

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, October 21st, 1914

## THE WAR

Even with the little news of the war that is allowed to be published it is quite evident that the struggle is quite as serious as even the pessimists prophesied. The latest estimate of losses shows that over 500,000 Austrian and German soldiers have been killed, and it is probable that nearly an equal number of Russian, Belgian, French and English soldiers have also gone down to death. The world has never known anything that will compare in the slightest degree with the slaughter and destruction of the present war. There is every prospect that the struggle will continue for some time to come with even greater losses than those that have already occurred. The resources of every one of the warring countries will be strained to their very limit and it is Canada's duty in self defence to render every possible aid to the allied armies. Already 33,000 Canadian soldiers are training in Great Britain and another contingent is to be raised immediately. It is altogether likely that 200,000, or perhaps more, Canadian soldiers will be asked for and we believe that the call will be answered in a manner befitting Canadians. Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa are doing their part and Canada will do hers.

## BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

We have had a number of letters from our readers asking that The Guide accept subscriptions for some of the various funds being raised in connection with the war. We are very glad indeed to lend our support and assistance to a project of this character, but have been waiting to see where is the greatest need and what action was being taken by the organized farmers before deciding what fund would be the most desirable to support. The Prince of Wales' fund in Great Britain is already assuming enormous proportions, showing that the people of Great Britain are coming to the relief of their own sufferers in a splendid manner. Various patriotic funds are being raised thruout Canada for the support of the families of our soldiers who have gone to the front, and for aid to those who are out of employment on account of the war. Red Cross funds are also being raised for the care of the wounded on the battle field, and funds are also being raised for the relief of the Belgian people. We have decided to open our pages to subscriptions for the Belgian Relief fund. The little Kingdom of Belgium before the war contained a population of over seven million people in an area slightly more than half the size of Nova Scotia. Belgium was the most thickly populated country in Europe. The whole of Belgium has been overrun by the armies, thousands of her soldiers have been slain, her cities have been destroyed and millions of her people are homeless and wandering. An immense number of the refugees have already sought safety in Holland and others in England, while the remainder are enduring privations undreamed of in their own land. The unfortunate Belgians are particularly deserving of sympathy, as they are a quiet industrious people without warlike aspirations and are the innocent sufferers in this great war. Large numbers of their women have been slain and thousands of families have lost their bread winners. We believe that the farmers of Western Canada would gladly assist in every possible way in bringing relief to these Belgian sufferers and we shall be glad to accept any contributions, however small, towards this fund. The Grain Growers' Associations, we understand, are accepting subscriptions for various relief purposes, and several local associations have started their own relief funds. We do not wish to interfere with any of these, but merely

to afford an opportunity to those who are not giving thru other channels to participate in extending aid to those who are unfortunate. All checks sent in should be made payable to "The Grain Growers' Guide," and acknowledgement of all payments will be made in The Guide each week as they are received. As soon as a reasonable amount has been received it will be forwarded to the British Government in order that it may reach the Belgian sufferers as quickly as possible.

