

Tax we find that our taxes on land are getting very high. Last year my tax was \$45, this year it is \$60 per quarter section. The taxes on the lots in town are put up so high that it does not pay to have a lot. A man here sold four lots for \$5 because it did not pay to keep them, the tax is so high. I have a five acre lot and the assessor put the value on it up to \$1500. I could not sell it for \$500, and the tax was \$52. It looks to me as if the government will soon get all the land back again.

What could we do? We all think that the taxes are getting very high on our land, and the store-keeper pays no tax on his stock.

Yours very truly,

M. HILLERUD.

Claresholm, Alta.

Note.—From this letter it appears that the taxation of land values is operating very successfully in Claresholm. Speculators, of whom our correspondent is one, are finding it unprofitable to hold idle land in the town and are thus prevented from getting profits which they do nothing to earn. On the other hand, those who desire to build homes, cultivate gardens or go into business will be able to purchase land cheaply, and since there are no taxes on buildings or stocks, they will be relieved of part of the burden of taxation. This clearly will encourage industry in Claresholm. Does Mr. Hillerud not consider that it is better to encourage home building, business and industry, than to encourage real estate speculation? So far as the taxes on farm lands are concerned, our correspondent, if he is a farmer, is on the other side of the fence. Whatever taxes he pays he gets the benefit of them in schools, roads and other public services, and the speculator who holds vacant land pays just as much towards these as the adjoining farmer. In addition, if the taxes are so high as to compel the speculators to sell their vacant land, the farmers of the locality will be able to buy land for their children at a more reasonable price. The taxation of land values prevents the land speculator making easy money at the expense of the land user.—Editor, Guide.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE

Editor, Guide:—As I come from a country where women franchise on equal terms with men has been an established fact for years, discussion on this topic appears to me rather ancient. In Norway there is nothing to prevent women occupying seats in Parliament as well as in any other institution, when they qualify themselves for it.

Some of the remarks passed in letters to your paper seem hardly to be up to the standard of men. In your issue of December 11 Mr. Thomas C. Robson says:—

"Of number 8 I should say that female suffrage is the maddest of all mad fads of this age. From the earliest times women have shown a great want of judgment. Even when Mother Eve (the fairest of her daughters) was given the best man ever made, she chose a devil for her confidant, and treated the salvation of her race as a matter of a bargain counter, vainly deciding that she could get something better than Paradise from the advance agent of the other shop."

Thomas C. Robson, is it your intention or wish to apply this to the mother who reared you?

HENRY SORENSEN.

Strathmore, Alberta.

OLD FRIENDS HEARD FROM

Editor, Guide:—As it is 3 years since I wrote for "me and Sally" which you were kind enough to print in the Christmas number and no reports from Dolfin ever appeared in the guide now I thought I would write you another letter and let you know that there was another meeting in Dolfin yesterday held by the Grane Groers.

First of all let me say there was a meeting for choosing a reve and counsilers and the new reve is Jim Norton a good grane groer and nobody is against him and also Billy Durson a grate reeder of the Guide is a new counsiler but in siftn where there is no grane groers there is fower galeshins running against one another and after that, the won elected will be against everybody in his ward or vice versa. (thats some forin lingo)

Well, the meetin looked like as if it were all over as there was no galishins there to make speches and Mr. McKenzi and a Mr. Burnel was there for the grane groers and I thot now we'll here sum cents, but it was not to B, first one started to chu the rag about ditches and roads and then another till haf wur sick ov it and lots ov them mad and this

was after the new menwur lected by aklamathum Mr. Editer and Mr. McKenzi there listening insted of tellin them sumthin, they didnt no I was thet mad Mr Editer, mayb i didnt ritely here, wat they sed Butt at laste it waz ovr and everbodi cept 10 or 12 went out sum said "I GOT to go" and som sed "I'll B bak" and then forgot Mr. McKenzi sed in part the farmer waz nevr in a mors ekonomik posishun thun he is today and I bleve hes rite dont you Mr Editer weve got to be moay ekonomik all the time havevent we Im gettings I cant aford nuthin more and mor all the time look at the prices of what we buy and nothin ever goes down xcept grane xcept pigs and cattle too Mr. Editer Mr. Anson cam in and he advized coperativ efurt whatever that is Mr Editer he sed silverwood branch bot a lot of stuff on time all at wance and saved money and Valey Rivr was good tu butt I only hev his wurd for that but I no this meself Mr Editer them dolfin grane groers looks smart and if they dont do things and report as they used to why Mr Editer Ill go to skool to lern spelin and then if your willin Mr. Editer Ill do it myself at leest we will.

ME AND SALLY.

Dolfin.

A FAIR PROFIT

Editor, Guide:—I see you invite a discussion on the subject of what's "a fair profit." This is rather a ticklish subject and I for one maintain, that under our present economic system there can be no such thing as a fair

and handles transports, and buys everything the farmers and workers have to sell, they have the people at their complete mercy and can, and do, take everything the farmer makes above a bare living. But the profit taking capitalist class not only owns all the railroads, mines, factories, and raw materials, but they dominate the public press and control the government. Now, then, it is ridiculous for a bunch of poorly organized farmers to think of dictating to the capitalists the amount of profit they should have. As long as the people are willing to let the capitalists control the government we can be sure that the protective tariff will be maintained. But while the abolition of the tariff would afford the farmers a temporary relief, I claim that as long as all public utilities remain the private property of the capitalists, those gentlemen would still find a way to get big profits and skin the farmers as they do today. Now, then, the only way to get away from this profit business is to have the nation or the government take over the railroads, mines, factories, etc. But before we make this change the people must control the government. It would do little good to turn anything over to the capitalist government. We have seen what a farce the government owned elevators were in Manitoba. Now the very first step to victory is for the farmers and workers to unite and get control of the government, then place all public utilities, including mines and factories, under government control and we will have no more trouble with the profit system.



