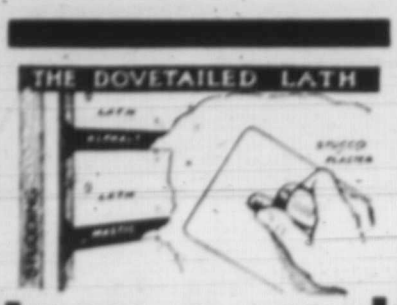

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Manitoba

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. C. Henders, President, 404 Chambers of Commerce, Winnipeg, to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

HIGH IDEALS

"Where there is no vision, the people perish"—so said the wise men of old, and when one asked, "what is a vision?" replied, "A vision is something good and lofty which the soul may see, and, having not, may reach forth to obtain. It is the passionate longing for goodness possessed by the normal human mind." Without a vision the body may live, but the soul is starved. It is death in life. How may we get a vision? He that seeks finds. One of the wise men of today, Canon Lyman Abbott, says that Christ taught certain principles of life, such as the cultivation of a spiritual vision, a spirit of hope dissatisfied with the past and aspiring to a better record in the future; a spirit of good will, reverent toward God, kindly and helpful toward all mankind. He has revolutionized government, has abolished slavery, has begun the emancipation of labor, has created systems of popular education; in short, Christianity is the spiritual vision of self sacrificing service. Surely it was such a vision, a vision that saw the people were perishing, that started our farmers' organization, and later a growing vision brought the Women's Section into being for "United we stand—Divided we fall."

Value of Team Play

It has been said that football means sacrifice, loyalty, courage and organized efficiency; it means team play of the highest order, and team work we all need. We have all worked alone too long, but in future we hope for organized efficiency which we cannot attain without learning the rules—but with a wider vision of what we are reaching forward to, we may succeed in making our section a power for good in the land. We may hope to improve social conditions; in so doing we will be able to enjoy more social life and bring our young people forward to join with their elders in the work of saving the people from perishing. That for which we spend ourselves, we love, and no one is a good citizen who does not do something for his country, and no one is a good member who is not willing to do something for his organization. There is opportunity for all to help increase our membership and at least live up to our motto, "each for all and all for each." I know we all feel diffident about public or semi-public work. We feel our capability is not equal to much, but I once heard Dr. Woodsworth (who certainly has had large vision and has done much to save the people from perishing) say, the bulk of the world's saving work is done by the present of one talent. That is very encouraging. We will always be able to feel with due modesty that each of us is qualified to do work.

Idaho has had woman suffrage for over twenty years. The men worked for it because two years after Idaho became a state—at the Republican State Convention, several prominent office holders were intoxicated in public. The delegates determined on a woman's suffrage policy, as the surest remedy. The influence of the new voters was immediately felt; it was tacitly understood by politicians that the standard must be raised; rather a sordid vision, but it worked. The Duke of Wellington said that Waterloo was won on the football grounds of British public schools and there is no doubt our Waterloo is ahead of us.

Women and Free Trade

We shall need study, loyalty, courage and team play of the highest order to be ready to meet it. At The Grain Growers' Grain Co. shareholder's meeting in Winnipeg, many of the farmers joined the Free Trade League. Here is an opportunity for the women to do "their bit" with the men. We are voters too. If it is wise for the male voter to join a political league, it cannot be foolish for us to do likewise. In one of the last leaflets distributed it is stated that protection costs the people of Western Canada not much less than $100,000,000 annually. We always say the way to John Bull's feelings is through his pockets. That sum has to come from our pockets annually and it should stir us up to alter things. If we join such a league, we shall give the privileged classes a large vision of what the workers of the West mean to do when the opportunity comes.

To duty firm, to connections true,
However tried and pressed,
In God's clear sight, high work we do,
If we but do our best.

To do nothing is as fatal as to commit evil and it is more cowardly.

MRS. A. TOOTH.

NOT A CLASS MOVEMENT

One of the objections occasionally urged by those who would discredit or belittle the farmers' organizations is that the movement is the movement of a class, and, like all such, largely selfish. It does not require much examination of the actual facts to dispose of the criticism.

In the first place there is no denying that there is "some class" to the movement. In rapid growth and present extent and influence there is nothing quite like it in the history of earlier times. It is being watched by economists, publicists and politicians throughout the empire and in other nations. It is going to have an important place in the history of the period. Further, it is undeniable that the movement was originated by and is largely a movement among farmers. But it is equally certain that from the earliest period it has not confined itself in any selfish way to interests which are peculiarly and exclusively the farmers', and that it has all along been working definitely toward general community development and the all round enrichment of rural life. Its ideals have always included the intellectual and moral and recreational interests of the community as well as the economic. Its symbol, the golden sheaf, signifies the harvest of life to be shared by every individual in the community, and in its study and discussion and practical working, the association is enthusiastically and generously seeking to make life's harvest a richer one for all.

