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Saskatchewan

This section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association

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LIFE'S CONTEST

"Death is delightful." "A dawn!" "A transition!" "An awakening from a weary night; from fevers; into truth and light!" While here, however, doing duty, our ideal should be co-operation with the Creator of the universe in unveiling truth, making it applicable to humanity's need. Such a conception gives hope, buoyancy and expectant culmination to life's "drama."

With this ideal we may go down the mountain side of life like the sun sinking in the West, which, though setting is ever rising; and "as the heaven's many colored flame at sunset is but dust in rich disguise, framing God's picture in the skies," so the mistakes of our lives, mingled with our honest intent, may frame in our Master's eye and hang in heaven's galleries a glorious combinational picture, illustrative of the setting and rising of our immortalized existence.

So, forgetting what is behind, let us press forward to what is before, to fresh discoveries and fresh application of truth. Fight a good fight (for fight we must if we would win), expect a crown of life and a victor's reward as an inevitable result of the conflict, and life's night will be a delightful dawn.

F. W. G.

THE WATERED LILIES

The Master stood in His garden,
Among the lilies fair,
Which His own right hand had planted
And trained with tenderest care.
He looked at their snowy blossoms,
And marked with observant eye
That His flowers were sadly drooping,
For their leaves were parched and dry.
"My lilies need to be watered,"
The heavenly Master said;
"Wherein shall I draw it for them,
And raise each drooping head?"
Close to His feet on the pathway,
Empty and frail and small,
An earthen vessel was lying
Which seemed of no use at all.
But the Master saw and raised it
From the dust in which it lay,
And smiled as He gently whispered,
"This shall do my work today."
"It is but an earthen vessel,
But it lay so close to me,
It is small, but it is empty,
That is all it needs to be."
So to the fountain He took it,
And filled it full to the brim,
How glad was the earthen vessel
To be of some use to Him!
He poured forth the living water
Over the lilies fair,
Until the vessel was empty,
And again He filled it there.
The drooping lilies He watered
Until reviving again,
The Master saw with pleasure,
His labor had not been in vain.
His own hand drew the water,
Refreshing the thirsty flowers,
But He used the earthen vessel
To carry the living showers.
And there to itself the vessel
Whispered as aside it was laid,
"Once more I will lie by the pathway,
Just where I did before.
"For close would I keep to the Master,
And empty will I remain,
Perhaps some day He will use me
To water His flowers again."

ORGANIZATION

Everywhere throughout the Western Provinces the value and spirit of the principles outlined in our first letter-head, issued some five years ago, is taking an effective form and being administered in our various subsidiary institutions—Agitation, Organization and Co-operation.

The first of these must precede all others, as in the making of bread, butter or bricks. Organization can only come as a result of a cohesive quality in old

materials made capable of a new construction by agitation and a fresh application to a new and greater purpose. In things such as the materials entering into bread, butter, or bricks; one function is given up in order that the materials may enter another organic union for the new purpose. By being thoroughly agitated and mixed, clay, moulded and burnt, becomes bricks. Each welded to his fellow by scorched, disintegrated rocks, reassociated water and sand, makes a mortar bond by which they are joined in a new function, such as the educational propaganda of a school, church, university or legislative hall and so co-operative in carrying out purposes impossible in their previous individualistic particle state. This is seen also in disassociated and re-organized materials entering into the construction of the intricate, smooth working, powerfully energized automobile, steam engine or dynamo.

Things possessing life, mind and will are not so easily moulded or bonded. Animals may be trained to work in rhythm, as dogs, elephants or horses are seen at a show, but it requires great skill and patience of a superior mind in their training. Seen also in the more intricate form in the arrangements of men and women as in a choir, band or army, where each is assigned a particular place and function under superior direction, where each lends himself and their powers to the trainer for the accomplishment of a co-operative rhythm of music or song absolutely impossible without utter self-renunciation for the time being.

In the economic realm this principle has long been recognized, captured and applied by our masters in organization of men for the purpose of doing large things only possible by a combination of effort and capital. And here, as everywhere, the more completely the individual is given up to the purpose for which the combination exists and willingly acts under the directing agency, the more effectively will the object be obtained as seen in the management (for instance) of our banking system.

The purpose of the Grain Growers' movement is the organization of men who till the soil into an effective union of endeavor for the betterment of their mutual condition. They should be trained and equipped to establish an equitable relationship between themselves and those with whom they exchange labor products. Also to secure their proper share in the natural resources of the country, neither of which they at present possess. They must do this by constructing or controlling trading agencies and bringing about such legislative enactments as may be necessary to accomplish that purpose. In every case where men do successfully co-operate to do large things it is through a mutual agreement with each other in some form in which the purposes and method of procedure are set forth with an assignment of the various functions of each as illustrated by the placing of strings in a violin or the pieces of an organ or the various instruments in the band. It will thus be noticed that to attain union of purpose re legislative enactments, as well as in economic endeavor, we must learn team play, or party play. We must have more cohesion than a heap of sand or frozen cranberries. Let our instrument be a representative or Direct Legislation—the impact must be with the foe and not with each other, or we shall destroy ourselves rather than conquer the foe. Unless we can co-operate to elect a representative how can we co-operate to legislate direct? It would appear we are not yet sufficiently well agitated or thoroughly disintegrated or separated from old affiliations, as to make a proper fusion or blending of forces for the new democracy desirable. So we continue stirring the materials.

