

Hanging on the wall at the annual convention of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association at Regina on February 7-9, 1911, was this motto:

"TO ESCAPE CRITICISM"

"Say Nothing! Do Nothing! Be Nothing!"

That is the only course The Guide sees ahead of itself. If The Guide as an independent journal were of the milk and water variety it would never be criticised. We have levelled very little criticism at Mr. Scott and his government. In the same article in The Guide of February 15, 1911, upon which Mr. Scott bases his letter we said in reference to the new Saskatchewan elevator system:

"It is the duty of every member of the association now to put his shoulder to the wheel in earnest and do his full share in every way towards making the new undertaking a success."

Could Mr. Scott ask more of us? We stand to assist in every way to make the elevator systems of both Manitoba and Saskatchewan as successful as possible. That has always been our policy. But we reserve the right to point out errors and criticise them at all times. We cannot think that Mr. Scott will deny us the sincerity of our desire and determination to do the utmost possible to assist the farmers of this Western country in bringing about an era of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none." We intend to keep right on working to the best of our ability to assist the farmers of the West to secure justice. The Grain Growers of Saskatchewan have decided in favor of a system of co-operative elevators, and The Guide intends to assist them in securing it. With the evidence we have adduced before them it is for the farmers to say whether Mr. Scott, Mr. Roblin, the Winnipeg Telegram, the Regina Leader or the Grain Growers' Guide, or all of them, are right in the course they pursue.

FARMERS STAND TO YOUR GUNS

The Winnipeg Grain Exchange met on February 21 and passed the following resolution against the reciprocity agreement which is now before the House of Commons:

"That it is the opinion of the members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange that the proposed measure of reciprocal trade between Canada and the United States of America, now under consideration at Ottawa and Washington, if ratified, will not be in the best interests of Canada."

The vote in favor of the resolution was about three to one. The motion was proposed by Hugh N. Baird and seconded by George Fisher, both past presidents of the Grain Exchange. Strong speeches in support were made by the managers of the Western Canada and Ogilvie Milling Companies. The milling and elevator interests are nearly all opposed to reciprocity. The commission men are apparently in favor. On the following day the Winnipeg Board of Trade met and passed a resolution against reciprocity, sixty-nine members out of ninety present being in favor of the resolution. It is interesting to know that a number of the elevator men who had been at the Grain Exchange meeting were also present at the Board of Trade meeting and voted against reciprocity in both places. The Toronto Board of Trade met on February 16 and passed a resolution against reciprocity by a vote of 289 to 13. Sir Edmund Walker, president of the Bank of Commerce, moved the resolution and talked imperialism. W. F. Cockshutt, the Brantford manufacturer, was most passionate in his condemnation of reciprocity. The vote of the Montreal Board of Trade was recorded some time ago as also against reciprocity. The members of these Boards of Trade comprise among their membership the leading manufacturers, bankers, capitalists, railway magnates and practically all the big interests that are opposed to freedom of trade because it will open the markets of United

States for the benefit of the Canadian producers and consumers. These men claim to be Liberals and Conservatives, but when they come to a financial question they throw aside their politics and stand together. It is patent now that these big interests will spend millions of dollars to prevent the ratification of the reciprocity agreement by the Canadian parliament. They hope to create public opinion sufficiently strong that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will not dare to ratify the agreement. The opponents of reciprocity do not fear so much the agreement that is before the House of Commons now as they do the precedent it will create. Since 1866 the manufacturers and special privilege classes have made the tariff to suit themselves. They see in this agreement the thin edge of the wedge which means that inside of ten years the tariff walls which surround Canada will be broken down and that the producers and consumers will no longer have to pay tribute to special privilege. No person could have foreseen the uproar that the reciprocity agreement has created. But it shows how far men will go to protect their pocket books. A crisis is approaching in Canadian affairs. The organized farmers in Ottawa on December last demanded reciprocity with United States, an increase in the British Preference and free agricultural implements. It is the duty of every farmer now to stand firmly for those demands. Our Western members in the House of Commons should be given to understand that if they really represent their constituents they are every one expected to vote in favor of the reciprocity agreement and to work for its ratification. If the farmers of the West were sincere and in earnest when they made their demands in Ottawa on December 16, 1910, they should now stand for the ratification of the reciprocity agreement. **IT WOULD BE A VERY WISE ACTION FOR EVERY LOCAL ASSOCIATION TO MUSTER ITS FULL STRENGTH AND PASS A RESOLUTION DEMANDING:—**

