



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. BOWER'S STATEMENT

To the members of the U. F. A. and other Farmers interested.
Fellow Farmers and Friends:

It becomes my duty as president of the U. F. A. to reply to some of the criticisms launched at the directorate of our association as to the stand they have taken on the reciprocity question now before us. We offer no apology to anyone for doing as we are doing. We have before us the example of the directorate of the other provincial associations affiliated with us, and although political influences have been falsely attributed to them, they have one and all, regardless of their past party affiliations, come boldly forward and renounced any party or policy opposed to reciprocity. I have pointed out before and I repeat that our executive, at no time, attempts to outline the policy of the association, but that in every instance they try to faithfully carry out the policy that has been evolved by the work and thought of the members, condensed and outlined at our conventions. At all of these the most unanimous and hearty support has been given to the policy adopted by us years ago, namely, support to any scheme that would make for the extension of markets. Above all, the freedom of entering the American markets has been most coveted, the great advantage being plain to all who gave it due consideration. To those who studied it more deeply, the advantage was much more apparent and they believed what Mr. Ames, the anti-reciprocity candidate, admitted that "this freedom means the undermining of the out works of the system of protection and the breaking down of the system all along the line," a consummation devoutly prayed for by every intelligent farmer who resents the enforced enslavement of his class and of the masses in general to the protected interests.

To those who have given it deeper study, other great advantages are apparent, more particularly to this Province of Alberta. The unavoidable long rail haul to the East and the discriminatory rates to the West, and in our own province, have been a millstone around the neck of production in Alberta, has hindered the inter-provincial trade that should exist with B. C., and has been the chief instrument, together with the protective tariff in the hands of shrewd manipulators, to build up trusts and monopolies which to the square inch of populated area can outclass anything of the kind that exists in United States. None know better than those who have undertaken the work the difficulty of bringing into effect lower railway tolls, and we welcome reciprocity as a tremendous leverage in forcing down these tolls and breaking up these monopolies, thus giving us freer access to the markets of the world, freer and more profitable interchange of all commodities with the residents of B. C., making possible the importation of things we need, but cannot produce, without having to pay the extortionate railway rates or the tariff rates from across the line. The stand of the directorate has been taken because these things are true and because it has been the established policy of the association.

We have presented it in our demands to the government and Parliament of Canada as our policy, with the avowed

determination to support those who would support our policy. In this we are consistent, and, as president of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, I am proud to know that not one of the members of the council in any province of the Dominion has gone back on it, be he Grit or Tory. It is also becoming the established policy of our association to demand the system of the Referendum. Here again we must be consistent. The life or term of the government had not expired but they have called a general election to determine by a Referendum vote of the people their desire on reciprocity, and anyone who is in favor of the principle of the Referendum must be unfaithful to his principles if he at this time permits any other question to cloud the issue. Here then is a strange proposition. The government have in a partial measure acceded to our demands, and to a full measure acceded to our demands in natural products, with an acknowledgement by both government and opposition that it is but a leader to better things. This being so, we would be less than men were we to go back on our former position and not bid them God-speed or give reciprocity our support.



R. L. Borden speaking at Grain Growers' Picnic, Shoal Lake, July 5, 1911

Now friends, while it is not a pleasant duty to perform, I must allude to the vicious personal attacks made upon myself and our other officials both in this and the other provinces. The deliberate untruth has been voiced that we are political office seekers. While these lies are made out of whole cloth they attempt to give color to their statements because the farmers have demanded that they be represented in certain executive positions. We have demanded that independent commissions be appointed to control certain departments and that the farmers be represented on the boards. Our demand that a commission be appointed to operate the elevators has been acceded to. It was then agreed between the provincial associations that in order to secure representation satisfactory to the farmers that each provincial association would nominate a man, with the understanding that in the event of any of these men being appointed each association would agree to accept that appointment, even though the appointee were not a resident of their province, so long as he was the nominee of and satisfactory to the other provincial associations. In accordance with that agreement each

province nominated their man, in each case the application being made by the association executive after finding out if their man was suitable and available. The Alberta nomination, in which every director in the province concurred, fell on me, the only advance made by me being the intimation that I would be available. The anti-reciprocity millers and elevator men are tumbling over each other in their wirepulling and eagerness to have men appointed on that commission who are suitable to them, yet we do not hear them being accused as government supporters and party heelers.

