that they were conquered; but no, they began to show up at last. I then dug out every one in sight with a manure fork and continued doing so for a month or more, as any could be seen peeping through the ground, by which means I completely killed them. This is a lot of work, but I do not grudge it, as if let alone they would be all over the farm. Now, of course, where they are spread over much ground they could not be handled in that way, but the same principle holds good. Keep them from breathing by turning down with a plow every time they show up for one season and I believe it will kill them. The work must be thorough.

J. M. McLAREN.