

The Mail Bag

MUST HAVE RECIPROCITY

Editor, Guide:—I am going to write about a subject in the form of a question which I believe to be of vital importance not only to the farmers of Western Canada but also the whole future of the three prairie provinces. I refer to the rejecting of the Reciprocity treaty by some of Eastern Canada's population. It is a well known fact that the agreement was not defeated by the rural vote of even Eastern Canada, and in Manitoba, where the sentiment of the people seemed to be very strong against it we find that a careful investigation reveals the fact that the farmers voted strongly for the wider market, but the villages, towns and cities where Special Privileges exercise lordship over the people produced a majority against it. Now after we have seen the result of the vote it is no less apparent that we as farmers, merchants, dealers and laborers must have free trade relations with our neighbors to the south. As we now are under the existing conditions, what we have to buy comes to us at the highest possible figure, while we sell our products at the lowest market price. And why are we thus dealt with? I think I am justified in stating in answer to the question that it is because we have not put down the tariff, which in this most Christian nation and the country of which Great Britain and the rest of the Empire has a right to be proud, in this most noble land on which Heaven's sun has ever shone I say, that cruel monster the tariff is making millions of wealth for a few, at the cost of the very vitals of the common people, their wives and their children, which are the strength and grace, yea, the very backbone of the nation. Seeing these things are so is there any remedy? Some of our advisors say that we must keep up the tariff to enable the government to get the revenue we so much require. In answer to that, we have declared that we are willing to let our land be taxed on the principle of the land values taxation, and what shall we say more? If the trade relations asked for by the late government in the reciprocity pact meet the disapproval of the manufacturers, and fruit growers of Eastern Canada, and the fruit growers and lumbermen of British Columbia, why should all the people of Canada suffer? Cannot the government of the three prairie provinces make negotiations with the Dominion government to establish and regulate their own tariffs individually and thereby have our trade relations independent within the Dominion just as well as the Dominion does this work within the rest of the Empire? Is the above plan workable?

J. W. COMMODORE.
Weyburn, Sask.

FAVORS SINGLE TAX

Editor, Guide:—Your article in The Guide of May 22, on "A Model City," is very much appreciated by me, being in my estimation the only honest solution, so far as the people as a whole are concerned. It is one of the greatest evils in this Western country of ours that a few individuals are enabled to take all the rise in land values to themselves instead of staying with the city, town or community which has created them. When will people who are at present dabbling in real estate in our Western land here realize that they are the ones who are creating the values of land and that they themselves will also have to pay for these values either directly or indirectly, sooner or later? When I was back in Glasgow, Scotland, three years ago I met an old school chum who was pleased to see me, so he said. "By the way," he continued, "I hear that there are some good investments in real estate in Regina, can you give me any tips?" Needless to say I pleaded ignorance, as I was only a farmer. Now this is an example of what is happening every day by those "who toil not neither do they spin," and who, according to law, unfortunately, are only parasites

of the community who are sucking the life blood of those who at some later date, require the land for specific purposes and who will have to pay for it by the only true wealth, that of labor. As a farmer, however, I am not blind to the fact that farm land practically comes under the same category as city property and after all it does not matter one iota, so far as actual production is concerned whether one's land is worth \$1.00 per acre or \$100 per acre. You cannot graze one more head or raise one more bushel of wheat. So that I would have the unearned value of land or part of it go into the municipal treasury and by so doing would leave that which was created by the community in the community.

JAMES LINDSAY.
Mazenoid, Sask.

FARMERS FOR LEGISLATORS

Editor, Guide:—Perhaps you will find room for my opinion that no amount of agitation, petition and demonstration will ever help the farmers' cause so long as we permit attorneys and middlemen to represent us. Direct Legislation is O.K. if we get it. Cheaper money on farm security also. Nearer and larger markets, less protection to the trust is all desirable, but to obtain any and all of these one thing is necessary, and

exclusive to one trade is of immense benefit to the cause of the common people.
JOHN WOODWARD.
Usherville, Sask.

CASE FOR HOME TREATMENT

Editor, Guide:—As a reader of The Guide, I would like to lay points re democracy before your readers. The Rev. Dr. R. J. Campbell, City Temple, of London, England, throughout the Western States said: "Selfishness is the keynote in every circle, and moreover, I am no believer in democracy any more than I am in plutocracy. Nothing can be run rightly unless the men back of it are spiritually big enough for their jobs." The same thing applies to Western Canada, and during my ten years' sojourn here, I firmly endorse his opinion. The spirit of Ahab is strong in the West today and their slogan is: "I covet." The large farmers are boycotting the homesteaders by threshing everything right round them and leaving their crops isolated, and in many instances rotting on the ground. "I will thresh you when it is convenient for me," said an ardent reciprocitor to a homesteader whose crop was rapidly spoiling and who had been furnished with help the previous fall by the latter. No wonder we don't succeed in politics when it is every man



THE MODERN RUBE

The Passenger.—Yes, I'm going out to kid that old rube uncle of mine for a couple of days. Do you know him?
The Stage Driver.—Yep. That was him who just whizzed by us in his new \$5,000 car. Just got back from a three months' stay in New York.

