

The Mail Bag

A CALL TO ARMS

The following letter has been addressed to the members of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by the Direct Legislation League of the province:

At a recent meeting of the executive members and district directors of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association the provincial secretary, Mr. Green, was instructed to issue to all local Grain Growers' Associations a call to arms in support of the Direct Legislation principle, which is to be submitted for ratification to the electors on November 27, 1913.

For a number of years at your annual convention you have asked for this legislation. At last the government has responded, and has put it up to you to show your strength by a test vote upon the measure. The next step is yours. If your local will choose a committee of say, five men who are tried and true to the principle involved, and who will work from now until the polls close on November 27, you will easily and surely carry your district, and you will have begun a work which will cause your lawmakers to sit up and take notice. The lesson will be valuable to them and to you, in that it will prove your power to control legislation.

It will not be a hard task to persuade electors to vote for the act submitted to them. Both political parties prior to election pledged support to it by official platform declaration. This takes it out of party politics.

A man who believes in the principle will vote for it.

A man who believes it is wrong should vote against it.

A man who has not thought it out will be willing to have you explain it to him.

Supplies of literature may be obtained promptly upon application to our secretary at the above address.

We beg to call your attention to our appeal for financial support, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. Yours truly,
The Direct Legislation League
of Saskatchewan

Per C. A. Brothers, Secretary.
Moose Jaw, Sask., Nov. 3.

PULLMAN CAR CROP EXPERTS

Editor, Guide:—I wish to endorse every word of the letter in The Guide Mail Bag, October 8, written by Mr. Bailey, of Tyner, Sask., re false reports of crops being handed out by the Pullman Car "Crop Experts" that tour this Western country each summer. Perhaps they are not aware how much they injure the farmer by their reports of "bumper crops," "prosperity for the farmers," and so on ad nauseum. If they were to tour the country now and give us the low yields as well as the high ones, it would be found that the former were very much in the majority. It is not what a crop looks like from an automobile, but how it turns out at the grain spout that counts. Take, for instance, this country around here, which at present is mainly given over to flax growing. This is how we are faring: Fields that looked good for 15 to 20 bushels are ranging from 5 to 10, and only in rare instances do we hear of 15 bushels to the acre. You hear farmers saying that they would have been better off to have been haled out, then they would have got \$5.00 per acre for the small outlay of 4 cents per acre, (good hail insurance) whereas now they have had the expense of cutting, the trouble and worry of getting a machine to thresh them out, and now only getting the yields afore mentioned, and prices at local elevator ranging from 93 cents or thereabouts. Deduct from that 25 cents a bushel for threshing, which is the charge all around here, (with cook car) and where does a man get off at with a yield of from 5 to 10 bushels? That's not counting the feed for teams, etc. Even if a man has enough flax to load a car, he cannot get a car; even the elevator men are having hard times to get cars. Can you wonder at the farmers feeling sore at these high salaried gentlemen who are handing out reports of no shortage of cars? You never read reports in the papers of any old "hayseed" when he visits the city, handing out "hot air" about how prosperous the merchants are looking, etc.

He would be thought crazy if he did. He has sense enough to understand that farming is his line and storekeeping is the other fellow's, but these arm-chair experts seem to get light headed when they leave the city for a train ride through the waving fields of grain. They feel so exuberant and at peace with all men after a visit to the dining car and with a ten-cent cigar in their mouths that it is no wonder they feel like chirping about the prosperity of the farmers. They do not know that those self-same prosperous farmers may be cogitating with themselves as to whether they can stand the price of a new pair of overalls or whether to get another patch put on the old ones. But amid all these troubles, it is nice to know that we are not forgotten by our very cheerful friends, the implement and lumber men. They are very pleased to give us a reminder to meet our notes at maturity and possibly, if we are very good, they will give us a pretty calendar at the end of the year.

JOHN A. WEBB.
Fairmount, Sask.

SIR LYMAN'S INTERVIEW

Editor, Guide:—I am glad your paper so persistently advocates Free Trade. I don't think any man can prove that Pro-

THE CANADIAN LAWYER

OR

HOW THE FARMER CAN KEEP OUT OF LAW SUITS

"The Canadian Lawyer," is the name of a book that will protect farmers against the sharp practice of lawyers, agents, or any person else who might like to get a farmer into a tight place.

This book is just what the farmers of Western Canada have been looking for for some time. It gives the most important provisions of the laws of Canada and especially of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The information is given in simple, everyday language, so that farmers will be able to do a great deal of their own business strictly in accordance with the law, without engaging the service of a lawyer and paying him from \$5 to \$10 each time for a little bit of ordinary advice. Every farmer loses a lot of time and more or less money during the course of his career, because he is usually unacquainted with his legal rights and the proper method of redress. Half of the law-suits before the courts are brought about because some person was ignorant of a

simple fact of law which he should have known. In addition to this most valuable information on the various laws, this book also gives definite information and simple but correct forms for the preparation of all kinds of legal documents that a farmer would ever have occasion to use. Chattel mortgages and bills of sale are explained fully—how to make them, the law in regard to them, and when to use them. Similar information is given on checks, lien notes, land mortgages, promissory notes, receipts and wills. This book also instructs farmers on exemption from seizure of debts; the law in regard to line fences; the law in regard to naturalization; the law of partnership; how to have inventions patented and protected; the use and form of powers of attorney; the law in regard to the succession duties; how to prepare land transfers under the Torrens system, which is used in Western Canada; the law in regard to trust and trustees, and everything else that a farmer would require to study. 453 pages. \$2.10.

