

The Guide Referendum

The Grain Growers' Guide believes that the will of the people should decide all questions of public policy. It believes that the Referendum is the best way to find out exactly what the people think. Accordingly The Guide will hold another Referendum this December, by which its readers, men and women alike, are invited to express their opinion upon eleven questions of pressing national importance.

What do the people of the Prairie Provinces think upon these eleven vital questions? That is what The Guide Referendum is being conducted to find out. This is the only opportunity any part of the Canadian people have of pronouncing upon these progressive measures, and we trust every man and woman entitled to vote will mark their ballot, to be published in the issue of next December 3. These questions concern the whole Dominion and not only the Prairie Provinces so we want our readers to

combine to make the Referendum a full expression of their opinions, no matter where they live. Canadian public opinion must deal one way or another with the Taxation of Land Values, the system of Protection, the danger of Militarism, and the various other problems mentioned. By addressing themselves to these up-to-date issues, Guide readers will not only stamp themselves as the true Progressives in this country, but will also do themselves a lasting benefit.

Rules

1. The official ballots will be published in The Guide only once, on December 3, 1913. Extra copies of that issue cannot be secured, since this Referendum is for Guide readers only.
2. There will be a woman's ballot and a man's ballot, both exactly alike, so that the wives, mothers and any woman 21 years of age may vote as well as the men 21 years of age.
3. Each question should be answered simply by writing "Yes" or "No" after the question.
4. The ballot will be absolutely secret. Readers must sign the ballot, otherwise it will be rejected as a spoiled ballot. No names, however, will be published, but only the total numbers voting "Yes" or "No" on the questions.
5. The ballot should be mailed to "Referendum Editor, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.," as soon after December 3 as possible.
6. Letters to The Guide are invited dealing with any of the questions in the Referendum. Letters opposed to The Guide's policy are just as welcome and will be published just as freely as those in favor, but all letters should be kept as short as possible.

The Questions

1. Are you in favor of having the Initiative, Referendum and Right of Recall placed upon the statute books of your own province, in such a form as to give the people complete control over all legislation and legislators?
2. Are you in favor of Free Trade with Great Britain?
3. Are you in favor of the complete abolition of the Canadian Customs Tariff?
4. Are you in favor of having all school, municipal, provincial and federal revenues raised by a direct tax on land values?
Note:—"Land" here is used in its economic sense to include all natural resources.
5. Are you in favor of placing a special surtax of \$25 per quarter-section upon all vacant farm lands?
6. Are you in favor of placing a special surtax of \$25 per quarter-section upon the land held by one individual or corporation above four quarter-sections?
7. Are you in favor of having all railways, telegraphs, telephones and express services owned and operated by the public?
8. Are you in favor of extending the franchise to women on equal terms with men?
9. Are you in favor of Dominion Legislation providing for the incorporation of co-operative societies?
10. Are you in favor of the nomination of Parliamentary candidates pledged to support the farmers' platform, regardless of the action of both political parties?
11. Do you believe that Canada, instead of spending millions for naval armament (either British or Canadian), should devote her energies and spend millions, if necessary, towards the establishment of universal peace and disarmament and the settlement of international disputes by arbitration?

Women May Vote

The Guide has always been a staunch champion of Woman Suffrage. In this Referendum it will give practical proof of its belief by having a woman's ballot, as well as a man's ballot, allowing the women to vote on the self-same questions as the men. The only qualification needed is that of being a woman reader of The Guide, 21 years of age. This is the first time in the history of Canada the women have been invited or even allowed to express their views upon matters of vital public welfare. The privilege thus thrown open to the prairie women carries with it a responsibility. Those who feel themselves poorly informed along certain lines have time to study the eleven questions in the two months before the voting will take place. Without doubt the democracy of the twentieth century demands the wisdom, sympathy and insight of woman for its full development, and Canadian women cannot set themselves too soon to the solution of the problems now affecting the economic and social well-being of the Dominion. Most men are free to confess that they have made more or less of a botch of trying to run the government by themselves. We look for a new moral impetus, a saner outlook and wider human sympathy to enter into the settlement of our public questions with the advent of women into public affairs.

An Educational Campaign

While we are anxious for as large a response as possible, the educational effect of the Referendum is still more important than the actual voting. Readers will be able to study all these questions at their leisure, discuss the doubtful points through the columns of the Mail Bag, during the next two months and make up their minds calmly and deliberately, free from all outside influences, such as party leanings or the personality of political candidates. No one knows everything about these eleven national questions. Here is a splendid chance for us to learn more about them from each other. By December 3, we hope that over 33,000 of our men and women readers will have come to their own conclusions on these questions and be ready to cast their ballots in The Guide Referendum.