



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. Each correspondent should remember that there are hundreds who wish to discuss a problem or offer suggestions. We cannot publish all the immense number of letters received and ask that each correspondent will keep his letter as short as possible. Every letter must be signed by the name of the writer though not necessarily for publication. The views of our correspondents are not necessarily those of The Guide. The aim is to make this department of great value to readers and no letters not of public interest will be published.

THE CRISIS

Coming events cast their shadows before. Indications point to a general election in Manitoba before snow flies again. The Grain Growers head a movement among the masses of the people to secure wealth to those whose labor produces wealth and to prevent any from getting wealth at the expense of the industry of others. This is the "Simple Justice" among people that the "Goddess of Justice" stands for, week by week, on the front cover of THE GUIDE. Simple justice, no more, no less. And that simple justice demands, just what Christ demanded, viz.: "That each should be rewarded in proportion as his work should be." So that not only the Grain Growers but Christianity demand that those who toil produce wealth, and that those who produce not, should have not. This is the heart of the Grain Growers' problem, as well as the "chit," "core" of all religions.

This was the "nub" of the African slave problem that agitated the United States before the war, but now instead of having slave owners we have a privileged class, privileged by law, privileged to fatten off the labors of the people to a far greater extent than the slave owners of half a century ago fattened off the labor of their "black property." And the privileged classes of today hold their privileges, but escape responsibilities to the government that give them those privileges. And this legal privilege gives the holder a power to extort tribute from those who labor. The special privileges of the few, are the common rights of the many. Those who own special privileges own something that belongs to all. This is not as it should be, and it is the duty of the Grain Growers to set their faces, like flint, against special privileges without responsibility, in all its various forms. And this can be done, only by supporting candidates at the ballot-box, who openly pledge themselves to do what they can, if elected, to get "crooked laws" made straight, or to secure for the people power to make or amend their own laws, as the initiative, referendum and recall imply. It should be borne in mind that the masses are robbed by law, and that the law makers profit by such robberies. This fact is so plain that no argument is needed to establish it.

One of the means of plundering the people is, by pretending to own the spot of earth they must live on and labor on. Nearly half of Manitoba is owned by those who do not intend to labor on it. They own for the purpose of taking the crop from the people who must live on and labor the land. Surely this is a violation of justice and national right. Surely "equity" does not sanction that sort of thing. Surely the crop should belong to the man who labors for it not to the man who pretends to own the land? Surely God never made the earth to be owned for the purpose of enabling a cunning few to buy toll off the labor of the toiling many.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have already pointed out that farmers should get the increased value, that their presence and industry puts upon the vacant and non-resident land. And the Valley River G. G. A. has demanded that the government so amend the Municipal Assessment Act as to authorize municipal councils to collect double the amount of taxes from vacant land than from used land. So let the Grain Growers everywhere get a pledge from candidates in writing—whisper in the ear, promises are no good—to the effect that they will both work and vote to get the act so amended as

assessment on non-resident land by \$100 each year more than that of actually used lands, so long as such vacant lands are held by non-residents. People can get this measure by their votes and influence and persistent demand. Many politicians in both parties are waxing fat, and having a jolly picnic by holding vacant lands, that settlers are making valuable. But this little change in the taxation act will spoil their fun, as the voters can win hands down, if they remain firm and press their demand. One candidate already in the field says he has nothing else now to do, but to work for the interests of the people. Put this point up to such and ask them how hard they will work to secure it.

Again the growing value of town sites is due to the industry of the people. That value belongs to the people. It is theirs. Their labors create that growing value. That value is a rapidly growing public debt upon the people if they do not secure it for themselves. The site

finds a hiding place in the pockets of town site exploiters.

This town site proposition is a very important one. The government is generally in with a railway company, and the tools of the government, the heeled and the exploiters, generally are often rewarded by the government with an interest in the town site. This is one of the ways, both grit and tory governments reward their "dogs of war." But is it now up to the voters to secure for themselves this increase in town site value? Is this not also a good point to put up to the candidates who are so anxious to do something for the people? And in this fight for justice, equity and fair play, may we not reasonably expect the Grain Growers to lead the way? The opportunity is almost here. The world is watching. Will the Grain Growers let the politicians talk to them, or will they talk to the politicians? The crucial test of the strength of any movement always manifests itself at the ballot-box.

Pumas, Man.

W. D. LAMB.

HE GOT SATISFACTION

Editor, GUIDE:—I have heard some complaints as to the manner in which The Grain Growers' Grain Company handles grain, and that they do not secure the best market price. Such reports prove a great detriment to the company, and I would like to give you my experience with them. I shipped my first car of wheat in October which graded No. 1 Nor. with instructions to sell same before expiration of free storage, to the best of their ability, which they did. On October 29 they sold it for 99 cents at Fort William, which was 3/4 cents over market quotations for that day. My second car was oats, shipped the last days of January with same instructions.