1. **RATIFICATION OF THE RECIPRO-CITY AGREEMENT BEFORE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DURING THE PRESENT SESSION.**

2. **THAT AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS BE PLACED UPON THE FREE LIST DURING THE PRESENT SESSION.**

3. **THAT THE BRITISH PREFERENCE BE INCREASED TO 50 PER CENT OF THE GENERAL TARIFF AT THE PRESENT SESSION.**

Even though the reciprocity agreement is ratified there is nothing to hinder making the Canadian tariff as much lower as possible. The only thing that will interfere with the agreement is raising our tariff. If every local association in the West would pass a resolution and send it to their Western member and also to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and as many daily papers as possible they would be strengthening the hands of those in favor of reciprocity. For the first time in forty-five years there is a movement in favor of economic freedom. Let us see that it is continued. Every other interest in Canada is passing its resolutions and sending them to the premier and its member at Ottawa. The farmers will have to fight for reciprocity if they hope to get it. The special interests are creating feeling among the artisans against reciprocity, and it will be the duty of the farmers to offset this influence.

THE ELEVATOR AMENDMENT

The attention of the House of Commons was occupied on February 13 by a debate upon the following resolution moved by Dr. Schaffner:

"That in the opinion of this house, the present system of operating terminal and transfer elevators is detrimental to the interests of the Western grain producers and that the government should take immediate steps to operate terminal elevators at Fort William

and Port Arthur, and the transfer elevators between those terminals and the Atlantic seaboard."

The government evidently did not care to commit themselves to government operation, so the above resolution was shelved by the following amendment moved by Dr. Neely:

"Inasmuch as a bill has been introduced by the government and is now pending in the Senate, dealing with the present system of operating the terminal elevators, it is not expedient to proceed with this question in advance of the consideration of the said bill by this house."

It has been pointed out that The Guide did not give all the names of the Western members who voted on Dr. Neely's amendment, so we here give them from Hansard. Those voting in favor of the amendment were: Cash, Clark, McCraney, Molloy, Neely, Oliver, Rutan, White, Douglas and Martin. Those against the amendment were: Meighen, Bradbury, Campbell, Haggart, Herron, Lake, McCarthy, Roche, Schaffner, Sharpe, Staples. Those who paired were: Knowles, Magrath, Turfitt, MacNutt, Champagne. Mr. Sifton did not vote nor pair. Just why some of the members paired instead of voting we do not understand. The organized farmers from the West have unanimously demanded government operation of the terminals. Surely it is the duty of their members at Ottawa under representative government to support their demands. "Letters from home" will help them.

POLITICS OF PROTECTION

W. H. Rowley, president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, speaking at the banquet following the annual manufacturers' convention in Vancouver on September 22, 1910, said: **"I HAVE NO POLITICS OTHER THAN PROTECTION, AND I HOPE NONE OF YOU HAVE. IF YOU HAVE THEM, I THINK YOU SHOULD SINK THEM FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION, FOR PROTECTION IS THE ONLY POLITICS THE ASSOCIATION SHOULD RECOGNIZE."** The Canadian Manufacturers' Association does not exist to improve the system of manufacturing. It is an institution designed wholly to compel the Ottawa government to issue a permit to manufacturers by which they can charge the consumers from 15 per cent. to 35 per cent. above legitimate prices. Do the farmers need any better reason why they should hold together and demand lower tariff and economic justice?

It is very amusing to note that our so-called imperialists who are usually pocket patriots, oppose the reciprocity agreement not because it lowers Canada's tariff but because it lowers the tariff of the United States against Canada. They say that it will bring about an annexation of Canada with the United States. We confess that we cannot see the point because if United States could have annexed Canada by lowering its tariff, the Stars and Stripes would have floated over Canada long ago.

We are glad to correct a slight error in our last issue in the statement of the salaries of the Manitoba elevator commissioners. As announced by Hon. Robt. Rogers in the legislature these salaries are: D. W. McCuaig, chairman, \$6,000; F. B. MacLennan, \$8,000; W. C. Graham, \$5,000.

Sir William Mackenzie has given the reciprocity agreement another think. Now he says it will not affect the railways nor the connection with the Empire. Sir Donald Mann is not worrying, nor is the general manager of the G.T.P. Certainly the C.P.R. is able to take care of itself.

The Western farmers, through Direct Legislation, must get control of the legislatures before they can control the federal parliament.