—Fuck.

that is, we must have real farmers to legislate. Let us start a Farmers' and Labor party now and fight to a finish on this line.

T. K. ROGNER.
Millet, Alta.

ADVOCATES THIRD PARTY

Editor, Guide:—As regards the political situation from my viewpoint, I think it is time we got down to real business and formed a third party to counteract the influence of the capitalists who seem to be running both the political parties in office. I think we should be able to effect a workable alliance between the farmers as represented by the Grain Growers' association and organized labor in the Dominion, notwithstanding what Mr. Green has recently written about the farmer being the one man whom every other man seems to consider legitimate prey. I think the interests of the farmer and the town worker are very much the same, and fail to see why they should not walk hand in hand politically. We as Grain Growers have been criticising and educating now a long time, and I think we may take a lesson from England with its labor party, and Germany with its Social Democratic party, also the Socialist party in France, and the labor party in New Zealand and Australia, and gather from their records that a third party when not made ex-

for himself and co-operative spirit is largely a myth.
JOHN FERGUSON.
Marquis, Sask.

"THE HEAVENLY SPIRIT"

Editor, Guide:—The legend of the two brothers printed on the front cover of The Guide, of June 19, is the most beautiful story in all the collected thought of the ages. It should be printed by the millions of copies and sent broadcast by every person in every letter written. It should be showered over the earth and set before humanity until its central thought penetrate the iron armour of selfishness in which humanity is encased today.

Compare the spirit of that legend with our industrial and commercial system of today. How many individuals on earth today, deep down in their inmost selves, give a serious thought to another's gain, or pleasure or welfare? How many of our "great" banking syndicates, railroad syndicates, commercial syndicates have anything but the coldest, gruelest, narrowest selfishness for their sole creed? How easily might wrongs be righted, might poverty be removed, might failure and hatred and ignorance be eradicated if this Heavenly Spirit—this Spirit of Brotherhood, could be instilled as the working creed of the world. Our boasted "civilization" is a tissue of falsehood from beginning to end. It does not contain

even the crudest animal instincts of kindness and love and protection. Its sole creed is a polished and bloodless selfishness which, may wear a white shirt and mumble over in a mechanical way some few of the sacred truths of life—but which, nevertheless, stares blankly at the injustice, the suffering, the wrong and ruin of the world and is not moved to compassion!

Try to conceive if you can, how little of this spirit of Brotherhood, is found here in our new and boasted land of the West. How much of it enters into our systems of land selling, of transportation, of marketing, of trading and trafficking and dealing? How many families are slaving year after year, trying to save barely enough to live upon from the grasp of the railroad, the elevator, the middle man? How many are forced to yield all and sink back into the abyss branded "failures"? It is no wonder there are hatred and revenge and crime. We breed them by our methods faster than the better instincts of mankind can remove them. No wonder there are anarchists and murderers and thieves.

If every man could get only what he actually earns, without a gift from his brother, we would be satisfied. If every man yielded only a just payment for the services rendered him, we would be satisfied. But we yield up to corporations and trusts and grafters not only a fair payment for the service they render, but in addition, the last penny which their accursed avarice demands! There is truly a marvelous mission for these Grain Growers' associations and united farmers organizations to perform. But if we keep at it we will win. A few votes, a few grains of enlightenment, a few less prejudiced minds, a few more courageous and self-sacrificing men—and we will have won the day.

The legend of the brothers should be our only literature of war.—Fraternally,
BERT HUFFMAN.
Langdon, Alta., June 22, 1912.

TORONTO AND SINGLE TAX

Toronto's civic legislation and reception committee today approved of the single tax principle and asked that the board of control report funds to enable Assessment Commissioner Forman to visit some of the cities where improvements are assessed on a lower basis than land, in order that the commissioner may report as to the advisability of establishing such a system of assessments in Toronto. Among the cities mentioned are Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver.

ANOTHER INDEPENDENT

John Gibson, Craik, Saskatchewan, is contesting the constituency of Arm River in Saskatchewan provincial election as an independent. He endorses Direct Legislation, Interior Storage Elevators, Cheap Money for Farmers, Co-operative Ownership of Public Utilities, provincial control of public domain, control of freight rates on bonded railways. Mr. Gibson, is a native of Scotland but he has been a resident of Saskatchewan since 1883, engaged in agriculture.

SELF-STEERING TRACTOR

In our last issue the description of the 4 cylinder gas tractor illustrated should have read "with self-steering (not self-starting) apparatus."

The only way to have a well-finished year is to finish the tasks and duties of each day as it passes. A marred or a lost day anywhere along the years may lead to loss or even sore misfortune afterwards.

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. 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.

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