Strengthens Every Worthy Cause

In its relationship with other organizations this priciple is specially manifest. The grain growers are co-operating with school and church, and fraternity and agricultural associations and community club; and, while seeking that farmers shall have their true place economically among the material interests, are seeking no less earnestly that they may take their true place of responsibility and of helpful strengthening of every worthy cause. Thus the organization has been constantly active in sympathetic co-operation with temperance workers, direct legislationists, woman suffrage advocates, tax reform organizations, and indeed every progressive body whose workers could be induced to enter into such relationships. And there is every reason to believe that such relationships of mutual understanding and cordially helpful support will be multiplied rather than diminished in time to come.

Very markedly in its relationship with other economic interests is the generous and unselfish ideal of the movement made manifest. The grain growers are not antagonistic to any legitimate interest. In any case where a clash may seem imminent or inevitable the grain growers seek settlement of the difficulty, not by parliamentary lobbying, not by sly "influence" or crafty intrigue, but by open, light-of-day examination and discussion of points in dispute, by frank and full conference among all the parties interested and by the creation of an intelligent and fully informed public opinion which may lead to such conclusions and adjustments as shall be just to each and for the highest good of all. By pacific negotiation, by treaty and not by conflict, the movement seeks to win its way and to secure that its ideals shall prevail.

It is possible, as humankind are very fallible, that here and there an individual grain grower may be found who is first and always a "knocker," who thinks chiefly of self and class aggrandisement, who never by any chance puts himself in the other fellow's place, or looks at affairs from the point of view of his antagonist. To such a man the world is full of "antagonists." He, of course, will never admit that any interest but his own particular interest ought to be considered for a moment. He will always be ready to clear the decks for action and to smash everything that he imagines to be in the way of his attaining what he wants. Such men are not to be shot, nor even excommunicated. All that is wrong is that they have not caught the vision. Be patient with them. Show them the better way. Teach them by precept and example the higher principle. Win them to the higher course, and thus, by promotion to the more advanced class rather than by elimination, let the association be purged of any element which could lend color to the opinion that our movement is in any sense the selfish movement of a self-centred class. Let us continue to serve in whole-hearted loyalty to the conception of a people's movement for the good of all the people. For the experience of every passing day ought to sufficiently teach us that he who lives for what he may grasp and own, lives in vain, and that he alone succeeds who invests his life in the service of his fellowmen.

W. R. W.

In a letter received from one of our recently organized branches—North Star, the secretary states that they have a membership of 24 paid-up members and a good prospect of increasing this number in the near future. As soon as the rush of spring work is over they expect to get busy and do their best to further the interest of the farmers in their community. At their last meeting it was decided to take steps this coming fall towards getting a creamery built at their point. If they get enough stock subscribed they also purpose securing a G.G.G. Co. elevator at no very distant date. Numerous other matters have been discussed with a view towards helping to improve conditions and further the interests of the farmers in this district.

We are very pleased to see the interest taken in the movement and shall look forward to this branch becoming one of our most active ones.

U.S. WAR TAX MEASURES

The new war tax bill to raise $1,800,000,000 in the next year was reported to the United States Congress by the ways and means committee on May 9. It may be materially altered by the house but as reported it provides for the following war taxes:

On incomes, normal rate of four per cent. for individuals, with exemptions of $2,000 for married persons and $1,000 for unmarried and graduated super-taxes on incomes of more than $25,000; six per cent. on corporations; increased taxes to be effective from January 1, 1917. On excess profits sixteen per cent. On inheritance, new taxes by a graduated scale running from one-half to fifteen per cent., present inheritance taxes to remain. On imports, all existing tariff duties raised ten per cent., and ten per cent. duty imposed on articles now admitted free.

Minor taxes include: Increase of letter mail from two to three cents an ounce, of postal cards from one to two cents, and of newspaper rates by a zone system. Liquor and tobacco taxes are practically doubled. Levies by stamp taxes or other means are made on life insurance policies, pipe lines, electric power, telephone and telegraph messages, theatres, club dues, on manufacturers of automobiles, cosmetics, proprietary medicines, musical instruments, jewelry, moving-picture films, chewing gum and pleasure boats, on newspapers five per cent. of advertising collections.

Mail order houses should be taxed according to the Retail Merchants' Association which met in Moose Jaw recently. President Bannard and J. H. Curle, of the Manitoba association outlined what progress had been made in that direction in Manitoba and the matter was passed on following a resolution urging that the provincial bodies of both provinces work in unison on the question.

The first legislative step toward conservation of the nation's food resources and a long advance toward an absolutely dry United States was taken on May 12 by the senate in approving, 38 to 32, an amendment to the administration espionage bill forbidding during the war the use of cereals or grain in the manufacture of intoxicating liquor.