

The Guide Essay Contest

Last fall the Grain Growers' Guide offered prizes to the students of the Manitoba Agricultural College for the best essay written on the subject of "Co-operation in the Distribution of Farm Products." Quite a number of students wrote essays in this contest, and we are glad to announce the results in this issue.

The prizes offered were: \$25.00 for the best essay from students of the third and fourth years, and \$50.00 divided into three prizes of \$25.00, \$15.00 and \$10.00 each, for the best essays from students in the first and second years. The judges in the competition were: Principal W. J. Black, of the Manitoba Agricultural College and Mr. T. A. Crerar, president of the Grain Growers' Grain Company. The judges have read and marked all the essays and the prizes have been awarded as follows:

Mr. J. C. Smith, of Winnipeg, third year student, received the \$25.00 prize for the best essay written by the students in the third and fourth years.

Mr. P. B. Logan, of Winnipeg, first year student, received \$25.00 prize for the best essay written by the students of the first and second years.

Mr. John E. Sirrett, of Neepawa, Man., also a first year student, received the \$15.00 prize for the second best essay written by the students of the first and second years.

John F. McIntosh, of Stonewall, Man., a second year student, received the \$10.00 prize for the third best essay written by the students of the first and second years.

The comment of the judges is published in this issue and will be interesting to our readers. In a way the results of the contest were somewhat disappointing to us, but we were breaking new ground and therefore should not have expected too much at the beginning. The students took hold of the work very well and made a very creditable showing, considering that the subject was an absolutely new one. The seed has now been sown and we believe that those students who have given study to the subject will give more study to it in the future. Our aim in offering these prizes is to encourage the study and practice of the great principles of co-operation. We believe that there is no one method by which the western farmers can so greatly benefit themselves

as by working together with one accord for the common good.

We have decided to continue the competition for another year and have offered prizes to the students of the five different years for essays to be written on the subject, "How Western Farmers Can Benefit Through Co-operation in the Handling of Farm Products." This will make the subject more interesting and will necessitate more study on western conditions. We have not room in this issue of The Guide to publish the prize winning essays, but will publish all four of them

in my opinion, cannot be placed upon its consideration at the present time.

Since our social and commercial structures have been so erected as to make individual dependent to a great extent upon individual and community dependent upon community, it is desirable that those who have to do with educational forces so mighty in their influence and practical in their results as the press, should use their best efforts towards the encouragement of the intelligent study of such interdependence. Those who in the past have thought of the term, "co-operation" as associated only with the marketing of farm produce, will find, upon careful study, that there is

to the study of this subject than in the past, and I shall be pleased, as I am sure the student body would be, if you could arrange to continue the competition in the writing of essays on this subject. I feel certain that the results could not fail to be apparent in an increased interest in the advantages of co-operation by our rural people.

Sincerely yours,
W. J. BLACK,
Principal.

MR. CRERAR'S REMARKS

Mr. T. A. Crerar, who was one of the judges in the competition, makes following comment:

I have read with a great deal of interest the essays submitted by the students of the agricultural college on the topic assigned to them for that purpose by The Guide, viz., "Co-operation in the Distribution of Farm Products." Some of the essayists have wandered a little aside from the subject given. Some have dealt with it more in a theoretical, than in a practical way. Some have many excellent ideas. Almost all show evidence of hurried preparation. This can easily be understood when the fact is taken into consideration that they were written during the period that the student's ordinary studies make such heavy demands upon his time.

The idea of The Guide inviting essays on subjects of this kind from the agricultural students is an excellent one, and, if permitted, I would suggest that in future if possible the period for writing the essays be arranged at a time when those taking part would have more leisure, which would enable them to give more thought and study to the subject assigned. Our agricultural college is doing a splendid work in that it is taking the boys from the farm during the slack months in farming operations and is giving them a better equipment for carrying on farm work, not alone in the useful practical knowledge they may acquire, but more important, by training them to think more clearly and correctly, enabling them in this way to look at their work from a proper view point. Education does not consist in storing away in the mind an innumerable number of facts, which can be trotted out as occasion demands; nor does it consist, as many wrongly think it does, and as the tendency commonly is today, in sharpening the faculties of boys and girls that they may be better equipped for the "battle of life," as it is sometimes called, or, in other words, giving them sharper beaks and stronger talons with which to triumph over their fellows. Its proper function is to develop the individual that he may be enabled and inspired to acquire knowledge for himself; and also that he may see and practice the proper relationship that should exist between himself and his fellows, socially and commercially. One of the beliefs or hopes expressed in almost

THE JUDGES



MR. CRERAR

MR. W. J. BLACK

during the next four weeks, and we hope they will prove an inspiration and encouragement, not only to students, but to all farmers in Western Canada.

