

The Mail Bag

GOVERNMENT SEED GRAIN

Editor, Guide:—Reading your editorial on the government seed grain question, it is the honest opinion of people in this vicinity that an investigation into the matter is surely necessary. People were surely overcharged for their seed, both wheat and oats, and at the same time weeds of a good many kinds were found. A good many cars of No. 1 northern Marquis wheat were handled at our local elevator, No. 217, at prices ranging from 85 cents to \$1.20 per bushel. Plenty of clean oats were in this part of the country to seed all the acreage necessary and prices were never over 65 cents per bushel. The local price of government wheat was \$1.50 and of oats 85 cents, while those who had money were able to procure seed wheat for \$1.15 and oats for 65 cents.

Now the question asked here is: Is it because we are Liberals in this vicinity or because the railroads needed the money paid for hauling the wheat both ways? Is it because the government wanted to create a new office of weed inspector in a vicinity where weeds were hardly introduced before or is it only plain graft? Surely this matter needs looking into.

It was well known by our government, or the parties responsible, that our local associations were well able to handle the problem if the government would give the financial backing. This would certainly have saved the freight charges in a good many cases and also have given us cleaner seed and given the government the confidence and backing of the whole Western country. But as mentioned before, the Western farmer is not much for campaign funds.

W. PETERSON,
Pres. Clunie G. G. Assn.
Goldburg, Sask.

THE THIRD PARTY

Editor, Guide:—Some years ago a number of inventive minded Grain Growers of Saskatchewan conceived the idea of starting a third political party wholly independent of the two old parties who divided the whole male population between themselves, as a means of removing the impediments that stood in their way to progress and competency. The first move of concerted action amongst themselves was in the Grain Growers'

annual convention at Saskatoon, in 1913, but they there met with opposition. Hon. George Langley gets the credit of having managed their defeat, but be that as it may, nothing more could be done till the next annual convention would be held, which would be at Moose Jaw the year following. Some provision had been made to have a thorough discussion of the question on that occasion and to prevent another summary closing of the discussion, but the third party delegates discovered that "For ways that are dark and for tricks that are vain," the heathen Chinese is not peculiar, and were again submitted and disappointed. The secretary, before the question was anything like fully discussed, moved that the motion be tabled, which closed the debate and settled the question for another year. This so provoked a young delegate that, like the historic Jenny Geddes, he lost his temper, but having no stool to throw at the chairman, as she had when Episcopacy was sought to be introduced into Scotland, to throw at the bishop, he threw the accusation that the chairman and secretary had conspired thus to defeat the motion for a third party. This, the chairman and secretary both indignantly denied and we were told by the chairman that that was a sample of what he and the world might expect from third party men, while his friends in the body of the hall vociferously shouted to the offender to "retract! retract!" "take it back!" while both chairman and secretary insisted on an apology. The offender evidently wanted to say something in vindication, but was not allowed, but forced on the platform, where, after again trying in vain to get something said, manfully avowed that he had no proof of what he had said, but had been so shocked at the way in which the discussion had been choked off that he lost his temper.

The Winnipeg Free Press some time after the convention had closed, published a statement that "after the convention had closed, the members of the

executive of the Grain Growers' Association met and polled each other to ascertain where each member stood on the question of the third party, and all were found sound opponents of that scheme." The Grain Growers' Grain Company some years ago announced that that Company did not advise the organization of a third party, but that Grain Growers should remain faithful to their old party allegiances and use their influence on their respective parties.

Last summer, to my enquiry of you as to the attitude of The Grain Growers' Grain Company, you answered "that it had not expressed any opinion, but its vice-president has been a frequent writer against the third party." On a symposium, which you offered to your readers on eleven questions, one was on Free Trade, which received the greatest number of votes, and another was practically whether your readers favored the formation of a third party, which received the next highest number. In reading old numbers of The Guide of 1911 and 1912, I find many more letters in favor of the third party than in later numbers.

I recall all these facts to show how the pulse has been beating so far as public discussions go. But against all these I present the facts that the general sentiment in its force has silently been growing very fast, and this other fact, that The Guide has, during the present season, been more decisively in favor of the creation of the third party than ever before, and that you will satisfy most of your Grain Grower readers by opening your columns more freely to its advocates.

JAMES FINDLEY.
Wiseton, Sask.

AN INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION

Editor, Guide:—Recently, at Rosetown, Sask., there met a number of farmers, representatives of the different districts in the federal constituency of Kindersley. As a result an organization was formed.

which is to be known as the Kindersley-Rosetown Independent Association, with officers as follows: President, A. Capling, Wiseton, Sask.; vice-president, W. M. Thrasher, Hughton, Sask.; secretary-treasurer, E. R. Powell, Wiseton, Sask. Organizing committee: J. McNaughtan, Piche, Sask.; W. Deacon, Fiske; Mr. Thompson, Springwater; Mr. Burgess, Valley Centre, Sask.; Arthur Carnegie, Harris, Sask., and Jas. T. Seward, Wiseton, Sask. This committee was given power to add to their number, both ladies and gentlemen.

