

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, December 6th, 1916

THE CALL TO CHRISTIANITY

As the Christmas season approaches the minds of men and women turn backward nearly 2,000 years to the day when the Saviour of mankind spent His short life upon this earth. During those few years by His divine example and by the undying principles which He laid down for the conduct of the relations between man and man, He established the fundamental principles of Christianity. The great work of Christ upon earth might be summed up in the words of the scriptures—"He went about doing good." For nearly 2,000 years the church has been endeavoring to carry on the work which the Saviour called upon His followers to conduct. Despite its faults, and they have been many, the church has contributed more than any other institution to the advancement of civilization and to the welfare of mankind. Rev. Dr. Bland of Winnipeg has recently stirred the leaders of the church profoundly by his charge that the church is not keeping pace with the needs of the times. He demands that the church shall no longer devote its energies entirely to individual salvation, but shall also use its forces and its energy to correcting the sins of society, and to the elimination of those evils which are eating at the vitals of the nation. With all the work that the church has done he maintains that it has made no combined effort to check the frenzy of gambling which has burned like a deadly fever thruout Canada during the past twelve years. The church has been dumb to the oppressiveness of the tariff and the combines, stock watering and railroad manipulation and extortion, political patronage and the evils that follow in its train, campaign funds and the other sins which debauch our public life and lower the moral standard of the nation. Dr. Bland says that it is a curious fact that a man may be individually honorable and kind, and yet as a member of a corporation he may be a pirate. He further declares that many of these pirates are prominent in Canadian churches where they have been exalted, courted and leaned upon. Dr. Bland calls upon the church to set its face against these evils of society and public life in the same way that it fought against slavery in the southern States and the way it cleared out the liquor traffic in Canada. Dr. Bland has thrown this big question into the arena of public discussion. The church is under fire in real earnest. No one now maintains that the church should be immune from criticism, and no one doubts that the church will emerge from the present crisis stronger and better, and animated by a keener desire to clear up the evils which are sapping at the root of our national life. There is no good reason why the church as a religious institution should not attack the political patronage evil, campaign funds and political corruption in the same way that it attacked the liquor traffic. The men who are responsible for these evils in Canada are not all up in public life, but many of them are in the humbler walks. The ministers of the gospel, and some of them have already spoken out firmly and frankly, have a mighty power in their hands to stir the souls of the people and call them to higher and nobler things. If the church in a united effort determined to clear up these evils, Canada would soon enjoy a reputation for public and private honesty instead of now being a by-word among nations for political corruption and corporation exploitation.

Saskatchewan farmers who lost their crops by hail will be glad to learn that it was decided recently at the meeting of reeves in Regina to pay in full all claims under the Municipal Hail Insurance scheme.

THE FARMERS' YEAR

The Annual Meeting of The Grain Growers' Grain Company held last week completes the series of annual meetings of the three great farmers' companies that have been held during the past three weeks. Each of these companies had the most successful year in its history and thruout the whole world there is nothing to compare with these great farmers' organizations from the standpoint of the volume of business transacted, the financial profit accruing to such a large number of farmer shareholders and a record of benefits conferred upon the farming community in general. There are now more than 48,000 farmer shareholders in these three great farmer companies, controlling assets valued at more than \$8,000,000, and with a paid-up capital of \$2,000,000. In the past year these companies have handled about 90,000,000 bushels of grain, or nearly one-third the marketable portion of the grain crop of this country. The profits accruing to these farmers' companies on the year's business was enormous, showing as follows:—

Grain Growers' Grain Company, (with subsidiaries)	\$775,000
Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company	757,000
Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company	282,000
Total	\$1,814,000

This immense sum of money has been absolutely saved to the farmers of Western Canada thru the operation of their own companies. Part of it has gone back to the 48,000 shareholders in handsome dividends on their stock, while the balance is held in reserve to enable these companies to carry on greater work in the interests of the farmers.

Undoubtedly a great many protectionist journals will inquire why, in the face of such profits made by the farmers' companies, the organized farmers should protest against big profits made by the manufacturing, financial and transportation companies. There is this vital difference. These farmers' companies enjoy no special privileges. They operate in an open competitive market and their charges for handling business are fixed either by the Canada Grain Commission or by the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and are beyond their control. The manufacturing, banking and transportation interests, on the other hand, all enjoy special privileges in the way of legislation to help them make larger profits by charging the public higher prices than open competition would permit them to charge. Further still, the profits of the farmers' companies go back to the men who produce the grain from which these profits were made, while in the case of the other companies, none of their profits go to the men and women whose business produced those profits.

The public treasury will benefit to a very considerable extent by the new corporation war tax on the profits of the farmers' companies. At the last session of Parliament, legislation was enacted providing that corporations with a capitalization of over \$50,000 must pay into the public treasury 25 per cent. of all their profits over and above 7 per cent. on their capital stock. This tax was made retroactive, that is applied not only to the present year's business, but also to the past year. This war tax will take into the public treasury from the farmers' companies the following amounts:—

Grain Growers' Grain Company, (with subsidiaries)	\$360,000
Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company	200,000
Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company	60,000

Total\$620,000

In announcing the tax on the Company's profits, President T. A. Crerar of The Grain Growers' Grain Company said that he did not believe any shareholder of the company would raise the slightest objection to this tax when it was considered the money was being used to carry on the war and prosecute it to a successful conclusion. Mr. Crerar undoubtedly echoed the sentiments of all the shareholders of these farmers' companies. The farmers are willing to pay their share of the cost of the war, not only in men, but in money and have paid it abundantly and will keep on paying it.

The farmers of Western Canada have good reason to be proud of their achievements in the commercial world. They have demonstrated their ability to conduct their own business, not only with advantage to themselves from a business standpoint, but also with very great profit. Not only have they gone into the grain business successfully, but they are handling also a very large portion of their own livestock and agricultural machinery and a tremendous volume of other supplies and commodities used on every farm. While the business for the coming year will not be nearly so large, the companies now are on a very sound and strong footing. The experimental stage has been passed in safety and the future will see a wonderful record of achievement thru these companies for the benefit of the farmers of the Prairie Provinces.

ANOTHER FORWARD STEP

The most important move in the history of the organized farmers in recent years was decided upon at the annual meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Company last week in Winnipeg, when the shareholders endorsed the proposal for amalgamation with the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company, the new company to be named The United Grain Growers, Ltd. For some years there has been discussion among the leaders of the organized farmers to discover in what way the interests of the whole farmers' movement could be best co-ordinated for the benefit of the farmers of the Prairie Provinces. The leaders of the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company brought forward the proposition for amalgamation with the Grain Growers' Grain Company and the scheme was endorsed unanimously by the delegates of the Alberta company three weeks ago at their annual meeting in Calgary. A great many advantages will follow this amalgamation. It will build up a larger company in a stronger financial position, able to handle a larger share of the farmers' business. The new move is quite in accord with the spirit of the times which is being manifested thru co-operation instead of competition. Competition among the great farmers' companies that are working with the same end in view would be disastrous to the best interests of the farmers' cause. In the new amalgamation all the interests of the individual shareholder in both companies will be retained. No shareholder will suffer any loss whatever, but on the contrary will be a gainer thru having a much larger and stronger company to take care of his interests. The capital stock of the new company will be increased to \$5,000,000, so that the company can go into new enterprises for the benefit of the farmers of the West. It is not looking too far into the future to see the United Grain Growers, Ltd. operating its own timber limits and supplying lumber at the lowest possible cost to the farmers on the prairies; operating its own flour mills and grinding the wheat of the Prairie Provinces in the country where it is grown, and retaining the profits for the men who grow it; operating abattoirs for the