

# The Mail Bag

## MR. GREEN'S REPLY

In the Mail Bag of July 16 is published a letter signed by J. T. Wilson, purporting to be a reply to the article "Unwarranted Assumption" in The Guide issue of June 18. Mr. Wilson has read into the article contortions of a very excited imagination or is victimized by some telepathist and used as a medium to record the projected idea of another, based, however, on an entirely wrong premise and absolutely unnecessary after the editor's comment on the article.

There was no attempt on my part to "Attack the Grain Growers' Guide," much less to "slur the Grain Growers' Grain Co." The Public Press Ltd., which owns, publishes The Guide and appoints its officials, was only referred to as "a private company" to differentiate it from other institutions. Doubtless Mr. Wilson knows the directors of the above company—by whom, when, and where appointed. If all had this information they might learn exactly how much control the Association has over The Guide or its policy, and how much its members have invested in it.

But let me here say, for fear of further misrepresentation, I appreciate fully the officials and their capacity as much perhaps as Mr. Wilson or anyone else, nor do I think it wrong their functions or limitations thereof should be known. The Guide is none the less useful because it is neither owned nor operated by the Association. Only abject deceit or fear would hide its identity and vaunting ambition usurp a power belonging not to it.

Neither was any attempt made to compare the quality of material in either of the other provincial departments, much less with The Guide itself. Such an odious comparison was farthest from my intent, superiority of our compeers always willingly admitted. So in this matter, Mr. Wilson made no reply, only a venomous thrust.

Neither would I notice it except that Mr. Wilson went further and denounced all the bright letters of our secretaries appearing from time to time in the Saskatchewan section, most all of which contain some feature, idea or reported action worthy of emulation, from men who have a right to be heard. But all of this Mr. Wilson dares to characterize as "short, uninteresting letters, all meaning the same thing," reminding him "of nothing save a patent medicine almanac." But doubtless this is a mental aberration caused by "seeing with his own eyes" promiscuous advertisements on the page for which only a hypocrite would attempt to charge to me or the local secretaries, as neither they nor I are responsible for these ads. any more than for the editorials, however holy or otherwise they may be. Surely we have read of crocodile tears being shed, but Mr. Wilson's so-called reply would indicate their bile may be put in a bag.

Mr. Wilson then proceeds to analyze my personal views and, by the aid of his famous chart, at least proves the correctness of the article criticized, inasmuch as he himself sets forth a difference on many questions between Mr. Green, The Guide, and the Association.

He declares that on the navy question Mr. Green is in favor of a navy, The Guide against, and that the Association has no definite policy. Exactly, I plead guilty to the personal charge. I am in favor of a navy, for some time yet, ready and fit to defend the right and freedom of every individual living under the social pact represented by the Union Jack. But I am also in favor of barb wire, locks, bars, bolts, civic police, as well as our mounted police, each in their place. I would not send these men forth unarmed or consign the British Navy to the junk pile, as yet. Still, I do not wish to see its destructive power in active operation, but believe its readiness and ability to defend our interests is the best guarantee from much that we all have cause to fear, and I am willing to pay a little towards its upkeep, so long as I enjoy its protection, knowing I have to face things as they are. I am no whining sponger.

I am next charged with being undecided on reciprocity. Wrong again. I

believe in reciprocal trade relationships. Not, however, a mongrel thing embracing the North American continent, with a high tariff wall to the exclusion of Great Britain and other parts of the world. I believe that a condition which would make for war and permanent peace impossible. An international agreement must demolish this wall or war cannot be abolished.

On Free Trade, "Nothing definite" is the charge. Wrong again. I am in favor of Free Trade absolutely, as indicated above, but admit it hardly possible at the present time. I am not in favor of a quack agreement fixed up to oppose my own country or class. Not in favor of free trade for my rival while I and my fellow farmers are to be bound. Not in favor of an agreement binding me to keep out of my rival's garden while he, forsooth, is permitted unlimited range in mine. Be he below the average workman, near home, or from abroad, or their employers.

