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WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS PLEASE
MENTION THE GUIDE

Saskatchewan

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by J. B. Musselman, Secretary, Moose Jaw, Sask., to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

ANOTHER FARM FOR SCRAP IRON

An interesting traction engine case has just come to the notice of the writer in the shape of a large mass of documents and correspondence, including a writ and an appeal for assistance by two loyal grain growers who are in danger of ruin because they are loaded with a traction engine which can't be made to do what it was sold to do. Of course, this is all an old story to the Central Office and scores of such cases have come to our notice, but this is particularly interesting and illuminating because of one or two facts which the writer will draw attention to.

These two farmers contracted to pay the enormous price of \$4,650 for a traction engine, guaranteed to pull six 14-in. plows, and then found that even while in the care of an expert it could be made to pull only four. Think of paying \$4,650 for a huge mass of iron and steel, weighing somewhere around 40,000 lbs., and then having only sufficient power to propel itself and to pull four plows in breaking. It is not to be wondered at that this engine was found to consume from six to seven gallons of gasoline per acre. It takes around one gallon of gasoline to plow an acre of sod. The balance is used in propelling the engine itself across the field. The traction engine has never been built that is worth one-half the amount of money that these men are expected to pay for the one in question. The writer is informed that the Doukhobor, buying for spot cash, has been purchasing for around \$1,300 a large traction engine that pulled eight plows in breaking, but even at that price it is exceedingly doubtful that it has proven a profitable investment.

It would make intensely interesting reading if the writer were at liberty to publish the whole of the correspondence in connection with this matter, but by way of illustrating how a skilled salesman may play upon the vanity and credulity of a farmer, the following letter, dated August 18, 1915, at Saskatoon and written to one of the prospective buyers of the machine in question is published herewith.

"I note your remarks about our opposition saying the price is too high for the average man; well as you know the average man is very often foolish and there is no reason why you should be in the average class, in fact, you are already above the average man, because your experience has taught you that quality is the first consideration, and when a man wants a tool or machine or engine on which his livelihood and prosperity depends then a wise man looks for something which is absolutely reliable, and the initial outlay is a secondary consideration altogether. What is \$900 or \$1,000 more spread over say 5 years or so, for an engine that will stand up and do work to a value of \$100 to \$140 per day and net a man clear \$50 to \$100 per day, and keep on doing it at a small upkeep for repairs and an engine that stands up for years? No, you want to be out of the average class and above it. Let the average man be satisfied with the cheaper inferior engine and go on fooling his money away in heavy repairs and never getting satisfaction. Our Engine will make a man some money and make him happy while working it because he knows all the time he is making good."

The farmers in question refuse to pay for this engine because they claim it cannot be made to do what it was guaranteed to do. The company has sued them for the amount, however, in spite of the fact that they rejected the engine and returned it to the company at Saskatoon. The whole matter is being gone into by the Association's solicitor.

J.B.M.

SCRAPPING THE LIQUOR STORES

My attention has been drawn to the question of the abolition of the liquor stores as a suitable subject on which, in the absence of the Central secretary, to address the Grain Growers' general

ly at the present time thru the medium of this page. My justification, if such were needed, is to be found in the fact that for years past strong resolutions on the liquor question have been passed by the delegates assembled in annual convention, and by the further fact that these resolutions were largely instrumental in influencing the government in their decision to close the bars throughout the province in July of last year.

Leaving out of the question the two classes who either profited by or were constant frequenters of the bars, public opinion in the province was practically in entire agreement with the government insofar as the bars were concerned. What caused many people to look askance on the action of the government was the fact that included in their proposals was a scheme of government ownership and control of the liquor stores, and only the promise of the government that the question of the retention or abolition of the system should come before the electors at a comparatively early date reconciled them to the scheme which eventually became law. While the decision of the government called forth considerable opposition, one thing is certain, and that is that the complete elimination of private profit so far as the sale of liquor is concerned has rendered immensely easier the closing of the stores if the electors should so decide when the question comes before them in December next. It may be that the friends of liquor will still be in evidence as the time of decision draws near, but if so the force of their opposition and their influence on the people will be tremendously weakened as a result of the taking over of the business by the government. As a permanent measure this would never have proved acceptable to the people; but as a temporary arrangement and a stepping-stone to something higher, the end, should that end be complete prohibition, will justify the means employed to attain it, objectionable tho those means have been from many points of view.

