

### The Coal Combine

The following extracts from a letter by W. C. Milner to the Halifax (N. S.) Herald show the weakness of the coal company's objections to tariff reduction—

Cape Breton is practically the only district interested in the St. Lawrence market in winter as well as summer. The complaint is made by the coal combine that even under the duty, United States mines are making great inroads in the Montreal market; but the companies' letters fail to deal intelligently with this grievance. What are the facts? The Nova Scotia companies have been playing a fast and loose game in that market. The general prices of the Dominion company until a recent date were—  
C. P. R. and Grand Trunk ..... \$2 75  
Large dealers in summer ..... 3 50  
Large dealers in winter ..... 3 70

While insisting upon these prices in Montreal, that company was delivering coal at the B. & M. railway, at Boston for \$2.80 per ton, paying the duty 67 cents. It is, therefore, fair to assume that the coal supplied the big railways at Montreal netted the company 90 cents per ton. Not satisfied with that big profit, the company charged the wholesale dealers 75 cents extra—or a profit of \$1.65 in summer or \$1.85 in winter. This system of charges have greatly incensed the dealers at what they considered a gross imposition, which is supported by a protective duty. Naturally the dealers have taken every possible means to encourage American competition and to shut out Cape Breton coal. In Montreal the trade is bitterly hostile to the Nova Scotia companies.

Coal is mined at Glace Bay for \$1.20 per ton, the freight to Montreal is less than 60 cents. No American coal can be landed at that city at any sum approaching that figure. The difference between the two coals, is one of profit. The Cape Breton one exacts all he can impose—from 90 cents to \$1.90. The duty helps him gain the higher figures. The abolition of duty does not mean loss of market, but reduction in those enormous profits that have created a class of coal plutocrats, who instead of working the coal, have been working the people!

Central Canada will pay this year a sum approaching five millions of dollars duties in coal and the combine insists that the American coal combine would not reduce the price if the duty were removed. United States is producing this year over five hundred millions of tons of coal, against the, say, two millions sent up the St. Lawrence by Cape Breton. Does anyone suppose that the fierce rivalries and competition existing between the coal operators scattered over twenty-five states will suddenly cease and they will combine to gather in the comparatively paltry trade of the St. Lawrence?

### Dr. Schaffner Entertains

Many of the delegates who visited Ottawa on December 16th were entertained by the sitting member of their constituencies. One of the largest representations was that from Souris and they were entertained in the house of commons restaurant by Dr. Schaffner, the genial member for that constituency. A number of matters of importance to the West, were discussed by the farmers with their representative. Among those at the luncheon, which was an exceedingly happy affair, were—A. M. Lyle, M.P.P., Lyleton; A. M. Campbell, Melita; T. L. Lawrence, Glenora; J. J. Musgrove, Bois-sevain; W. J. Johnston, Ninga; Jno. Fraser, Ninga; Jno. Spratt, Fairfax; D. D. McArthur, Lauder; D. S. Cramm, Lauder; J. F. Lennox, Melita; F. Merritt, Melita; W. Johnston, Melita; Chas. Longman, Deloraine; G. Whittaw, Deloraine; W. McKis, Holmfield; W. R. Mitchell, G. Armstrong, Melita; Jas. McKelvie, Holmfield; Hiram Hannab, Waakada; R. Tooke, Lyleton; Jno. Taylor, Cartwright; T. Turnbull, Huston; Alex. Mattice, Melita; C. Elgar, Pierson, and Mr. McMillan.

There is wonderful wisdom in those words of Carlyle—"In all thy perplexities, do thou thyself but hold thy tongue for one day; on the morrow how much clearer are thy purposes and duties, and how much rubbish those two mute workmen, silence and concealment, swept away."

# HOW TO FURTHER THE CHILLED MEAT PROJECT

## THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY

The Guide, with a view to increasing the number of its readers, and also Association Membership, has undertaken to promote a prize competition among the different Branches of the Grain Growers' Associations and the United Farmers of Alberta.

### The Sum of \$300.00

will be given in Prizes, \$100 in each Province—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta—as follows:

To the Branch sending in the largest number of new yearly subscriptions during the months of January, February and March

**\$50.00**

To the Branch sending in the second largest number of new subscriptions during the months of January, February and March

**\$30.00**

To the Branch sending in the third largest number of new subscriptions during the months of January, February and March

**\$20.00**

OR

If the winning Branches desire to take their prizes out in Books chosen from our lists; to start a circulating library of their own, we will make the

FIRST PRIZES .....	\$55.00	WORTH OF BOOKS
SECOND " .....	33.00	" " "
THIRD " .....	22.00	" " "

This latter plan is, however, optional with the winners, but we simply draw to your attention that a very valuable circulating library for your members could be secured, if you are among the lucky ones and desire educational matter instead of currency.

As a further inducement in addition to the above offer we will give to each Branch that sends in ten subscriptions their choice of one copy of Edward Porritt's "Sixty Years of Protection in Canada," or any books to the value of \$1.50 chosen from our lists.

### The Leading Branches

in each of the Provinces are as follows:

#### ALBERTA

RED DEER  
ISLAY  
WETASKIWIN

#### MANITOBA

CYPRESS RIVER  
MARGARET  
SPRINGFIELD

#### SASKATCHEWAN

GLETHOW (North Star Branch)  
REDVERS  
SEMANS

### To Branch Officers and Members

We are this week mailing each Secretary in the three provinces a list showing the names of the residents of his district who have been receiving sample copies of The Guide. It has cost us a considerable amount of trouble to get these lists out and we hope you will be able to make good use of them. Outside of their value to you in this Circulation Campaign, they no doubt will be of some use to you in your regular Associations work.

We are receiving a considerable number of subscriptions from Branch officers—newspapers and postmasters—which should go to the credit of the Local Branches, but the rules of the Competition have not been complied with. It is necessary to state in your letters what Branch you wish your subscriptions credited to. As there are in many cases several Branches with members receiving mail at the same Postoffice, it is necessary for us to have this information.

We received a few days ago seven new subscriptions through a newspaper man in a Manitoba town. He unfortunately did not state which Branch these were to be credited to, so a golden opportunity was lost. It is just possible that these seven subscriptions might have been the ones to capture one of the prizes at the close of the Competition.

Get busy, it only takes one to start—get everyone who should be interested started immediately and the results will be surprising.

We are publishing only a few of the results. There are a very large number who have sent in one or two subscriptions, but space will not allow us to publish the names.

### WORKING RULES

Any Branch can have as many agents working as they desire. The contest is not limited to the officers of the Branch.

Agents and Branch officers will still be entitled to their commissions on any subscriptions which they secure.

To secure entry in the competition it will be necessary to state on your remittance lists which Branch you desire your subscriptions credited to.

Subscriptions need not come through regular agents. Any of your members can send in one or more new subscriptions and if he states that it is intended to apply on our Prize Competition, your Branch will get credit for it.

Any new subscription sent in individually will be credited to any Branch the sender directs.

Two renewals will be entitled to the same credit as one new subscription.

Travelling agents must credit subscriptions to nearest Branch to district in which they are working.

Records of this contest will be opened with the first mail received in January. Our representatives can rest assured that each one's interests will be looked after fairly and squarely.

# THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, WINNIPEG