On Sample Markets I am charged with being "Opposed." Wrong again. I am an earnest advocate of a sample market at the point where my product is ultimately to be sold and the price fixed. That is why I am not in favor of a mixing degrading proposition at Winnipeg or any other point between the Canadian producer and the ultimate customer by whom the price is fixed. Particularly when that mixing proposition is operated by a foreign trust from behind a high tariff wall. But as free wheat is now to be, we shall see what we shall see.

Mr. Wilson next says I am undecided on the Elevator question. I admit I do not know all about all elevator questions (does Mr. Wilson?), but I submit that in this matter Mr. Wilson will have difficulty in pointing to many who have been more decided and whose views have been proved by time and experience to be more nearly correct, or whose action has had more to do with establishment of the provincial farmer operated systems or the immense interior terminals now decided upon. I am not afraid of odious comparisons on this question between Mr. Green, The Guide, or the Associations. Several crucial episodes on this matter might be mentioned where Mr. Green saved the situation. Pardon the apparent boast, Mr. Wilson, but what have you done on this or the other questions mentioned?

On Woman Suffrage Mr. Wilson says we are agreed. Thank Heaven!

On Direct Legislation the charge is "Opposed." Wrong again. I confess, however, "uncertain" might fit here. I have not yet that knowledge of the advantages Direct Legislation will bring to the farmers of this country or the element in the principle that will guarantee a proper adjustment of our social relationships, or warrant any tinkering with the special adaptability of our constitution to the world's work in which we are engaged. If farmers knew their business the constitution is all right. But as the Saskatchewan Government has promised to grant Mr. Wilson's request, why argue further.

I am next charged with thinking my vote should count for more than the average laborer. Wrong again. But I do think the vote of the men who are

permanently located on the land should count for more than that of the transient laborer below the average. What does Mr. Wilson think?

The next charge is that of receiving \$2,000-a year from the Association and \$25 per month from The Guide. The telepathist was wrong. I only get from The Guide \$24.85. Rather insufficient to pay for the stenographic work. Admitted—the \$2,000 paid me last year, referred to by Mr. Wilson, was useful to me as I lost something more than that neglecting my own affairs to attend this work, but why did Mr. Wilson not record how much salary each one of the directors of the Public Press get for the aggregate services they each render. Perhaps it would not be fair, but if comparisons odious are to be made, why not a complete statement.

However, when I took on this work the Association could not pay its secretary two thousand cents. That it can do so now is as much to my credit as to anyone else's. But I sincerely hope I may be able, when I get my salary, to pay back to Mr. Wilson such portions as he may have contributed towards it.

But let Mr. Wilson, or the telepathist, understand that if he or any other person expects the salary paid me to act as a bribe, gag or a sale price of my individuality and citizenship, or to purchase my acquiescence in everything advocated by so-called leaders in other institutions, whether it be a Free Trade League, a Manufacturers' Association, Grit or Tory organizations, Direct Legislation League, Labor Unions, or our own subsidiary companies (whatever they may say, do, or not do), Mr. Wilson and his friends are mistaken, and I have entirely misunderstood my duties and obligations to the men who placed me in the position I hold, and as soon as our directors intimate that the secretary of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association is to take his instructions from any of the institutions mentioned, the office I hold will be instantly vacant, ready for its new appointee, and doubtless Mr. Wilson would be a medium that would fill the bill.

Mr. Wilson further declares that he saw me "with his own eyes" picking holes in the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co. Wrong again. But I did drive a co-operative peg into that company. If the peg has not been withdrawn, there is no hole. Co-operation is a big word and a big principle. The Grain Growers' Grain Co. has sufficient good sense to be getting a line on it, and if Mr. Wilson advocates the principle as constantly and faithfully as the writer has done, he at least need have no fear what the "shareholders" will do to him even though he may pick a hole here and there.

Let Mr. Wilson keep his telescope right end to "his own eyes" when looking for mistakes in others and he will be better able to know exactly what the object of his envy is really doing. If the writer of the Saskatchewan section was the nonentity that Mr. Wilson intimates, doubtless we should have escaped censure.

When earth's last picture is painted, and the tubes are twisted and dried, When the oldest colors have faded, and the youngest critic has died,

We shall rest, and faith we shall need it—lie down for an aeon or two, Till the Master of All Good Workmen shall set us to work anew."

