



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 of necessity 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 CREDIT MEN'S PETITION

Editor, Guide:—Enclosed you will find copy of a petition sent to one of our merchants here from the Canadian Credit Men's Association asking for a temporary suspension of the car distribution clause of the Manitoba Grain Act. It is well known that the grain and elevator interests are behind the scheme, but the petition is so worded that any person who is not acquainted with the facts might readily be deceived. Coming from the source it does, from large mercantile interests, who no doubt are suffering because the farmers cannot get cars to ship their grain, this petition seems plausible enough. When I obtained the petition this morning it had the names of farmers on it who should know better, but who no doubt signed it thoughtlessly. I explained our position to the merchant and he is now entirely in sympathy with me after hearing the real facts. He told me that it looked all right and that it would do no harm to have farmers sign it.

I believe that the petition is being sent to all the merchants throughout the West and will be signed by many who don't know the real motive behind it all; an underhand scheme on the part of the railways and elevator interests to deprive farmers of their privilege in obtaining cars. These interests won't come out into the open and fight, but hide behind such a harmless looking thing as a Canadian Credit Men's Association. If any one looks at the matter right it can be readily seen that the railways, and railways only, are to blame for conditions resulting from the present car shortage. No amendments to the Grain Act can make the railways distribute cars properly.

As this is a very important matter, and as many farmers will be induced to sign this petition thoughtlessly, I think some effort should be made to sound a note of warning to farmers throughout the country. A great many of the petitions will be signed and sent in before anything can be done to stop it and the best we can do is to lay bare the whole scheme and if necessary get out a counter petition.

A. GARNETT,
Sec., Carman Branch M.G.A.

Editor, Guide:—As president of the Govan Grain Growers' Association, I deemed it my duty to write you a letter concerning the petition that you call our attention to in your issue of Jan. 31. This petition sent out by the Credit Men's Association has been circulated in our district and on account of its misleading statements quite a number of people had signed it, not realizing how they were endangering the rights of the farmers at large. However, we saw the danger and succeeded in stopping the signing of these petitions in this district.

It is not a change in the Grain Act re the distribution of cars that we want, but more cars and better transportation facilities. We can load the cars if we only get them, regardless of the elevators.

I loaded a car of wheat last month at Govan that stood on the siding for two weeks after it was loaded, before starting for its destination. Reciprocal demurrage would no doubt improve this condition. We can certainly substantiate The Guide arguments in the article dealing with the above mentioned petition, consequently we say to The Guide, keep up the good work.

Yours truly,
C. O. A. TRAVIS.
Govan, Sask., Feb. 3.

Note.—The above are samples of dozens of letters which we are receiving by every mail from all parts of the Western provinces warning farmers against signing the petition circulated by the Canadian Credit Men's Association asking for the suspension of that bulwark of the farmers' rights, the car distribution clause of the Grain Act. From Wauchope, Sask., a counter petition, bearing 60 signatures, has been sent to the authorities at Ottawa.—Ed.

SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATION

Editor, Guide:—On Sept. 7 the local branch of the Grain Growers' Association decided to start a co-operative store in this town with a view of reducing prices on general merchandise and holding up prices of farm produce. We opened our store on Oct. 2, and on making up the

FARMERS' FIGHTING FUND

At the Brandon convention it was the unanimous opinion of the 600 delegates present that the chief need of the association was money for the carrying on of its educational work. It was evident that the problems confronting the farmers could only be solved by securing the support of public opinion. The association felt the need of educating the general public to the absolute justice of their demands. The delegates realized that in order that the Manitoba farmers might save themselves from the greed of Special Privilege it would be necessary to make further sacrifices. To this end The Grain Growers' Guide was authorized to receive subscriptions for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association Endowment fund. The money received will all be placed in the Home Bank to the credit of the association, and all subscriptions received will be acknowledged through The Guide. Any person in Manitoba who feels that the association is doing a worthy work should send in his subscription at once. It is the hope to raise \$50,000 in the next three months. Make cheques and money orders payable to The Grain Growers' Guide, and mark on the outside of the envelope, "Farmers' Fighting Fund." Don't write about anything else in the same letter. Subscriptions will be received for any amount from 25 cents up. Short letters on this subject will be gladly received and as many as possible published.

Subscriptions Acknowledged

J. S. Wood, Oakville, Man.	1	\$10.00
George Love, Ninga, Man.		5.00
T. A. Crerar, Winnipeg, Man.		15.00
John Spencer, Winnipeg, Man.		10.00
G. F. Chipman, Winnipeg, Man.		10.00
Cartwright Association		6.00
William Moffatt, Souris, Man.		5.00
		\$61.00

accounts for the past three months find results of trading so encouraging that we have decided to increase our capital and extend the business. Now, there are other Grain Growers' Associations in different parts of the province who have the same idea, and if a few such stores could work in sympathy with each other it should be an easy matter to make far better terms with the wholesaler and manufacturer than one isolated store. We would be glad to get in touch with any branch of the association which purposes starting a store.