SIR RICHARD McBRIDE AT A VICTORIA SOCIETY FUNCTION

profit, or rather it would be absolutely impossible for us, who are paying this profit, to dictate to the profit taking class what should be a fair profit. We must either get rid of the profit system altogether or submit to being plundered right along. Anybody, who will look a little below the surface of things, must know that this country as well as most other countries contains mainly two classes of people, that is, the farmers and workers, who raise all the crops and produce all the wealth on the one hand, and the capitalists on the other, that is, those people who own, as their private property, all the machinery of production, communication and transportation. Now, when this latter class puts their money into a certain enterprise, they do so with the express purpose of making profit and the better they are organized, the more money they can control, the bigger profits they are able to squeeze out of the people. It is true that the small storekeepers, or those who constitute the so-called middle class, also live by profit. But these people don't amount to much, their profits are regulated by the big capitalists above, and seldom amount to more than a fair salary. Now, then, as the profit taking capitalist class makes and sells everything the farmers and workers must buy,

Of course, I am well aware that neither the Editor nor the majority of the readers of The Guide agrees with me, but that makes no difference, it is the truth, nevertheless, and the sooner we recognize this the better it will be for all of us.

JOHN GLAMBECK.

FOR A REFERENDUM

Editor, Guide:—Mr. Borden's naval proposal involving an expenditure of \$35,000,000 is one more reason why we should have Direct Legislation. No matter whether a man thinks it good or otherwise, when such gifts are made the men who pay for the gift should have a voice in it. With a family such as mine of five, this makes \$25.00 out of my pocket. Now this might not seem so very great for the Rt. Hon. R. L. Borden or some of the other gentlemen, but I tell you if a farmer by the end of the year has paid for all he got and didn't get, and has not many times twenty and five dollars left to live till the next crop, then he thinks it quite a big sum. Personally I would rather see that money used for better things than machines to kill our fellow men. It would mean a great thing if used for the education of the classes.

WM. VAN VLIET.

Quinton, Sask.

AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

Editor, Guide:—On Dec. 10, at Rocky Coulee schoolhouse, occurred a rousing and enthusiastic mass meeting of the voters of the Rocky Coulee polling division. It happened like this: A few days ago Mr. Jas. Lennox, one of the vice-presidents and an energetic worker for the "Peoples' Independent Political Association," which is the name of the new farmers' party started some time ago in the Claresholm Riding, sent word to Mr. G. Malchow to come down to Rocky Coulee school and address the voters. Mr. Malchow is the man who received the nomination at the convention here at Claresholm in August. Well, he arrived at the schoolhouse and, lo, it was packed full of eager listeners, among whom were four ladies, all waiting to hurrah for the new movement and to know what the nominee had to say. Mr. Malchow outlined the movement from its inception to the present moment, discussed the platform, plank by plank, and explained how even one man at the provincial parliament might do a vast amount of good if he were true to the constituency. All present seemed well and favorably impressed with the candidate and the principles of the party. Mr. Jas. Lennox was the next man to speak. He told of the many hardships the farming class had to endure unnecessarily on account of the representatives of the people turning out to be misrepresentatives, paying no attention to anything but the filling of their own pockets. He also explained how the example of the election of one man would act as an incentive to other parts of the province to put in their own candidate for there are plenty of people who will follow, once some one will volunteer to lead. The next evening, Dec. 11, Mr. Malchow journeyed to the Daly Creek schoolhouse where a very enthusiastic meeting was held. Mr. Malchow addressed the meeting, after which several other speakers, including Mr. Lennox, Mr. Nicolls and others, responded. All present seemed determined to stand shoulder to shoulder and elect this farmer nominee. Other meetings are being arranged for in different parts of the constituency and Mr. Malchow will endeavor to address all the voters during the next two months.

H. G. AHERN.

Claresholm, Alta.

HIGH COST OF LIVING

Editor, Guide:—We hear an almost universal complaint about the high cost of living and many written comments upon it; but to my mind there are none of them that strike at the root of the cause possibly. I would like to draw attention to the almost complete revolution of the system, by which a large part of the business of the country is managed, during the last 30 or 40 years, especially during the last 10 or 15 years. I will give you a few illustrations.—When I was a boy, a farmer, offering a steer or hog for sale, would deal with the butcher, or sell direct to the consumer. He would take the hide to the village tanner and have it made into leather. Then the shoemaker would come around and make boots for the whole family, one pair lasting a year, taking from 10 to 12 hours making each pair. Today, the farmer has to sell his produce to the big packers and the combine dictate the price of same to the farmers of half the civilized world, also fixing the price of meat products. Think of this power in the hands of about a dozen men. The hides are sold to the tanneries, then, in successive stages, to wholesale leather merchants and shoe factories, the wholesale firms and the retailers; and then back to the farmers who pay more for a pair of boots made in 40 minutes, lasting from two to three months, than he did for the hand-made pair that would wear a year. The help in the shoe factories consists largely of women and children, and the pay per hour is from 10 to 30 cents. The average daily output is twelve pairs for each operator. That is, boots which retail for over \$3.00, cost—material about 70

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NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

This Department of The Guide is maintained especially for the purpose of providing a discussion ground for the readers where they may freely exchange views and derive from each other the benefits of experience and helpful suggestions. Every letter must be signed by the name of the writer, though not necessarily for publication. The views of our correspondents are not of necessity those of The Guide.

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