That the association be financed by voluntary contributions and that a financial statement be issued annually, signed by the officers and committee, was the substance of a bylaw passed by the convention.

The following platform was discussed and adopted: Equal Suffrage; Direct Legislation; Total Prohibition; Universal Free Trade; That revenue be raised by a direct tax on land values and a graduated income tax; Proper system of Agricultural Credit; More correct voters' lists; Elimination of class legislation. More planks will be added later. It was decided to ask trade and labor organizations to submit a plank.

E. R. POWELL,
Secretary.

ADVICE IS CHEAP

Editor, Guide:—The various powers advise, nay, urge the farmer to hold his grain, but it would be better if they would start in to make it more possible for him to do so. The Egyptian taskmasters urged their Israelite slaves to make more bricks, but they gave them no straw for the purpose. So we are expected to hold our grain without capital to live on and pay our debts. If the government would help the farmer, let them follow the example of the government of New Zealand, which has really the interests of the people at heart, and of no one else, and start government banks and loan the farmer money at 5 per cent. The New Zealand government has not lost a cent yet. This would be more practical than advice, which "makes us tired."

F. W. GODSAL
Cowley, Alta.

Farm Experiences

CHAPLIN SCHOOL FAIR

At one of our Grain Growers' sessions the writer made the suggestion that the Bothwell school district hold a children's fair some time in the late summer or early fall, and at the same time suggested a plan to secure means with which to pay premiums and also a list of articles that the girls and boys of the district could spend some of their time upon during the waiting months. Those who became interested in the fair limited the premiums to the children within the district, but announced to others that if they would interest themselves and produce something and enter same, the management would see that they were rewarded. J. R. Lowe was elected president and Floyd Twiss, secretary-treasurer, and all arrangements were put into their hands. At all opportune times we kept the fair before the people and visited nearly all the children once during the summer. One circular letter was got out early in the season and bills just before the fair. Most of the children took a lively interest in their work of preparation, but gophers, chickens and little pigs caused them lots of trouble. Parents generally did all they could to encourage their children to grow vegetables, grains and chickens, while the girls did fancy work and cooking along lines suggested in the circular. Several families made personal exhibits of vegetables, grasses, grains and timber growths. This department of the fair would have been much more extensive but for the fact that two threshing rigs were in the neighborhood. Nevertheless it was good and surprised those who came to see. The exhibits of the children were fully as good and in quantity as great as was expected. The secretary was kept busy all forenoon and more to record the

entries and tag them ready for the work of the judges. In the meantime the ladies put upon tables a dinner so tempting and complete that at the call the tables were filled, and surely they deserve great credit for the interest they took in every phase of the fair.

The Hon. Hugh McKellar of the Saskatchewan Farmer of Moose Jaw was sent out by the agricultural college and gave to the people a most excellent address along the line of home building, with an urgent plea to "keep the farm, and the farm will keep him." It is not my purpose to name the premium takers or to extol any particular one, for they all did well. For a district that has only twenty children of school age and widely scattered over this hill country, the fair was a great success in every way, and so far as I was able to see everybody re-

turned to their homes abundantly satisfied. That it has had an ennobling effect upon the children and that it will weld them much closer to farm life is undoubtedly true. This first fair in Chaplin rural municipality has whetted the children's appetite for another fair another year, but whether it will be taken up by the municipality or continued in Bothwell district is not yet determined.

J. R. L.
Sask.

SEASONABLE HINTS

How about a good cleaning up day this fall after threshing while you have plenty of extra men to help. Perhaps you have a few odd stones to remove from the summerfallow, or perhaps a patch of grass which has escaped the

cultivator, or a little discing to do. Now is the time to do all those odd jobs and not leave them undone until the ground gets covered with snow. If you have not a good implement shed, don't leave the farm machinery out in the weather. Just put up a few poles for posts and throw a few more on top and cover it over with a few loads of straw. You will find that in the long run this will save your machinery considerably.

Cut up that little pile of wood, and pick up all the odd sticks lying around the yard. They make good kindling for starting the fire with in the cold winter months. Get your seed grain stored into a convenient place to fan and clean up for seeding time next spring.

How about the water supply for the winter? It will pay you if you have not a deep well to haul a few loads of earth and cover the top of your shallow well so that Jack Frost will not be able to cut off your water supply when you most need it.

Fix up your young cattle shed for housing them a little more comfortably this winter. Get your vegetable garden plowed and ready for a good return in potatoes, cabbages, tomatoes, etc. Get some manure around the berry bushes and over the rhubarb. All these small jobs save quite a few dollars to the man that realizes the necessity of them, and a dollar saved is a dollar earned. As well as making dollars you are creating an influence over other farmers to want to keep their place tidy and always ready for the unexpected accidents that will persist in happening.

PRAIRIE FARMER
Sask.