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a definite end which is foreign to the ordinary work of government.

I am inclined to ask of those who would like a separate farmers' party, "What is the work such a party could hope to do?" and "Why do they think a farmers' party would be successful in doing that work?" Mere denunciation of the present governing parties we have already heard more than enough of; throwing dirt at the men who have beaten you is worse than childish and plausible generalities are only the excuses of men who have nothing pointed and practical to say. Let those among us who want a separate farmers' party give us an outline of what they consider a farmers' policy, and then state their reasons why a separate party is likely to achieve its success. One paragraph along this line will give more light to the readers of The Guide than many pages of emotional diatribes or slanderous misdescriptions of men the writers envy. I may, I think, claim that in this respect I have not shirked the issue, I am a member of the Grain Growers' Association, because farming is the most important calling in Western Canada, because in the past its interests have not received from either of the governing parties the amount of attention that its justly due it, the reason being that its rights and wants have not found utterance and The Grain Growers' Association, in bringing opportunity to the farmers to co-operate to discuss and consider industrial matters, would be a powerful agency in helping us to educate each other; to take up subjects of special importance and by lively agitation press them upon the attention of whatever party happened to be in office; that out of such action would grow other things, I feel quite sure. For instance, by taking part in open discussion at our sub-association meetings and at our public conventions, many men would be fitting themselves to fill the various public vocations, such as parliament, the legislature, and the municipality, learning not merely to talk but to think, and learning not self assertion but what is often more difficult and more useful, self-restraint; and altogether apart from fitting manners, to be useful representatives of their fellows, there would naturally follow that general uplifting of the whole which would make it impossible for designing men to use us as tools as they have too often done in the past—impossible because our enhanced self-respect would prevent us being the tool of any one. It is, I know, a hard lesson to learn, and both individuals and communities learn it slowly. We never get respected by others until we learn to respect ourselves, and our friendly discussions would not fail to help us to see that we have rights that are worth maintaining by constant care. Such work as this performed by the Grain Growers' Association, would result in giving us a real political power that no mere political machinery could ever give us. It is a hard thing to say, but at the hazard of offending some I will dare it. Our political helplessness is due in a much greater extent to our lack of intelligent interest than our lack of political organization.

There is one aspect of this question that so far has not been remarked upon. If those who do not belong to either political party use the Grain Growers' Association to start a new party, what is likely to be the action of those members who are believers in the party system and who are also members of the association. In my own province of Saskatchewan we have thousands of sincere Conservatives who are members of the association and an even larger number of Liberals. If the little clique that Mr. Kirkham speaks for were to use the organization for the purpose he desires why should not the others do the same. No doubt with that wide liberality that marks the political independent we shall be assured that we can join them. On exactly the same lines I do not know of anything that prevents anyone today from joining the Liberal or Conservative party as he feels inclined. My point is the so-called independent has no more right to use the Grain Growers' Association to further his party view than the Conservative or Liberal has to further their party view. We shall be, instead of a source of strength, an object of de-

risation. And why? Because we had not sense enough to profit by the experience of the past and the manifold examples that abound for our instruction. Take our mutual opponents, the manufacturers. When they organized they had far too much worldly sense to think of starting a separate or new party. They set to work and practically captured both parties, with the result that one of their officials boasted only a few months ago that they held the West in their grip and had power, if they wished to use it, to turn our cities into a desert.

In the views I have placed before The Guide I shall be totally misunderstood if anyone supposes that I am against starting a new political party. Not at all. If the Latin named gentleman or Mr. Kirkham want a new party started why let them raise the fiery cross and organize a series of meetings or act in any way they think fit in furtherance of their desire, and for one I shall wish them God-speed, for in many respects a new party may easily be better than either of the old ones, but neither these gentlemen nor any one else have any right to use the Grain Growers' Association as a stamping ground for their antics. But I feel fully persuaded that there is only one path of safety for our farmers' organization and that is to keep clear away from any interference with organized politics, because I am also fully persuaded that it represents the greatest though perhaps not the only danger ahead of us.

GEORGE LANGLEY,

Maymount, Sask.

### WORKING FOR COMMON GOOD

Editor, Guide:—Your valuable paper is a most welcome visitor in our home on Saturday evening when our once-a-week mail is distributed. I read The Guide from beginning to end and some times on rainy days, read it over a second time. Most interesting are the many letters in the Mail Bag in which the writers express their views on the different subjects under discussion, especially on the tariff question, which is perhaps the main issue with the Grain Growers today. Mr. Hodgett, over in Sunny Alberta, seems very enthusiastic and bold in his assertions in his letter printed August 10th. I will not make my letter long by criticizing his purely protective arguments, but will refer to one sentence in his article where he says: "The prosperity of the farmer depends upon the prosperity of every other industry in the country." We will gladly correct your little clerical error, but you certainly meant to have the word "upon" at the beginning. You also put so much stress on our home market, but where would Canada be today with its grain and beef, without export trade, perhaps Mr. Milloy could come to our rescue. In The Guide of June 29th he says in part: "Protective tariff has done a great deal towards building up our cities," etc., etc. I suggest that tariff be put so high that our farms be turned into city lots, and we would all enjoy city life that would wield home market for our products and we could more conveniently look after "the prosperity of every other industry." It is amusing to note how the word "socialism" bothers the conscience of a few of the writers. It matters little what name we apply to a thing or being as long as its cause and object is for the right, as it is the case with The Guide, which is doing excellent work in exposing frauds, educating the common people, advocating direct legislation and government ownership, which all come directly in line with true socialism, which simply means collective ownership and control of those industries which are now used by the capitalists for the purpose of getting for themselves the earnings of the working masses. So how in The Guide to continue on with the good work and stay off all socialistic ground.

I heartily endorse the idea of Mr. Rebbington, in his article of August 24th, where he makes the suggestion of having a binder made for The Guide, as I am saving all mine and thinking of having them bound. Wishing you continued success and hearty support from all grain growers of the Northwest.

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