I think I can safely speak for the other two farmer nominees as well as myself when I say that if a reasonable percentage of our members decided that I was not qualified for the position I would absolutely refuse to accept the position offered me. The directors, in making these nominations were not setting a precedent. About three years ago when there was an unfilled position on the board of railway commissioners, we requested that a farmer be placed there. Manitoba nominated Mr. Graham, of Pomeroy; Saskatchewan followed suit endorsing the nomination. At our convention considerable objection was offered to his nomination on the grounds that he was not known in Alberta, and that we had farmers whom we knew were well qualified. These objections were overruled because we concluded our chances were better in having a farmer selected by uniting with the other provinces in naming a man. As that position has not yet been filled I can venture the assertion that the united associations will soon again be heard from in no uncertain way demanding the appointment of some farmer in whom they have confidence.

Now then, fellow farmers, though I have no fear of many being caught by such clap-trap that your officials are office seekers, I very well know that if uncontradicted some who did not know the truth might be deceived. I offer an unconditional challenge to all, and defy anyone to offer a tittle of proof for their statement that such is the case. You are being tested now as Canadian farmers were never tested before. I appeal to you that in this crisis you be true to yourselves and to your country, and that you reject

READY FOR WORK

Before our readers see this issue the election will be history. Let us now devote the Mail Bag to other pressing needs. What are the organized farmers going to do during the coming winter. What plans are being matured by our readers. Let us have them for publication. Make the Mail Bag a clearing house for ideas. Keep your letters as short as possible.—The Editor.

increase in the value of the land. Landowners, great and small, will be the principal beneficiaries of this pact.

"Every permanent improvement of the soil, every railway and road, every bettering of the general condition of society, every facility given for production, every stimulus supplied to consumption, raises (ground) rent. The landowner sleeps but thrives."—Thorold Rogers, Political Economy.

Thorold Rogers was right and the following words with regard to the effect of the Elgin-Marcy Treaty of 1854 corroborate his contention:

"Since the Maritime Provinces were peopled there never was a decade when prosperity was so marked among all classes, when land rose in value so quickly, when the wharves were so lined with shipping, when the workmen had such steady employment, when the farmers had such a good market, as between 1854 and 1866 when we had reciprocal trade with the United States of America."—Sir Louis Davis.

Admitting then that the economic result of reciprocity will ultimately resolve itself into an increase in the value of land and consequently will make it harder for the workers to obtain land, reciprocity and nothing more will produce little change in our social conditions. If the reduced cost of living will be swallowed up by increased rents what will it profit the working man in the long run.

Reduced taxation of the peoples' food and clothing must be accompanied by the increased taxation of the land values. This will act like a two-edged sword breaking up tariff monopoly on the one side and land monopoly on the other. The reason that the workers in Great Britain have not reaped any great benefit from free trade, is because until recently her statesmen have not recognized the relation between land value taxation and free trade. That Richard Cobden recognized this relation, is evident from his words in 1841:

"It is a war on the pockets that is being carried on; and I hope to see societies formed calling upon the legislature to revalue the land, and put a tax on upon it in proportion to that of other countries, and in proportion to the wants of the state. I will go on collaterally for the agitation for the total and immediate repeal of the corn laws, and I shall contribute my mite for such a purpose. There must be a total abolition of all taxes upon food and we should raise at least £20,000,000 a year upon the

land, and then the owners would be richer than any landed proprietary in the world."

The British government is now slowly, too slowly, following out the policy advocated by Cobden. When will the government of Canada awake to the justice of raising public revenue by land value taxation? Not until the voice of the people is heard emphatically demanding this great reform. Reciprocity is a good thing and can but add to what we are pleased to call the prosperity of the country, but until we make a radical change in our system of taxation the landowners are sure to get the lion's share of any prosperity that is going.

John Stuart Mills wisely says, "When the object is to raise the permanent condition of a people, small means do not merely produce small effects: they produce no effect at all." This is a day of small things so far as Canadian politics are concerned. Reciprocity is admitted to be the greatest issue in Canadian politics since confederation. So much the worse for Canadian politics. However, it is an issue, and that is a welcome change from the old campaign of mud slinging and scandal mongering. The decision of

with disdain the seductions of the unprincipled politician and the disguised agents of the mergers and trusts, who are willing to move heaven and earth if possible, to sow the seeds of jealousy and mistrust between us, knowing full well that in our union, in independence and in our undivided vote lies the danger to their craft.

JAMES BOWER.

Red Deer, Alta.

RECIPROCITY AND THEN—WHAT?

Editor, Guide:—It is not with the idea of damning reciprocity with faint praise that these lines are written, but surely no sane man will contend that reciprocity will cure all our social and economic ills. However great the merits of this pact may be it is very evident that we shall have to "cut deeper" if we wish to permanently improve the social condition of the great mass of the common people. Admitting that reciprocity will reduce the cost of living by reducing the price of fruit and vegetables and will give the farmer better prices for his staple products, wheat, oats, barley, etc., by enlarging his market, the ultimate result will be an