FULL AS AN EGG

As I have been getting letters and pamphlets for quite a while now, I thought I should at least write and tell you so. Our Association here is pretty nearly dead. The people won't come to a meeting. I took on the work of secretary-treasurer because no one else would have it and I thought I would not like to see the thing go dead altogether. The people who are making anything here are making it stock raising, consequently we are not so much interested in grain growing, although the two should go together. I think that surtax is bad for stock raisers, as it will have a tendency to close up the pasture land, and a lot of land around here is fit for nothing else. I would like to see Central buy and sell all kinds of goods the farmer needs; club our orders to Central and re-ship to best advantage. Show the farmers where they can materially benefit by co-operating and that will live them up as nothing else will. I sent for a few boxes of evaporated apples and got them for about half what retailers charge here. We have to pay \$11.00 per ton for Galt or Alberta coal. We could have consumed about one-third of a car of apples, Bangor and Waldron taking the rest. We want cheaper money here. How can we get it? The B.N.A. bank here charges us 10 per cent., and very little to be had at that. We want cheap coal, also lumber and flour, but we can't consume a very large quantity at once. Please send me copy of the Grain Act. The agent here charged me demurrage when he spotted car before I ordered it and I was two hours over 24 in getting it loaded. We are getting a Grain Growers' Grain Company speaker here presently. I intend going away for the winter to Ontario, but we will likely have a new man after our annual meeting. We were red hot for Reciprocity. Blood is thicker than water. I don't think Reciprocity was the great cure-all some supposed. I am a Canadian and don't like the contribution idea. I don't see what we need a navy for. If we do need one, let us build it ourselves.

GEORGE A. PEARN,
Secretary Atwater G.G.A.

The Spy Hill Grain Growers' Association held a very successful meeting on Saturday, November 8, at 8 p.m. Dr. Platt, director of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and W. Paynter were the speakers. The schoolhouse was well filled. Direct Legislation, being the chief subject, was fully explained. Mr. Paynter also dealt briefly with farmers' credit, and judging the feeling of this district there will be a solid vote here for the measure on the 27th. Orders for flour were taken before closing the meeting.

HARRY H. PEARN,
Secretary.

STAR CITY

I have pleasure in enclosing cheque for \$16.00, being Central fees for another 32 members, making 130 paid up members for this Local. Some of the older members have not yet paid in their subscriptions for 1913 or we would be a lot stronger numerically. I am hoping yet to get them in before the end of the year. We have enrolled 78 new members this year, including four ladies. We hope to start a women's auxiliary next year. I would like to know when your financial year closes, so that I can get the rest of the subscriptions in this year's list. We are holding a directors' meeting in town today to arrange a program for the winter and we hope to get different speakers to lecture on the benefits of this farmers' movement of self-help. The farmer needs a whole lot of education yet to enable him to join hands with his brother farmer to work together for the good

of the whole. I notice the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association are going to lecture with lantern illustrations of co-operation. What do you think of that? If we would get such a thing up here it would have a very great influence in favor of the co-operative movement. The whole country up here is just swinging in the balance and a little organization would turn the scales. I am sorry you have great opposition in your splendid work. It doesn't take much to read between the lines of the recent letters in The Guide, and I do hope this mean, underhand work will not cause you to stay your hand in the association's good work.

SAMUEL SMITH,
Secretary Star City.

The meeting at Vanguard was brief but keenly interesting from start to finish. No one can visit Vanguard without being kept on the move, it being the end of the C.P.R. line running south-easterly some 50 miles from Swift Current. Early in the morning farmers' wagons come rumbling along in long strings from farms many miles distant, loaded with wheat, oats and flax—beautiful, rich colored grain—farms being all new. The prices, however, are too low—64c for No. 1 wheat and 95c for flax. Considerable complaints are heard. Thus far blockade conditions have been avoided. The C.P.R. is to be commended for their effort on this new line. Water is their problem, it being hauled from Swift Current for both outward and return trip. But this cannot excuse holding passengers for two hours in Swift Current after the advertised time to start. Such is not customary on C.P.R. trains, but this is all too prevalent on this line. There is a great deal of work to be done by local associations in this new district. Vanguard farmers are progressive. They have a co-operative elevator, a co-operative store, own their own weigh scales and are generally developing the capacity to look after their varied mutual interests.

THE BAR

A poet has said of the saloon that it is appropriately called a bar:
A bar to heaven, a door to hell;
Whoever named it, named it well;
A bar to manliness and wealth,
A bar to honor, pride and fame,
A door to sin and grief and shame;
A bar to hope, a bar to prayer,
A door to darkness and despair;
A bar to honored, useful life,
A door to brawling, senseless strife;
A bar to all that's true and brave,
A door to every drunkard's grave;
A bar to joy that home imparts,
A door to tears and aching hearts;
A bar to heaven, a door to hell,
Whoever named it, named it well.
—Exchange

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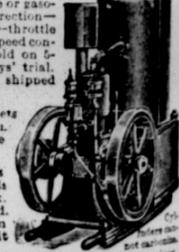
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