## FOR THE PUBLIC WEAL

The general upheaval caused by the war and the emergencies which have been created have swept away many of the prejudices and conventions by which realities have been beclouded and have thrown us back in many things to fundamental principles. This is true more in the European countries, where the consequences of the war are coming directly home to almost every individual, than in this country where the everyday life of the people is, by comparison, almost undisturbed. The British people in the first days of August found themselves face to face with a crisis such as had never before confronted a civilized nation, and in that crisis they realized that the safety and welfare of the people as a whole was of paramount importance and the so-called "rights" of individuals were of no consequence when they clashed with the common good. On another page in this issue, under the heading "How Socialism Came to England," is an article showing some of the measures which have been taken by the British government for the protection of the people in the exceptional circumstances now existing. Things which had hitherto been declared to be impossible have been done in the twinkling of an eye almost, and everyone agrees that the measures taken are both just and beneficial. One of the first acts of the British government after war was declared was to take over all the railways in the country and appoint a commission composed of the general managers of the old companies to operate them in the interests of the state. The result has been a better and more economical service, chiefly thru the elimination of wasteful competition, which is a necessary evil of private owned railways. This was a most radical step, but it has been so successful that many people believe the government will retain the railways as a public utility after the war, paying, of course, a fair price for the property. Another radical step was the issue by the government of a large quantity of paper money based simply on the credit of the country. Banking authorities and economists have been in the habit of declaring that such an issue of paper currency would ruin any country that made it, but instead of ruining Britain, this issue stopped a run on the banks for gold and enabled business to continue. Then the government appointed a board with power to fix the maximum price at which food could be sold, thereby preventing those having stocks of provisions from taking advantage of the war to make a fortune and enabling the people to get food at a very slight advance on normal prices. The British government also realized the wastefulness of allowing men to be unemployed and ordered full steam ahead on public works, not only pushing its own work but providing credit and in some cases funds for municipalities to enable them to usefully employ all in need of work. These things, and the other radical steps which the government took would, of course, not have been possible if the people had not recognized the necessity of forgetting selfishness for the common good. With one accord the people are loyally and trustingly doing what they can to have a prosperous and united

nation behind the soldiers in the field. The most striking evidence of the flinging away of prejudice is the extraordinary spectacle of politicians of all parties working together with a common purpose. Unionist ex-ministers are the trusted confidential advisers of Liberal cabinet ministers, and John Redmond and Sir Edward Carson, who, a few months ago, were virtually the leaders of rival armies preparing for civil war in Ireland, have joined hands in rallying their followers, Catholics and Orangemen, to fight under the same flag. Britain is learning lessons in this war which there is no doubt will help to bring about better social and economic conditions after peace has been declared. Canada also needs to learn the same lessons, and we trust it will not be necessary to have the war brought to our own shores to open our eyes as the eyes of the people of Britain have been opened. What Great Britain has done is to abolish, to a certain extent at least, special privilege and political partizanship. The reforms which are necessary to the preservation of the nation in time of war are necessary to the prosperity of the nation in time of peace, and they are as necessary in Canada as they are in England.

## MUCH UNWISE ADVICE

There is a great deal of reckless and unwise advice being given to Canadian manufacturers on the subject of capturing the trade of the Germans and Austrians. No doubt there are manufacturers in Canada producing many of the same lines that we have previously secured from these countries and this is a good opportunity for such manufacturers to increase their business. It would be utterly folly, however, to invest large sums of money in factories for the production of articles which can be produced very much more cheaply in Germany and Austria. The war will be over in a year, probably in less time, and both these countries will make special efforts to re-establish their trade. When their trade is resumed it would compete with an unnatural industry in Canada and then that industry would demand a fifty per cent. tariff or higher for "protection" against German and Austrian competition. It is true we would have additional industry in Canada, but instead of being a benefit it would be cheaper to burn it down, pension the employees at full wages and buy the product from abroad. It is the height of folly to establish industries in Canada which are not suited to this country. It would be quite possible by the expenditure of sufficient money to grow oranges and bananas in Canada in immense greenhouses, providing a temperature necessary for the production of these fruits. These oranges and bananas would probably cost us 50 cents apiece, but still they would be a Canadian product. This is an extreme case, but it serves to illustrate the economic advantage of producing under natural conditions where the cost of production is the lowest possible. Canada is well suited to a wide range of manufacturing industries which are able to compete with the world and need no tariff protection. It is false economy for any man to manufacture for himself what he can purchase from another man at a much lower price. The very same argument stands good with the nation and whenever this fundamental principle is violated it means economic loss.

Those farmers in the West who have a good crop this year have secured a splendid price for it and it is gratifying to know that they are anxious to contribute towards the relief of distress on account of the war. The farmers of Western Canada will always fight for their rights, but at the same time they can be