



# MANITOBA SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially by the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. McKenzie, Secretary, Winnipeg, Man.

## Support Reciprocity

To the Secretary—  
Dear Sir:—The free trade agreement made between Canada and the United States, now before parliament for ratification, is meeting with the most strenuous opposition in the House of Commons. Those who enjoy special privileges, and who, under our present fiscal system, are enabled to levy tribute on the common people, are adopting every possible method to create sentiment against the proposed free trade in natural products with our next door neighbors. This opposition is not because the proposed agreement interferes to any extent with the protection now enjoyed by manufacturers, but they see in it an inclination on the part of the government to yield to the demands of the farmers, and fear the future. Hence, the monied interests and professional politicians seem to have joined hands to defeat the farmers before they attain greater strength, and prevent the government from granting even a small measure of the requests made by the organized farmers.

Since the proposed agreement was introduced into the House of Commons, manufacturers' agents and travellers have been in practically every town in Canada trying to create sentiment among boards of trade and other business and commercial organizations against any change in our trade relations. Railway officials, bankers, millers, financiers, capitalists, manufacturers, grain dealers—in short, all the combines and monopolists are making a howl through the press and by speeches with the view of stemming the growing sentiment in favor of freer trade and relief from the protective customs tariff, while the press, members of parliament and the government are flooded with letters and resolutions in opposition to reciprocity. There is scarcely a word heard from the organized farmers, and the idea is getting abroad that the farmers are backing down.

This should not be so. Let us follow up the advantage we have gained. In order to win we must keep ourselves to the front. Let our views receive as much publicity as those of the combines.

Every branch should hold a meeting at once and pass a resolution in favor of reciprocity and an extension of the British preference. Send a copy to your member at Ottawa, to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, to some daily paper, and to your local paper. As many farmers as possible should write a letter to their member and to the newspapers, giving OUR REASON why they favor reciprocity and an increase in the British preference. Do not attempt long letters. Be brief and to the point. We must not let the public believe that we are backing down.

The following facts will clearly illustrate why the millers are opposed to free trade in wheat:

### Quoted Figures

"The wholesale price of flour in Winnipeg at the present time is about \$2.90 per cwt. The wholesale price of the same grade of Canadian flour at Manchester, England, or Glasgow, Scotland, the home of the two co-operative wholesale societies of Great Britain is 29s. for a sack of 280 lbs., or \$2.50 per cwt. The cost of taking the flour from Winnipeg to Manchester, England, or Glasgow, Scotland, is about 50 cents per cwt. The result of this is that the agent of the British Co-operative society can buy flour f.o.b. cars, Winnipeg, for about \$2 per cwt., while the local merchant in Winnipeg has to pay about \$2.90 for the same grade. But when the flour is retailed out in small quantities, such as the poorer people are compelled to buy, the difference in favor of the Englishman is very much greater. For instance, the price of a seven pound sack in Toronto is 30 cents, or at the rate of \$4.28 per cwt. At Winnipeg it is 35 cents or at the rate of \$5 per cwt. The price of a seven pound sack in Manchester, same grade flour, is 11d., or 22 cents, which is at the rate of \$3.14 per cwt.

"The average price of wheat in Winnipeg during the four months of September,

October, November and December was as follows in 1909 and 1900:

	1909	1900
September	81 3/4	96 1/2
October	88 1/2	96 1/2
November	81 3/4	96 1/2
December	76 3/4	96 1/2
Average	82 1/2	96 15-16

"These figures show a gain in ten years of only 17 1/2 per cent. The actual price which farmers received, except those who were in the immediate vicinity of the Winnipeg market, was less than the above price, and would be less as the distance from Winnipeg increased.

"On the other hand, according to the wholesale price in Canada, the increase in the price of flour, bran and shorts is very material as is shown in the following table:

	1900	1909	Gain
Flour, per bbl	\$ 3 38	\$ 5 22	54 1/2%
Shorts, per ton	15 01	23 97	59 1/2%
Bran, per ton	13 00	22 02	69 1/2%

R. MCKENZIE, Sec'y.  
Winnipeg, Man., March 1, 1911.

### ANNIVERSARY MEETING

The first anniversary meeting of the Springfield branch of the M. G. G. A. held at North Springfield school house, February 24, was opened by the reading