Comfort on the Farm

owners take more and more out of the people, and give back nothing in return, the more valuable the site becomes. These sites are generally owned by an active politician and the railroad company. These site owners, in many cases, claim that their site must be rated as agricultural land for taxation purposes, so long as they are the holders, but that as soon as the lot is sold to someone else, then that lot must be rated as town property. But there is one way to spoil their game, and that is to get the assessment act changed, so that the valuation of the improvements must be entered in one column, and the total assessment of lot and improvements in a third column. This is what the law requires in the case of incorporated towns and villages and the law should be amended, so that this will apply to all registered town sites, incorporated or not. This would prevent vacant lots being rated lower than used lots, and thus secure for the public treasury a nice sum of money that now

They graded 1 C.W. and sold for 38 1/2 cents at Fort William on February 14, the quotation being 36 cents on that day. Now, I think those sales go to prove the ability of the company in handling our grain. At least, I am well satisfied, and hope to ship them many cars in the future. As farmers, I think we should stick to our own company. Especially one which has done so much for us as The Grain Growers' Grain Company.

Rouleau, Sask.

J. W. HANNAH.

THE GUIDE IN NEW ZEALAND

Editor, GUIDE:—Your valuable paper has been reaching me all O.K. and I am very pleased to note in the last that reached me that at least two of the governments have decided to give us government-owned elevators. I am very much interested in the matter, coming as I do from New Zealand, where I was born and raised, and where the government own all public utilities.

FOUND GOOD VALUE

Editor, Guide:—Enclosed find One Dollar in payment of my subscription to your valuable paper. I first took it on a three months' trial, but I am well satisfied that it is worth a dollar many times over.

Hannon, Sask.

FRANK WALKER.

DON'T FORGET NAMES

We cannot publish letters that are sent in without names of the writers attached. We must know who is writing to be sure the letter is sent in good faith.

I find that I cannot do without your paper. Even while I am travelling around I find it very interesting, and take great pleasure in showing it to my friends to give them an idea what we are doing towards co-operation and fighting the combines.

I have been farming eleven years at Weyburn, Sask., and am now on a visit to my old home.

Wishing you success in further protecting the rights of the farmers and the Grain Growers' Grain Company.

G. M. DAVIDSON.

Tapanni, Otago,
New Zealand.

CRITICIZES CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

Editor, GUIDE:—Please allow me the privilege to make a few remarks through THE GUIDE concerning some of the resolutions passed at the convention.

I believe in compulsory hail insurance, not allowing any one to register out.

I don't believe in the government paying full value on horses killed on account of glanders, for this reason: It will encourage neglect. The horse gets a cold, it is not taken any notice of, he gets cold upon cold until he gets in a very weak state and his blood gets in such a poisoned condition that it must break out somewhere, and it comes out in the shape of glanders. It is like the Old Country doctor, who said to his patient: "Get rid of that cold or you will get consumption."

I read the other day that at a meeting of the board of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company a dividend of two per cent. on the preference stock and three per cent. on the common stock was declared for the half year ending December last, payable on April 1 next. After payment of working expenses, fixed charges and dividends now declared, there is a surplus for the half year of £2,122,381. Such a surplus shows plainly that the C.P.R. Co. is in a position to provide ample accommodation for all kinds of goods received by them for transportation if they are called upon to do so, let it be cattle, grain or merchandise of any kind. It is the duty of the public through their members, to call upon the railway authorities to provide the necessary facilities at all stations. For this reason I say government owned elevators are not needed.

With regard to the resolution moved by F. M. Gates and seconded by E. N. Clayton, "That as the question of a contribution to the British navy is foreign to the interests of the Grain Growers as grain growers, therefore a discussion of the subject is not in order and it should not be dealt with by this convention," and carried.

I must say that there could not have been many true sons of Great Britain in that convention, or they would never

We would like to hear from a great many of our readers on the subject of Protective Tariff, and also on the Taxing of Idle Land. Write and let the other readers know what you think about it. Write now.

have allowed such a motion to be carried. To say that the subject is foreign to the interests of the Grain Growers is radically wrong, because the country will be taxed to obtain means to build and support a Canadian navy, or present the Old Country with means to strengthen her navy. Now, we all know that the tiller of the soil has to pay these taxes directly, no matter in what shape they are put onto the country. For that simple reason the convention of farmers should have dealt with this subject in a very determined way. As a true son of Great Britain, I say that Canada should present the mother country with the means to build three Dreadnoughts. It is to Great Britain that Canada must look for pro-