Regina, Sask.

GET AFTER THE M.L.A.'S.

Editor, Guide:—At this time of the year money appears to be more plentiful, but any person familiar with conditions in the West knows that thousands of farmers are tied down by mortgages and payments to be made on land, which prevent them from branching out in various ways as they would like. Now, if they were able to secure money from the government to pay off these obligations, say at 6 per cent. and on a long term of years, it would give them more spare money for buildings and stock-raising.

I think it would be a good idea for all the Associations in Saskatchewan to take up this subject as soon as the rush of work is over and forward resolutions to the local member and to Premier Scott, and thus give the House an idea what they require, and perhaps we would be able to get our members to give us

held in the binding grasp of speculator and open it up for homesteading.

Either of the above suggestions, if undertaken, might possibly, in time, add more to our nation's real prosperity, and shall I say happiness, and the profits thus accruing to further help the building up of a well-rounded Dominion. Or you might further subsidize Bill and Dan, the C.P.R. or G.T.P. so that they, feeling grateful for such a tangible acknowledgment of their unselfish, "nation-building efforts," would voluntarily lower our freight rates to the Lake by one-half, thus minimizing some of the heavy expense to which we are exposed in the marketing of our produce; or you might give it to the International Harvester Company so that they would thereby be enabled to reduce their retail prices by one-half for a year or two at least; for, be it known to you that many of these corporations, after they have filched a good surplus from us, put it into a loan company's hands so that when we get behind they may loan it to us back again and in time become possessed of the homestead which you gave us, along with any other incidental chattels, etc., which we have gathered round us, or by the more direct route of securing a first mortgage.

Please give the above suggestions your "earliest and most earnest consideration" and oblige,

Yours fraternally,

FRED D. PUFFER.

Audrey, Sask., Oct. 13.

P.S.—If you do take action in this matter, please keep it as much as possible from the knowledge of that nasty, prying public, The People. F.D.P.

WANTS PREPARATORY MEETING

Editor, Guide:—The shareholders of Sifton Local No. 61 Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company passed a resolution at our meeting on 18th October, which was called to elect a delegate to the annual meeting of the company at Regina on November 19, to the following effect:—

We, the shareholders of Local No. 61 of Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, desire—that a preparatory business meeting be held prior to the annual meeting to enable the delegates to discuss the business of the company and prepare resolutions for the annual meeting.

We should be pleased, Mr. Editor, if you could find room in The Guide to inform others in Saskatchewan before the meeting on November 19 so that they will be in readiness when the resolution is put forward by me, the delegate for Sifton.

W. H. CARTER.

Sifton, Sask.

THE SURTAX PROPOSALS

Editor, Guide:—Those voting in favor of question 5 in your referendum, of placing a surtax of \$25 per quarter section on all vacant land, will do so presumably on the theory that the withholding of land from use is not in the best interests of the country. But I suppose by stringing a wire around the land and occupying it with a few head of stock, or by putting a renter upon the land, the country will be greatly benefited. Under question 6 we are to suppose that the holding of large tracts of land is a thing to be discouraged. But if a man holds a section in his own name, and several sections by proxy, the arrangement will be much more satisfactory.

It does not appear to me that the remedy proposed either under 5 or 6 reaches the sore spot. Would it not be much better to exempt from taxes the landowner on three-fourths the value of the land upon which he has continuously resided during the year prior to the day of assessment to the extent of not more than one quarter section. This plan would be rewarding in a direct manner the ones who are responsible for the increase in rural land values—the small land holder, cultivating his own fields.

THOS. C. ARRETT.

Red Willow, Alta.

THE REFERENDUM

Editor, Guide:—You ask for letters criticizing either favorably or the reverse the eleven questions on which you propose to take a Referendum of The

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stock is not only in a few favored farmer make a new invested and then it is only a his land will re- to make it pay.

THORN SALES

edegree Shorthorn Scottish agriculte great northern at Aberdeen, a During the three cattle were dis- market, and they le total of fully eeding is a grow- siness, and great at the sales by tive company of s of the country. buyers were pre- and helped the For the first time lollynie sales the ter having under- est. The depar- f general discus- llynie bull calves failed to pass the ly reached three Princess Royal" it of Collynie," a brother of this st year's sale— half by "Max of chased for \$1,312 herds. Three of res did not pass ssed.

Sires

tainhead of the northorn; and it g study to hote used at Collynie. e tested by the the sale of the y this standard, list stands Mr. Knight of Col- whose sire, "Col- ade the highest 909. Next is a Lady Cathcart, chased at Perth and third is red by Captain was bought at r \$7,875. Eight Collynie" made three by "Max \$980; two by 6; and seven by athlay Favorite". One of the res of the sales the dispersion of herd at Newton. e Shorthorns been bred for t seventy-five s. The herd was ous for the high dard of its fe- stock, and par- arly for its re- itatives of the d "Clipper" ly. Ten "Clip- were sold on nesday for \$13. An analysis of sale-list of the les brings out following record e of the leading wton.

No.	Average
1	\$1,347
2	1,326
3	671
4	958
5	892
6	814
7	742
8	692
9	642
10	456
11	351