



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 letters 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 TARIFF

Editor, GUIDE:—In your issue of March 27th you have a short leader on the tariff question and seem inclined to place blame on the Canadian authorities. Since that date things have happened. A deputation of American gentlemen representing the Washington authorities have been to Ottawa, and it is now announced in the press that Minister of Finance Fielding will meet and confer with President Taft at Albany. To consider what? The placing of the maximum tariff upon Canadian goods entering that country.

I fully agree with what your article states, that a tariff war between us and our neighbors would be both serious and regrettable, but a mere statement of that kind is rather misleading and becomes more so when you further say that it will be caused by the Canadian government. What has the Canadian government done that such a charge should be made? The only alteration affecting the tariff relations between ourselves and the United States was made during the recent revision, and those alterations were distinctly in the direction of giving further advantage to our neighbors. The only increase of any moment was the slaughter clauses, which up till now have not, I believe, been put into operation. For the moment I am not dealing at all with the tariff as it affects our producers, that is our own matter with which the United States has no concern, but wholly with the question as it affects the relation of the two countries, and I do not think any fair-minded man can doubt that the action of the United States at the present time is still another chapter in the program of our neighbors to bulldoze this Dominion. We are to be clubbed into making concessions, not because they are just, but because they are the larger nation and we are the smaller. For myself, Mr. Editor, I think we have gone quite as far as a self-respecting people ought to go, along this road. Quite a few things have taken place during recent years that Canadians can only look back upon with a feeling not merely of regret, but shame. We have been acting the part of the toad under the harrow, and as a Canadian with some little feeling of national pride, I want to see a halt called.

It is useless going over old decisions where we accepted because we had to, or referring at length to the sorry time the people of this country endured in the period following the imposition of the Dingley tariff. Our experience in all these matters prove beyond question that our neighbors not only had a giant's strength, but on every occasion used it like a giant. Never at any time have we received a single instance of generous treatment at the hands of the United States government, and their action on the present occasion is on an exact par with their past. Their action is the more reprehensible at present, because of the friendly feeling admittedly existing between the people of both countries for each other; feelings caused and nurtured by the public press of both countries. And yet, this friendliness notwithstanding, the official representatives are still at the same game. Now, I venture to say there is only one way to put a stop to this kind of thing, and that is for the Canadian people to give Uncle Sam a little of his own medicine. At present this Dominion is strong enough to stand up and effectually put an end to this performance, for the first time practically. We meet our powerful neighbor on something like even terms. That a tariff war would cause inconvenience

no one doubts; that some in our midst would use it for their personal advantage may be admitted—but are these reasons sufficient why a nation should forfeit its self-respect and cringe? Surely not. Besides, what are the facts? Nearly everything we today sell to the United States we can find a customer for elsewhere, and nearly everything we buy there we could, after reasonable time for re-adjustment, buy elsewhere. There would, of course, have to be some sacrifice, but we must either make this sacrifice or own that we are mere vassals of the Washington government—a people devoid of common independence, lost to all sense of national pride, who are content to shamefacedly mope along, led by the nose by the spirited schemers who have charge of the national affairs south of the 49th parallel of latitude. I don't believe any question of personal loss will reconcile the Canadian people to contentedly play this craven part; rather, I believe, the general wish will be that if our neighbors strike, then let us strike back with all the strength we possess. These sentiments are not dictated by any anti-American feeling, for from my earliest youth I have had no other feeling for the United States but that of admiring affection. The speeches of John Bright was my American gospel in my earlier days,

DISCUSS THE TARIFF

The farmers' organizations of the three western provinces have placed themselves on record in favor of a lower customs tariff on imported goods. The farmers evidently want to buy these goods more cheaply than they can at the present time. The passing of resolutions will not do a great deal towards securing a better tariff. Something else must be done. We want our readers to use these columns for a discussion of the tariff. All political parties are in favor of a high protective tariff, so the question may be discussed freely without any fear of arousing a political controversy. The tariff is a matter of more importance to the farmers than to any other class of people in this country. Send along your letters dealing with the tariff and state how you think the tariff should be regulated and the best plan to follow to secure results. Copies of the tariff as at present in force may be obtained free from the Department of Customs, House of Commons, Ottawa, and letters addressed to that department require no postage. If any readers wish to ask questions about the tariff, send them along and they will be answered in our "Question Drawer." Show your interest in your country and in your fellow farmers by giving the benefit of your knowledge and experience.

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE.

and my admiration for the great American people and the wonderful men they have produced has grown with growing years, but in this fair Dominion we are building up an heritage for our children and one most important part of that heritage should be a determination not to submit to injustice from any quarter.

GEO. LANGLEY.

Maymont, Sask.

THE FARMERS' COMPANY

Editor, GUIDE:—In your issue of August 28th, page 11, there appears a report of a special meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, held on the 13th, at which resolutions were passed with a view to revert back to the original co-operative methods of running the business of the company.