While drinking, as judged by the police court returns, has been greatly reduced during the time the system has been in force, there is no doubt whatever that it has been far more prevalent than is good either for the individuals directly concerned or for the nation at large. It did not need Lloyd George to tell us how great a foe we have in our midst. The fact has long been patent to all who have given the least study to the question, and if observation were not enough, we have medical testimony in abundance to prove the case. Common sense, therefore, suggests not only that we should see that the bars are not re-opened at the close of the war, but that the liquor stores also shall be put out of business once for all. If it is a good thing to close the bars during the war, it will be an equally good thing to see that we keep them closed when the war comes to an end. If it is against the national interest that liquors should be sold over the bar, it is equally against the national interest that they should be supplied over the counter of the liquor store. What is bad in the one case cannot be good in the other, and it should be regarded as a duty as well as a privilege by every grain grower who cares for the national good to cast his ballot in December next for the overthrow, once for all, of this great enemy of the race. It will be a great opportunity, and women especially should be proud of the fact that the first exercise of their newly-won franchise should be on a question of this character.

Having won the day in Saskatchewan, as I am confident we shall, we must widen our view and look to a clean Dominion as well as a clean province. As a matter of fact, however, to which we should be foolish to close our eyes, manufacturers and dealers in al-

coholic liquors will see to it that the closing of the stores is not the end of John Barleycorn in Saskatchewan. It will still be possible to import alcoholic liquors into the province so long as some other provinces allow the traffic to exist within their borders, and the only way to prevent this is to see that we get prohibition over an area that will be as wide as the Dominion itself. We can secure this if we will. It may not be, in all probability it will not be this year, but steady and constant pressure exerted as the Grain Growers know how to exert it when their interests are at stake, will eventually bring about the fall of the evil-doer.

S. W. YATES

GALLANT GRAIN GROWER

Central Secretary:—I am very sorry to have to convey the sad news to you of one of our Life Members, a Mr. Edwin Brighthouse, who was killed at the front on June 22. Mr. Brighthouse joined our association only last summer while working with me, and was an earnest worker for the cause. The Thornfield G.G.A. mourn the loss of their faithful worker.



EDWIN BRIGHOUSE
Vern, Sask., an enthusiastic Grain Grower who has laid down his life for his country. Being killed in action on June 22, 1916.

Fraternal yours,
V. E. LAMBERT,
Pres., Thornfield G.G.A.
Vern, Sask.

APPRECIATES CENTRAL WORK

Central Secretary:—I have much pleasure in informing you that I have received word from the C.P.R. stating that they are arranging a coal shed site for us on their track extension here. I have to thank you very much for the trouble you have taken in this matter, for I feel quite sure that we should not have got this concession had you not taken up our case.

W. J. BRUMMITT,
Eastend, Sask. Secretary.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS PROMISED

Central Secretary:—We beg to report that the meeting arranged for yesterday was duly held here and addressed by Mr. Burrill. Mr. Burrill was able to congratulate the district on having advanced so far in co-operative activity, the Wilton Co-operative Trading Association being found vigorous in so many directions. He explained the trading plans of the Central executive, including the establishment of a Winnipeg wholesale warehouse for the distribution of grocery goods and general merchandise; the capitalization methods—several new life memberships being promised—and the general prospects that should follow good co-operative endeavor and loyalty for Saskatchewan farmers. Altho the state of the roads thru heavy rain precluded a large attendance, we feel that Mr. Burrill's visit was of considerable benefit, and would thank the executive for the arrangement thereof.

GEORGE E. COLLINS,
Sec., Wilton Co-operative Assn.

VIDORA LOCAL MEETS

Am writing to express our appreciation of the visit of Thos. Sales. This is the first time we have met any member of the executive, and altho, owing to July 12 being the date of an annual picnic some miles away, the crowd was split up, Mr. Sales was good enough to speak at the picnic in the morning and in town in the afternoon.

The touch of intimacy created by such meetings, together with the information obtained from Mr. Sales, should, I think, prove a great stimulus to the farmers' movement at the local points—so beneficial I hope that the Central office will feel justified in including in the regular yearly program at least an annual visit to each local by a member of the executive. Mr. Sales gave us some very helpful advice on the subject of incorporation, and I trust I shall be able shortly to send you word that we have fallen into line.

I have to report that two of our members—J. O. Lewis and D. M. Wylie—have enlisted.

LEWIS JOHN HARVEY,
Sec., Vidora Local

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Ladies find encl for use in Camp for I think explanation of t line. Th should be report to them the how to r are allot this thru sponsible forms sh governme of labor, gary.

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