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

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PRINCIPAL BLACK'S VIEWS

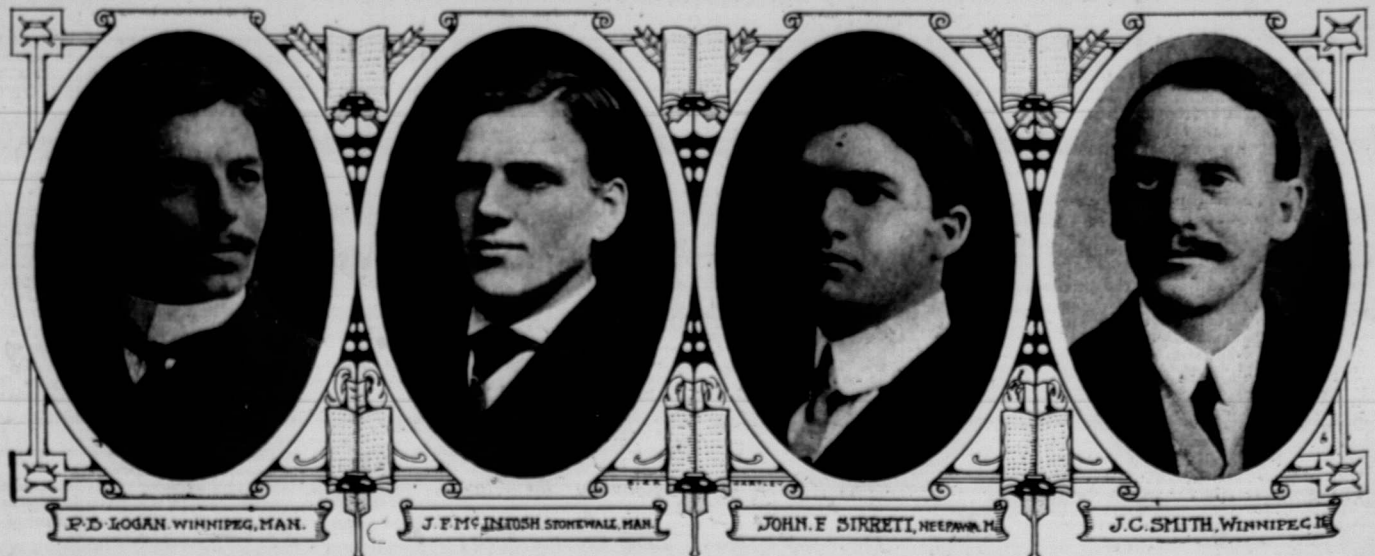
Mr. W. J. Black, principal of Manitoba Agricultural College, who was one of the judges in the competition, says:

It has given me great pleasure to examine the essays entered in your competition open to the students of Manitoba Agricultural College on the subject of "Co-operation." It is rapidly becoming more apparent that there are few problems confronting our people more important than that of intelligently applying the principles of co-operation to the affairs of life. So important is this subject in its bearing upon the future of agriculture that too much emphasis,

no limit, scarcely, to the extent to which its principles can be applied in the interests of progressive humanity. In the practice of agriculture it is necessary in the cultivation of fields to control weed pests as well as in the marketing of crops; in the building of roads as in the securing of reasonable freight rates. In education it is needed in the consolidation of schools as in the development of a national sentiment favorable to universal education. These I mention briefly; there are many others.

Farmers cannot co-operate to carry on any organization without deriving therefrom intellectual, as well as social, if not financial, benefit. Farmers' organizations in the past have had a wholesome effect upon the social life of the districts in which they have operated—a fact, I regret to say, which is apt to be easily forgotten.

In the Manitoba Agricultural College it is the intention to give greater attention



P. B. LOGAN, WINNIPEG, MAN.

J. F. MCINTOSH, STONEWALL, MAN.

JOHN E. SIRRETT, NEEPAWA, MAN.

J. C. SMITH, WINNIPEG, MAN.

THE PRIZE WINNERS