

with agricultural, political, social and economic conditions and questions. The readers of The Guide have had more information on these subjects placed before them than the readers of any other paper in the country, and it is generally admitted that the farmers of Western Canada are better informed on economic questions than they are in other parts of the country. Naturally it is impossible to publish in The Guide all the information available on these questions. To supply the demand, however, The Guide began collecting and investigating books dealing with these subjects from all corners of the earth. As suitable books were discovered they were announced in The Guide and our readers began to purchase. Slowly but steadily the demand grew until it was found necessary to collect these books into a catalog. The demand for reading matter became keener and the variety of subjects greater till The Guide found it necessary to put out a catalog of books different from that published by anybody else in the land. The establishment of our Book Department and the publication of our book catalog was largely to fill the requirements and demands of our readers to give them information and assistance in meeting the problems of the country. It has taken years of labor to locate and investigate and select the best books on economics, sociology, politics, agriculture, fiction, biography, etc., but we consider that the work so done is a part of the service which The Guide should render to its readers and a steadily growing demand for books has proven the wisdom of this belief. Thousands of farm homes are now selecting reading matter from the book catalog of The Guide and are building for themselves a library which will grow in value and usefulness as the years go by. There is no better investment than good books. Children who are brought up to read good literature in their own homes will have open to them sources of knowledge, instruction and pleasure denied to those who have never learnt the value of books. Any person may secure a copy of The Guide book catalog free upon request.

PRIDE OF PROFESSION

There is possibly no class of people who as a whole have exhibited less pride in their own occupation or profession than farmers. They have occupied a position in the background for so many years that many of them seem to think that it is their rightful position. "Oh, I am only an old moss back" is an expression heard among farmers altogether too frequently. Farmers' wives also are too much inclined to apologize for the cut of their clothes when compared with their town or city friends. As long as the farmers and their wives have not proper pride in their own occupation and in rural life generally it will be difficult to command the proper respect from people engaged in other callings. The day has largely passed when city people sneer at or poke fun at the people from the country, but the country people themselves have not yet quite realized this fact themselves and are great sinners in this respect. Too often they have an idea when they go to the city on a visit that they are very "green" and are continually attracting attention by their awkwardness. There is not a tenth part of the truth in this that they believe. They may not be entirely familiar with city life conditions yet they are not "green" and there is nobody laughing at them. The country boy visiting the city is not so "green" as the city boy visiting the country and the same applies to their elders. It is time the farmers and their wives ceased entirely to apologize for being farmers. There is no reason why they should apologize. They are engaged in the very highest occupation or profession in the land and to make a success of their work requires on the average a greater degree of intelligence, industry and perseverance than is required in any other occupation. The very fact that they are inclined to consider themselves less shrewd than their city friends renders them an easier prey to the crooked schemes of the city promoters and also makes it more difficult for them to assume and demand the position and the rights to which they are entitled. Let us have an end of the

apologizing attitude and stand upon the dignity of our calling. We will respect ourselves more by so doing and our own self respect will bring the respect of others.

The liquor dealers of Manitoba claim to be greatly alarmed at the loss which will fall upon the farmers if prohibition closes the breweries and reduces the demand for malting barley. It is natural to suppose that if people stop drinking beer and other liquors, they and their families will be able to eat more bacon, and since it takes four or five pounds of barley to produce a pound of pork and only an ounce or two to make a pint of beer, the farmers are not likely to worry very much.

Hon. Arthur Meighen, Solicitor-General, has pointed out to us that the interest on the Canadian war debt and also the pension payments are being met out of the current revenue, and that on this account the war stamp is really providing revenue for war purposes.

The Saskatchewan and Alberta farmers' parliaments will soon be held and the world will again know that the farmers of Western Canada are gaining in strength and are certain to accomplish their purpose in the near future.

If you have a friend who believes in the beauties of the protective tariff, give him a copy of "Protection or Free Trade" by Henry George. If he will read it his conversion will not be long delayed.

If the Dominion Government has any doubts as to the demand for "free wheat" the chances to settle the matter are excellent.

The development of co-operative trading among the farmers of the West has saved them an immense amount of money already and the movement has only begun.

A farmer who believes in Free Trade should do something in support of the principle.



DIRECTORS AND WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF THE MANITOBA GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION FOR 1916

Back row (left to right): Mrs. F. Williamson, Strathclair; Robt. Fisher, Oakbank; Mrs. J. Barrett, Bagot; Albert McGregor, Arden; Mrs. Albert McGregor, Arden. Second row standing: Mrs. J. S. Wood, Oakville; Peter Wright, Myrtle; W. H. English, Harding; Andrew Graham, Pomeroy; Frank Simpson, Shoal Lake; T. W. Knowles, Emerson; F. H. Weinke, Stony Mountain. Three women standing: Mrs. W. H. English, Harding (Women's Provincial Secretary); Mrs. Josiah Bennett, Pine Creek Station; Mrs. J. J. Searf, Dauphin. Front row, seated: Mrs. S. E. Gee, Virden; J. S. Wood, Oakville (Vice-President); R. C. Henderson, Culross (President); Mrs. A. Tooth, Eli (Second Vice-President); R. J. Avison, Gilbert Plains. Two of the directors, F. D. McArthur, Longburn, and D. S. McLeod, Goodlands, were absent owing to illness.