Now sir, while Mr. Partridge and others may be as they assert, unalterably attached to co-operation, I, as a shareholder, do not think that the best interests of the company, or of the farming class, will be served by altering the method of dividing the profits equally among the shareholders, as has been the practice to date, and I am rather surprised that after the directors have proven themselves equal to meet the various hostile tactics of the opposing interests, that they should

suggest anything that would lay the company open to fresh attacks by their opponents. The basic principle of all business is stability, and if the internal policy of the company's affairs is to fluctuate annually disruption is sure to ensue, and as it is not possible to get the wishes of the whole of the shareholders at any annual meeting, the larger shippers will, of course, be represented, but the smaller men cannot afford to go personally, or in many cases by proxy. I would suggest that a circular plainly stating the proposed alterations should be enclosed with the notice of the annual meeting, and each person should be asked to state on the circular his wishes, for or against the alteration.

The company have no reason to suppose that the Grain Exchange will not reimpose the one cent commission rule, they certainly will do so, if by their act they can embarrass our company, and if they do, what will happen? The company must then go back to the present system and who will invest their money with a group of men who may adopt a different policy every year?

Again it is not fair to the shareholders who do not ship grain. It is farmers' sons and daughters, when they bought shares, that were equally divisible as to the profits. They bought something that was worth more than some shares would be under the departure, and this would be a good argument for our opponents to misrepresent the company, a risk which we cannot afford to invite.

I wish that you would insert this letter in your correspondence column and invite discussion thereon, for I think that the shareholders should have every opportunity of considering this matter before the time for the annual meeting.

JAMES H. FRY.

Fry's, Sask.

DAYLIGHT WANTED

Editor, GUIDE:—Our local Grain Growers' Association is showing commendable curiosity in the matter of how the members of the Saskatchewan legislature are casting their votes on questions of paramount importance to Grain Growers and farmers. Do you know where we can obtain the

and planned, being forced thereto for the preservation of present and future activities in farm life which are the fundamental laws of the association known to the world as The Grain Growers' Association of Canada. The harvest is great, grain growers are increasing. Long may we live!

COL. I. D. BAIRD.

TIME FOR REFORM

Editor, GUIDE:—I am pleased to see the letter from Mr. E. A. Partridge, in your issue of February 16. It has the true ring and, coming from so able a champion of direct legislation and single tax, it will bear fruit. He is right in stating that the "kingdom" (an ideal government) will never come until we have a sufficient number amongst us seeking righteousness. A wise man once said: "A city is known by the men it crowns." It may be taken for granted that a nation can be judged in like manner, but what do we find here? Many who hold high positions believe in large armies and navies, a high protective tariff, abominate woman suffrage and consider themselves custodians of the wealth created by labor, none of which conforms with the dignity of high ideals or righteousness and only serves to retard the progress of our advancing civilization. The fact seems to be overlooked that in striving for justice for others, each individual benefits himself. The time is now ripe for governments in order to perpetuate peace and protect property, for the laws to be made by a direct vote of all the people by universal suffrage. The old representation system is fast becoming bankrupt. The combined will of the people is true sovereignty. "Be it enacted by the people," is the handwriting on the wall, that is being seen plainer every day. History, the tombstone of all fallen nations, in recording their rise and decline, does not cite a single instance of the destruction or death of a nation where rights were inalienable and exercised as duties, but proves conclusively that in every instance the decay and death to the parting of these rights from their duties, the gathering of the privileges increased the power of a continually decreasing number of rulers, while at the same time but in a far greater ratio the performing of duties without rights increased poverty, ignorance and wretchedness. In conclusion I wish to state that law making by a direct vote of the people is no wild chimera and is not only applicable to certain countries or places, but is a principle, and not limited by time or space. The only requirements are: High ideals, a true sense of justice and equal rights to all; no special privileges to so-called "material wealth," whom fortune has favored.

JAS. SCHICHTE.

WHAT CO-OPERATION IS DOING

Editor, GUIDE:—I shall be glad if you will kindly announce through your valuable columns that owing to the heavy demand for shares, together with the increased trade at the farmers' co-operative store at Gwynne, the directors have decided that the manager and secretary organize a series of meetings throughout this neighborhood in such districts as seem necessary, with a view to opening branch stores, under the management of the company (which is entirely owned, operated and controlled by farmers, members of the U.F.A.) together with a head office and distributing centre. As considerable applications have been received already, the directors have decided that meetings be held at Bittern Lake, Millet, Lewisville, and Duhamel, for branch stores and at Wetaskiwin for a distributing centre during the next few weeks.

HAYDON NEWTON

Secretary, Farmers' Co-Operative Store.

Gwynne, Alta.

SUGGESTS GREAT CO-OPERATIVE SCHEME

Editor, GUIDE:—I read the letter re co-operation in the last issue of THE GUIDE by George Duseigne, and I think that it would be a good thing to raise a discussion in the columns of THE GUIDE on this subject. The farmers have too many middlemen to keep with our present system of doing business, and I would suggest a remedy if I may. The Grain Growers' Association should form itself into a co-operative society by

PAPER FOR FARMERS

Editor, GUIDE:—The voice of farmers united causes legislators to listen. THE GUIDE is as a panacea to the farmer, imbuing faith in his country, hope in honest endeavor and charity for the self-satisfied, who stand aloof and with smirk and jeer, and doubt the integrity of the millers, trusts and combines. THE GUIDE is the friend of the farmers for its editors are farmers themselves who have devised

Arclee, Sask.

G. W. D.

[Note.—The names of members are not recorded when voting except in formal divisions. In such cases the vote with the names is recorded in the "Notes and Proceedings" of the legislature. These may be secured from the clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Regina.—Ed.]