F. E. RENOUF,
Manager Bowsman Farm Co.
(Incorporated).
Bowsman River, Man.

OPPOSES DIRECT LEGISLATION

Editor, Guide:—In the Alberta section of your issue of the 17th inst you publish a letter from a Mr. Bert Huffman in which he satirizes the members of the Chauvin Union of the U.F.A. for having the backbone to vote down a certain resolution concerning the establishment of the principle of the Initiative and Referendum on the ground that it would "do away with responsible government."

A perusal of the letter will demonstrate the fact that Mr. Huffman does not understand the meaning of the word "responsible" as applied to the British form of government. British government is responsible to the people, not the people to the government. The Initiative and Referendum would destroy this principle, and as upholders of the British constitution we should not allow such innovations as the Initiative and Referendum. Mr. Huffman asks the members of the union whether they "have not enough intelligence and responsibility to vote upon laws under which they must live." Has Mr. Huffman never had occasion to require the services of a lawyer? Perhaps he may be one of those rare specimens of humanity who can, on occasion, do away with their services. I would also remind him that there are farmers who help to make laws, but the pity of it is there are not more of them doing that work. The principle of the Initiative and Referendum is not needed under the British form of government, as when occasion requires the people can make themselves heard very distinctly, e.g., woman's suffrage, the veto, and reciprocity. It may be said that the last named is a bad example as it mis-carried, but I understand that vote for vote reciprocity received a majority of the votes cast by the electorate. The trouble at present is that the system of representation is defective and I believe before long a political party will have "proportional representation" as one of its planks. That is just as soon as there is a consensus of opinion that the public demand it.

W. J. B. CANNAN.

Macklin, Sask.

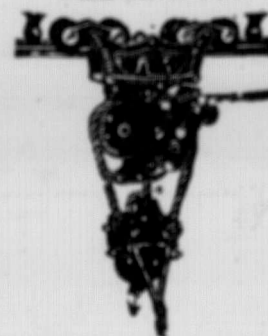
"PROTECTING" THE FARMER

Editor, Guide:—In course of conversation with a neighboring farmer, who cast his vote against reciprocity, the

following argument was produced: "That as the underlying principle of free trade as advanced by Cobden and put into operation in England is 'take off the tariff and you reduce the price,' hence it is absolutely suicidal for the Canadian farmers to persist in their demands for reciprocal free trade with the U. S. in agricultural products." In other words, because free imports have reduced the price of food stuffs in England, reciprocal free trade in these commodities between U. S. and Canada would still further reduce the price obtained in Canada.

There is one part of the above statement I am heartily in accord with, viz., "Take off the tariff and you reduce the price" of any article, the cost of which is increased by the tariff. But as the value of none of the cereals produced in Canada are enhanced one iota by the tariff, you cannot reduce their value by abolishing this tariff. I am prepared to stake my farm against my neighbor's jack knife that he cannot show that the Ogilvie Milling Co. pays even a fractional part of the 10 cents per bushel import tax on wheat to the Canadian producer! But leaving this part of the question I will proceed to a more important one.

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The positions of England and Canada are diametrically opposite. The former is an importer of raw material, the latter an exporter. While it is "business" for England to buy her raw material on the lowest market, it is equally "business" that Canada should sell hers on the highest. England removes her tariffs—all restrictions—to induce the greatest possible number of competitive sellers, and thereby creates the cheapest market on which to buy, whereas the object of Canada should be to induce all countries to remove restrictions—tariffs—against us, in order to draw the greatest possible number of buyers. We have nothing to fear from the "twelve favored nations," as we are already meeting them at home (on the basis of Liverpool prices) and abroad on the cheapest market which world competition can produce. We have, therefore, a most extraordinary anomaly in the stand taken by my anti-reciprocity neighbor, viz., that while they profess to hold to the idea that protection is to the best interests of Canada that high prices may prevail for farm products, they not only reject free entry of these into one of the highest protective countries in the world (thereby rejecting a valuable competitive buyer), but maintain that our only salvation lies in selling to a free trade country whose admitted policy is to reduce prices to the very last dot, and which must, in the very nature of England's requirements, continue so. How is it that the intelligent producer of raw material and consumer of manufactured goods is fooled by the anti-reciprocityists? Is it not plain to see that the Special Privilege interest is to keep out competitors for the purchase of our raw material, so that they can procure such at the lowest possible price; and at the same time hold up the tariff on manufactured articles so that those producers of raw material must buy on the highest possible market? The policy of the railways is identical with that of the manufacturers. "Keep out any competition that might infringe on our rights" and "bleed the farmer till he can't stand up." There are from 85% to 95% of the Western farmers heavily mortgaged, the "nigger in the fence" is out on the road doing a roaring business, but Mr. Farmer and Mr. Workman cannot see him through party spectacles. The remedy is obvious.

W. G. FITZGERALD.
Grenfell, Sask.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Editor, Guide:—With reference to the letter appearing under this heading in your issue of Jan. 17, allow me to say that the Chauvin Union is always open to conviction by argument, but not by abuse.

Yours truly,
T. C. FOREMAN.
Chauvin, Alta., Feb. 3.