

The Mail Bag

PROGRESS OF FARMERS' COMPANY

Editor, Guide:—John Kennedy, of The Grain Growers' Grain Company, gave a very interesting address at Grand Coulee last Saturday night, and, being one of those present, I was much interested in what I heard. Mr. Kennedy spoke at some length on the various activities of the Farmers' Company, showing, first, that the farmer was often a heavy loser from the present grading system. He then went into an explanation of the export business in which the Farmers' Company can play an important part in holding the price of grain up close to what supply and demand would warrant. This was followed by a brief outline of the co-operative work, concluding with a reference to the advancement and present financial standing of the company. The address was highly instructive, and, inasmuch as there are a few farmers here and there who have become more or less lukewarm towards the company, to say nothing of other interests and agencies who make a specialty of knocking and misrepresenting and deliberately trying to discredit the company in the eyes of the farmers and some of their organizations, I could wish that every farmer in the West had had an opportunity of hearing the same.

Two things were proven to the satisfaction of all present. First, that the export activities of The Grain Growers' Grain Company, altho a department which has met with considerable loss and has received severe criticisms from some of the shareholders, and many others who are not shareholders, is, after all is said and done, the one way in which the company can best justify its existence and make good its original undertaking, which

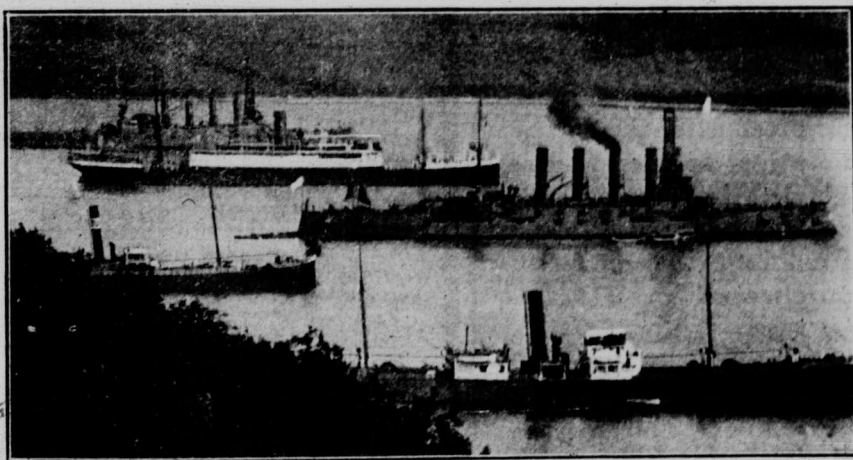
conducted on sound business methods is the fact that the Export Company is now in a much stronger position than it has ever been in the past, from the fact that it has secured a suitable line of credit from one of the strongest banks. This in itself," said Mr. Kennedy, "speaks volumes for the splendid progress made by your company and should be sufficient proof that, having earned favorable consideration from the strictest business institutions, that this company is worthy of the trust imposed in it, and the loyalty and continuous support of the farmer."

J. L. WILLIAMSON.

Regina.

PROTECTION VERSUS PATRIOTISM

Editor, Guide:—The above is a better heading than "Protection and Patriotism," as given in last Guide. Massey-Harris Company turns off 5,000 employees on account of the war, while in Free Trade England I read in the London Times that "Manufacturers and business firms, whose returns show a falling off, are utilizing their reserves to retain their workers on conditions which, under the circumstances, are fair and reasonable to both sides; and, meantime, by adapting themselves to the changed situation, they are seeking new sources of trade." Under the heading of "Patriotic Employers" it tells how one big firm of wagon makers is bearing the expense of the equipment of a battery of heavy guns, also how Huntley & Palmer, not having sufficient work for 14,000 of their girl employees, rather than dismiss any of them, are giving them work in their biscuit factories at making garments for those



American cruisers and captured German merchant ships lying off Falmouth, England. The grey four-funnelled craft are the U.S. boats.

was to improve market conditions. Mr. Kennedy showed conclusively that the influence of The Grain Growers' Grain Company in the export business had a beneficial effect on the general price received to the extent that every farmer in Western Canada had benefited whether belonging to The Grain Growers' Grain Company or not. Secondly, it was made clear that if any shipper of grain to The Grain Growers' Grain Company who felt that he had a complaint of treatment received or service rendered, that the Company were anxious to have the matter placed before them and make good any losses traceable to their office, if there were facts that would justify the action.

In conclusion Mr. Kennedy said: "The strongest statement I could possibly make to prove that the company has been

who have gone to the war, or any members of their families who are in distress. The names of twelve other firms are given who are looking after their employees. Let Canadian farmers remember all this when our patriotic (?) manufacturers ask for more protection. Let us deal with English patriots and have Free Trade and prosperity together.

F. W. GODSALL.

Cowley, Alta., Sept. 7, 1914.

SURTAX ON UNDEVELOPED COAL LANDS

Editor, Guide:—I would like to read the opinions of your subscribers on the proposal to place a surtax on the mineral rights that are being held by speculators and undeveloped. At the present time I can see two deserted mining villages where coal mining ceased about three years ago, but still the coal rights are held by the respective companies.

It is easy to prophesy what would happen to a man who quit farming and left his farm undeveloped. I know of one who hadn't enough money to develop his land, and couldn't earn enough at nearby mines, so left it to earn his living somewhere else, and pays a surtax, but the company owning the coal rights under that man's land does not pay surtax, neither do they mine the coal.

Under the present system of granting mineral rights any person or company can lease a maximum area of coal mining rights of 2,560 acres, and sometimes such person or company starts a

Continued on Page 14

FOR SANTA CLAUS

Totonka, Man.

Sept. 7, 1914

Editor, Guide:—A few weeks ago we read on your cover page that you thought Santa Claus would have a hard time getting things for the children whose fathers have gone to war, so we decided to write to Santa and tell him to not come to our house this year, but give our share to some needy little children. Would you please send this on to Santa Claus.

Goodbye,

Jessie Elliott, 11 years.

Earl Elliott, 9 years.

Elvin Elliott, 5 years.

Gordon Elliott, 8 years.

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