## Mr. Scallion's Clarion Call

### TO THE FARMERS OF MANITOBA

Friends—What do you think of the action of your legislature in turning down the resolution in favor of the reciprocal trade agreement made between Canada and the United States? You asked for such a trade arrangement. In fact few expected in view of past experiences, such a favorable measure of reciprocal trade could be secured. When the premier toured the West last summer he was waited on by your delegates and urged among other things, to secure if possible such a trade measure. You passed unanimous resolutions in favor of it at your local associations; you endorsed it unanimously at your provincial conventions; you backed up your demands by sending a large delegation to Ottawa, at great expense both of time and money, to press the importance of such a measure upon the government. Your action was made known and commented upon in other countries and you were commended for your manly independent efforts in favor of economic freedom. But it would seem that your own local government has no sympathy with your efforts and desires in that regard. The government you elected, the members you sent from your own local constituencies to support that government, voted against the reciprocity resolutions introduced to assist the passage of that trade pact, you have been pressing for, in the Dominion house. Not one of the representatives you sent to support the government had the manliness or courage to get up and say why they were going to vote against the resolution. Do you want to be represented by such men? In whose interest did they vote? Their two leaders talked about our transportation companies, our shipping companies, our financial interests, unity of the Empire, imperial preference, U. S. Loyalty, and the old flag. What had all that to do with a simple measure of trade between two countries which could be made use of, or otherwise, according as it was found to be an advantage or otherwise? And any way the United States could bring about the changes feared by those opponents of reciprocity by simply taking off the duty upon the articles named. The most charitable view to take of the conduct of your representatives who voted against the resolution, is that they were hypnotized by the eloquence and gestures of their two leaders, and the spell was only removed when it came time for them to vote. One of these leaders, it is rumored, is ambitious to shine in Dominion politics. No one can find any fault with that ambition, but if true, he should not use his following in the House to bring him into favor with the Eastern leaders. This following should be used in your interests, those who sent them to promote and try to enable you to secure the measure of economic relief you have been pressing for. The other honorable leader is, and has been for some time, laboring under the hallucination of Chamberlainism, the ghost of a corpse buried in England during the last general election. Surely you want a policy somewhat more practical, something for present and every day use, and not the pursuit of a dream that if ever realized will be away in the future and of no use for present purposes. Don't you think your government and those supporters of theirs who voted against the reciprocity resolution did you so far as they could, a great injury? And that injury was done you in the interests of protection, in the interest of privilege, great corporations, and financial interests. I do not say the pact would injure these. I don't think it would. But if it did your representatives would protect these interests as against you, who elected them to look after your interests. Now what are you going to do about it? Are you going to let them off scotfree to do it again when they get an opportunity? Don't you think you should call meetings and have these representatives of yours come to those meetings and show cause for their actions? You can ask them to resign if you think their conduct warrants that course. If the Recall were in force you could deal effectively with them. If the Recall were in force they would not have transgressed. But call meetings and get them before you. Do that without fail and let it be done by those who voted for their election.

Virdee, Feb. 27th, 1911.

J. W. SCALLION.

Hon. Pres. M.G.G.A.

## MANITOBA GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Honorary President:  
J. W. Scallion, Virdee

President:

R. C. Henderson, Culross

Vice-President:

J. S. Wood, Oakville

Secretary-Treasurer:

R. McKenzie, Winnipeg

Directors:

Peter Wright, Myrtle; R. M. Wilson, Murrumbidgee; D. D. McArthur, Lauder; C. Burdett, Foxwarren; W. H. Buell, Rosser; R. J. Avison, Gilbert Plains.

up. The meeting closed with the singing of the national anthem.  
C. E. MCKENZIE, Sec'y.  
Springfield, Man.

### POSITION RE-AFFIRMED

The following resolution was passed unanimously by a meeting of the executive of the M.G.G.A., held in Winnipeg, March 4:

"Whereas the Hon. Clifford Sifton from his place in the House of Commons on February 28, claiming to speak for the West, declared that reciprocity with the United States was not in the interest of the Western people;

"And whereas the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, The Winnipeg Board of Trade, and the Manitoba Legislature, by resolution have also, in the name of the West declared against reciprocity;

"Therefore be it resolved that we, the executive officers of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association emphatically assert that the above mentioned gentleman and public bodies, by their public utterances and resolutions upon the question of reciprocity have absolutely misrepresented popular opinion in Manitoba;

"And we further declare and re-affirm that the tariff resolution placed before the government by the Canadian Council of Agriculture on December 16th, 1910, is a correct representation of the opinions of the people of Manitoba to-day;

"And we further declare that the people of Manitoba will not be satisfied with anything short of the following action by the Canadian parliament during the present session:—

"1. The ratification of the reciprocity agreement now before parliament;

"2. The complete abolition of duties upon agricultural machinery and implements;

"3. An increase in the British preference to fifty per-cent. of the general tariff. Signed on behalf of the executive of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association.

R. C. HENDERSON, President.

Winnipeg, Man., March 2nd, 1911.

### ORGANIZED AT HALLEY SCHOOL

Jas. B. Robson, secretary of the Dauphin branch writes us that he, together with several other members of the Dauphin branch have organized a new branch of the association at Halley school. Addresses were delivered by the visitors and the following were elected as officers: President, Harry McCurnie; vice-president, George Tucker; secretary, W. F. Kerr. Directors: Peter McEwen, Joseph Coles, Adam Tabaka, W. F. Kerr, Geo. Carruthers, Fred Bennett.

### DISCUSSED GOOD ROADS

A well attended meeting of the Kellie branch of the M. G. G. A. was held on Wednesday, February 15, under the chairmanship of C. F. Dixon. The meeting was called as the first of a series for discussion of live topics and was given over to Mr. St. Ruth, who delivered an interesting paper on an improved system of municipal road making. The speaker in the course of his address described the present system of road making as unsatisfactory, both financially and in results, and advocated borrowing a sufficient sum to grade all roads, such debt to be met by the issuing of debentures, the work to be subject to the planning of a competent engineer. The advantages of the above system as urged by the speaker were: Good roads at once, lower rate of interest, systematic ditching to be used in future for draining purposes, and increased value of land consequent to good roads. Several speakers followed, Mr. Munshaw