—Rudyard Kipling.  
FRED W. GREEN.

Moose Jaw, Sask.

Note.—Lest a wrong impression might be taken from Mr. Green's reference to The Guide and the Public Press Ltd. in the above letter, we will add further information. Every reader of The Guide and every shareholder in the Grain Growers' Grain Company, as well as everyone else having good reason for asking, has always been and always will be afforded full information in regard to the ownership, control and management of The Guide. There is nothing about The Guide to be kept in the dark and everyone who reads it knows beyond the slightest doubt where it stands upon matters of vital interest to the farmers of the Prairie Provinces. The Public Press Ltd. is the incorporated name of the company which publishes The Guide, and the controlling stock in this company is held by the Grain Growers' Grain Company, the directors holding only enough to qualify them for their office, and the balance of a few thousand dollars is held by the employees of the Public Press Ltd. The Board of Directors of the Public Press Ltd. are: T. A. Crerar, Winnipeg; John Kennedy, Winnipeg; James Reynolds, Winnipeg; George F. Chipman, Winnipeg; Hon. George Langley, Regina; John Morrison, Yellow-grass, Sask., and Edward J. Fream, Calgary. As the official organ of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, The Guide has honestly and earnestly endeavored to aid the Grain Growers of Saskatchewan to secure their just rights. The members of the association favored the reciprocity agreement with the United States and The Guide supported it in every way; The Saskatoon convention last February declared for Free Trade and no one will deny that The Guide is vigorously upholding the cause of Free Trade; the Saskatoon convention also declared in favor of the Taxation of Land Values for the raising of revenue, which principle The Guide has continuously supported; the Saskatchewan Association convention has repeatedly declared for real Direct Legislation, which The Guide has supported without fear or favor. The Guide has also supported the Saskatchewan Association in its demand for reciprocal demurrage and assisted in every way towards the establishment and successful operation of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company. Though the Saskatchewan Association has not officially declared itself upon the naval question, there is no doubt that the great majority of farmers in Saskatchewan believe the same as the farmers in Manitoba and Alberta, namely, that Canada has never in the past and does not now need naval protection and that the \$35,000,000 or more devoted to such a purpose would be money wasted, which could better be spent in forwarding the cause of international peace and arbitration and bringing an end to armaments. We merely state these facts that there may be no secrecy or misunderstanding in regard to The Guide. We have now 15,000 subscribers in that province, all of whom paid for The Guide because they wanted it and because they believed it was honestly endeavoring to aid them in their fight against special privilege of all kinds. In the future as in the past The Guide will aid the farmers in Saskatchewan to secure their rights against all comers.—Editor.

Do what thou hast in hand with perfect and simple dignity and feeling of affection, and freedom and justice; and to give thyself relief from all other thoughts.—Marcus Aurelius.

Sincerity is quite as valuable as knowledge, and even more so.—L. Murray.

Judgment is only the perfection of wit.—La Rochefoucauld.

## Gas, Oil and Steam Engines

This book was written by John B. Rathbun, consulting engineer and instructor of the Chicago Technical College, and has just been published. It is a simple, practical and comprehensive book on the construction, operation and repair of all kinds of engines. It deals with the various parts in detail and the various types of engines and also the use of different kinds of fuel. The book is simply written and well illustrated and is a practical treatise for the man who wants to know just how to manage his engine and how to apply it to all kinds of farm work to the best advantage. It pays particular attention to Heat and Power Fuels; it defines the working cycles and thoroughly explains the practical use of the Indicator and Indicator Diagrams. Attention is also paid to the construction and adjustment of the various parts, such as Ignition Systems, Carburetors, Lubrication, Cooling Systems, Governors, etc., and all parts of the engine most likely to give trouble. The book also goes thoroughly into the mechanism of the various types of gasoline and oil tractors, and on this account alone, should be of value to a man going in for his first engine. It also devotes a special chapter to steam tractors and another to oil burners. This "Practical Hand-Book of Gas, Oil and Steam Engines" is one of the best books in its line on the market, and is recommended by "The Guide" for the use of all machine men. It is kept in stock in "The Guide" office and will be sent to any address promptly by return mail. Price, postpaid, \$1.00.

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