



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.

TAXATION

Editor, Guide:—In a late issue you give a statement of the financial standing of some of our leading Canadians, among them Mr. E. B. Osler of Toronto, M. P., a leading C. P. R. director and president of the Dominion Bank, and also of two other big monopoly corporations and leading director in several other million dollar enterprises.

This same Mr. Osler recently expressed the opinion that farmers as a class were much more lightly taxed than some other classes. Now, Mr. Osler is in the class of financial magnates. The kind of property they own is stocks, bonds, mortgages and other similar bits of paper, every dollar of which represents a mortgage debt on the people. These bits of paper bring their owners an income without working for it. That is, the rest of us work and earn the incomes they get by virtue of their owning them. Those bits of paper are very valuable. They are like Shylock's bonds, they must have "their pound of flesh" off rest of the people.

A farmer buys a gallon of coal-oil and pays five cents in taxes on it, two and a half cents of which the government gets, and the men who own the oil wells of Canada get the other two and a half cents as bounty. But the very same government collects not five cents in taxes from the bits of paper: that are the peculiar property of men in Mr. Osler's class. That is, the property owned by the rich is free from taxes, while the goods the people put on their backs and consume are taxed a hundred million dollars a year. Who says that our government represents the people? Robin Hood of old used to rob the rich to feed the poor, but our governments rob the poor to make millionaires like Mr. E. B. Osler. Are the people going to remain satisfied with this condition or will they set their teeth and clench their fists and prepare to fight?

The battle for free trade against protection, a low tariff, is one of the first battles the people must fight and win.

You, Mr. Editor, cannot render the people a better service than by giving us, through The Guide, the financial history of our leading public men and also our political bosses. When we know where their treasures are then we can easily guess whether they are for or against the people.

READER.

WHO MADE THE WEST?

Editor, Guide:—The efforts of The Guide and its thousands of friends to obtain lower tariff, is fast bearing fruit. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association is putting on its armor and preparing to fight, and it is quite evident that it will oppose tooth and nail any reduction of the tariff and any proposal of reciprocity with the United States which would result in cheaper goods for the farmer. But if the article you published on Sept. 21 from the paper of their association, entitled, "The West and the Tariff" is a fair sample of the argument they will use, surely their case is very weak. Like many more of the eastern papers they would have it appear that we western farmers are just weaklings or what is worse, parasites, living on the strength and vitality of the nation, and anxious only for our own welfare and good. Sir, it is a lie. It is a gross misconception of the true facts. There is not an argument made, or a point made, in that article which cannot easily be refuted. Who

built up the West? Do the railways pave the way for the farmers, or do the farmers pave the way for these railways? To any one acquainted with the West the answer is obvious. There are thousands upon thousands of men and women, who have left friends and home-land and gone away back into the prairie country to try to build a home. There they have stayed and endured

Renew Your Subscription Promptly

During the next few weeks a large number of subscriptions fall due. We trust our subscribers will look after their renewals promptly as the issues of The Guide for the next few months promise to be more than ordinarily interesting. The results of the past summer's agitation in connection with the Tariff, the Hudson's Bay Railway, the Chilled Meat Question, and the Terminal Elevators are beginning to assert themselves and will be given full prominence in The Guide. In regard to the monster farmers' delegation to Ottawa, developments are also being made daily. These matters are important to all our readers and just at present they need to keep in touch with them. You can help yourselves by sending in your renewal and help us by sending it in promptly. You cannot invest \$1.00 better than by subscribing to a paper that is working in your behalf all the time.

hardships untold, waiting with what patience they could for the railway which took years to come. These are the people who can speak from their hearts when the question crops up, who built up the West! I know of what I speak, because I have endured it myself. In my case I never saw a mounted policeman go past my home in three years. The mile or two that I had to go to the nearest post office meant forty-five miles, and as to the protection we received to our lives and our property by the elaborate system of law courts, well, Mr. Editor, all I can say is that when we were fighting the extreme cold winter, or still worse, prairie fires of spring and fall, the law courts did not help us much, and if in

hard things on this question and less easy is it to use restraint of tongue and pen. But I would that the farmers fight this matter calmly and dispassionately, assured that "twice armed is he who has his quarrel just." I may say that if the duty we pay on our implements were really 10 per cent. instead of 17½ to 25 per cent., there would not be quite so much to say on the question, and further, if the cost of protection to us really went all of it into the national revenue our consolation would be greater, but it is the attendant evils of protection with which the farmer is in conflict rather than in protection for revenue purposes alone, at least, it is so with me.

In conclusion let me say that The



Scene at Yorkton during Celebration for Sir Wilfrid. Arch all composed of Grain

common with all men we share this privilege now it is only because we have well earned it, and what is more, well paid for it, and we do not owe anything to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association on that account. Western Canada is now a rich, wealthy country, recognized all over the world as a splendid field for investment. The various

Guide is a grand paper and should find a place in the home of every farmer. SYDNEY BINGHAM. Saskatoon.

GOVERNMENT OWNED TERMINALS

Editor, Guide:—I noticed in a recent issue of The Guide, a statement by Wm

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Martin, M. P., Regina, that should the terminal elevator system be taken over it would incur an expenditure by the government of \$10,000,000. I infer from this that the terminals are now, or in the near future will, owe interest on that sum over and above superintendence and operation. Somebody is or will be paying that interest and that somebody is the users of the terminal elevators. Now, what I should like to ask, does it make any material difference to these users whether they hand the interest over to the agent of the terminal elevators or to the agent of the government? Not a particle, except in so far as to which they, the users, are likely to have to pay the largest amount of interest. The terminal elevators are built in with borrowed capital, so they will have to be by the government should they purchase them. Now, we all know that the government, having the whole people behind them, are the best of all borrowers and can get the capital all at a lower rate of interest than any of the corporations. Furthermore, when the ten million is borrowed that is all that the people will be called upon to pay (the interest on that amount). There will and can be no melon cutting, such as takes place with all or nearly all private corporations looked at from this standpoint. Does it not appear that the advantage is with the government method. Again should the country determine to make these elevators pay, in excess of superintendence and operation seven or eight per cent. that would be sufficient to pay all interest charges, and also set aside a sum for sinking fund sufficient to wipe out the indebtedness in twenty years, when what had to go for interest and sinking fund, could be handed back to the people, either in lower charges or by adding it to the revenue of the country, which would be probably the better plan, as there is no better method as much as it costs absolutely nothing to collect. Now when we remember that when a company once puts an amount of capital into an undertaking that is expected to earn interest for all time, surely it should not be difficult for the man with average intelligence to select the most advantageous method for himself.

In giving the foregoing place in The Guide, the great history builder of the West, you will oblige,

SIMON THOMPSON.

Douglas, Man.

SAYS GUIDE IS WRONG

Editor, Guide:—There are two things which The Guide is very actively advocating these days which I believe will prove abortive, i.e. the sending of farmers' delegates to Ottawa, and Direct Legislation. Even if it could be proven that much of our opposition is caused by the tariff—which I claim has not been done—can it be shown that a delegation will bring the remedy? When you mentioned the scheme a few weeks ago, you mentioned also that a delegation and a commission about 14 years ago, were fruitless. What basis have we to expect differently now? Sending 600 men to Ottawa is an expense and what conviction will they carry with them, besides that they and those who send them are so many fools. Whoever