

subscriptions on this basis. We hope there will be a large number sent in the next two weeks.

SPECIAL PRIVILEGE AND WAR

One of our readers has written to ask why, in this time of national crisis, The Guide does not cease its campaign against the forces of Special Privilege. The question is one we are glad to answer. Since its inception The Guide has waged war, on behalf of the farmers of Western Canada, against the unjust burdens of the protective tariff, exorbitant bank and mortgage charges, high freight rates and the ravages of the land speculator. We are not aware that any of these agencies have ceased to extort from the farmer "all that the traffic will bear" on account of the war. The protected manufacturers are still maintaining their press bureau and still publishing their "ready made" protectionist articles in many of the country papers. They are still taking the full benefit of the tariff in enhanced prices for their goods. They are still mis-representing The Guide and the grain growers in order to maintain their special privileges. Some of them have closed down their plants and thrown their hands out of employment rather than operate with reduced profits. Some of them, who had large stocks of the necessities of life which were manufactured at normal cost before the war, have taken advantage of foreign competition being cut off and are now enriching themselves by selling their products at greatly increased prices. There are of course happy exceptions, but the bulk of the protectionists are true to type and are not only holding all their old privileges but seeking new ones.

There is just as much money in Canada as before the war, but the banks and mortgage companies are withholding it from the people or charging higher interest rates.

The railways have already announced an increase in their charges on goods imported from Great Britain in return for a service

which will cost the railways but little, if any, more than before the war.

The land speculator is still holding millions of acres of our best prairie land out of use while thousands of men are anxious to cultivate it, but have not the money to pay the prices asked.

Those who are familiar with the history of war must be aware that every big war is seized upon by Special Privilege in the warring countries as an opportunity to fasten its tentacles more firmly into the vitals of the people. Special Privilege has no patriotism. The magnates of the Standard Oil have contributed enormous sums to educational work, but each contribution has been followed by an increase in the price of oil to the people. In Canada today Special Privilege is taking advantage of disrupted business conditions to exact the heaviest possible toll from the people. Unless the government and the people of Canada are watchful, the end of the war will see a large number of burdens heaped upon the public for the benefit of a few. The Guide is heartily in support of the action of the government in the present war and believes that Canada in self protection must do all in her power to aid the forces of Great Britain. But at the same time The Guide believes it is quite as patriotic to assist in protecting those at home from the rapacity of Special Privilege. Patriotism, like charity, is a mighty poor brand if it does not begin at home.

PROTECT THE SEED SUPPLY

Reports received indicate that governmental departments both at Ottawa and in the prairie provinces are taking commendable action to relieve the distress caused by crop failures over wide areas in Southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. No doubt a great deal of relief will be afforded to deserving farmers and their families by this means. It is desirable that in addition to relief from actual want,

assistance should be given to these farmers in the dry districts to prepare their land for next year's crop. Good and well meant advice is being extended to the farmers to produce the largest possible crop next year. If these dry districts are to produce a crop next year it is absolutely necessary that their land be plowed this fall. We learn of many farmers who are unable to prepare their land this fall because they have no feed for their horses and must go away to other districts in order to earn enough to buy feed. From the standpoint of the country generally it would be a better investment for the proper authorities, either federal or provincial, to provide horse-feed for farmers in reasonable standing and permit them to spend all their time before freeze-up in plowing their land for next year's crop. In ordinary years the greater part of the district that was dried out this year will produce a good crop under proper cultivation, and there is a reasonable likelihood that this land if plowed during the next few weeks will produce a good crop next year. The investment would certainly be a wise one. On account of the shortage of the oat crop, it is doubtful if there will be much, if any, surplus of good seed oats in Western Canada. It would be advisable for the departments of agriculture to investigate this situation promptly, and ensure by whatever means necessary that there will be sufficient seed oats left in the country to seed all the land that can be made ready.

The liquor dealers who took exceptionally large quantities of spirits out of bond before parliament met, in the hope of avoiding the war taxes, are highly indignant because the Minister of Finance made the new duties retroactive, and thus upset their scheme. The only fault most people will find with the new liquor duties is that they are not large enough. The increase on spirits is 25 per cent., on tobacco 25 per cent., on cigars and cigarettes 16-2-3 per cent., on raw sugar 147 per cent., and on refined sugar 93 per cent.



A PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE GOLDEN RULE