

FUNDAMENTALS OF DEMOCRACY

Among the primal requisites of democracy is that the people shall have a clear understanding of existing conditions. They must be able to distinguish some conditions as satisfactory and others as unsatisfactory. And recognizing a certain condition as unsatisfactory their temper should be such that they will set themselves directly to replace it by something that shall be at least a step nearer the ideal.

The failure to see clearly is the first difficulty. Men often feel that there is something wrong in existing conditions, but are not just sure what it is. Taxation does not bear equitably, but just where the error is is not so easily recognized. The cost of living is exorbitant, but the exact cause seems to elude one's search. The system of land holding works hardship to many, but few see just what remedy can be applied. Certain classes get more than their share of the good things of this world, and certain others just as surely get less, but just why it is so and where the help lies is not so easy to figure out. But if twentieth century democracy is to come to its own, men must figure such things out. And we live in a time when the individual is not left without aid in making such research. Men in these days are wrestling with such problems and earnest minds are endeavoring to devise solutions. It is one of the urgent needs of the time that people should more and more avail themselves of the opportunities of coming to clear understanding of the nature of existing conditions, coming to see definitely what is wrong and what is needed in order that the wrong may be righted. When that is attained an important step has been taken in the direction of better things.

Know What You Want and Act

But having this knowledge, it is necessary that there should be also the will to act. When men know what is needed and go right after it with what power they have, it usually comes. But the common difficulty is slackness of will and lack of impetus and enthusiasm in actively seeking the better condition. Thousands are mortally afraid of change lest it should prove to be drastic and unsettling and revolutionary. Now that kind of fear is wholesome if taken in small doses, just sufficient to give assurance that the steps to be taken shall be naturally and rightfully progressive. But for many generations the world has been so unconsciously overdosed with this fear that it has all but fatally drugged the spirits of men, binding them in a change-dreading lethargy which has gone far toward taking all the buoyancy and the heartening vim out of the course of human progress. And many seem to think that no advance may be sought but just in the way in which past advances have been sought, and with due attention to all the details of procedure and technicalities of legal form which the past has prescribed. Valuable energy is wasted on trivialities, and often a cause is retarded for years simply because it is not sought directly and wholeheartedly. When the populace know what they want, define it in clear terms to themselves, and set themselves to get that thing and not another, its coming is not usually very long delayed.

Much of the democratic progress of New Zealand in recent years has been due to the attitude they have taken in this regard. Deciding that a certain thing was for the common good, they have divested themselves of all worry about precedent and legal technicality, and have by their votes demanded and secured the thing which they desired. For example, there was a time when the government of New Zealand was largely a government of the rich. They ruled and governed according to their own sweet will. But the people decided that such a condition was not in the best interests of all, and they changed it. The result is summed up in the following sentence from Siegfried: "The real leaders of the country, those, that is, who hold the substance as well as the appearance of power, are men of no wealth, while the rich, with very few exceptions, have been thrown into opposition where their opinion counts for very little in the councils of government." The

people had discovered the power of the personal vote and used it to cast out the plutocrats and to make themselves masters of the country. What a day it will be for Canada when the common people, knowing their power, fire the plutocrats from the council chambers of government and take to themselves the reins of power! Perhaps that day is nearer than some people think.

The New Zealand Land Problem

A similar thing happened in New Zealand in connection with the land problem. There, as in some other countries, land sharks had secured millions of acres, which they held as land sharks do. The people decided that such holding of land was not good for the country and were not afraid to say so. The minister of labor, in the course of a debate, said: "The colony does not want these large estates. Their owners should be the last to seek protection from the state. I regard large estates, whether partially in use or not at all, as a social pest, an obstacle to trade and a barrier in the way of progress." And so the government inaugurated the progressive land tax, and provided in certain cases for the forced purchase of large estates. "The progressive land tax," Mr. Reeves told the legislature, "is a warning to the large landowners. They should regard it as proof that the colony has had enough of them." There was no worrying about the "sacred rights of property." The new Zealanders recognized that the people were being fooled out of their sacred personal rights, and without any beating about the bush took the measures that were necessary to stop the wrong. When the Canadian people get behind legislators of that fearlessly progressive type our Canadian land-sharks will begin to sit up and take notice, and there will be definite reason to hope that the common people may at last come to their own. To that end we need today increase of personal knowledge, personal conscience, personal courage and personal initiative and energy on the part of every individual citizen.—Contributed by W. R. Wood, M.P.P., of Neepawa, Man.

PATRIOTIC ACRE RETURNS

Previously acknowledged	\$21,769.74
Beresford G.G.A.	100.00
Cameron G.G.A.	26.20
Pilot Mound G.G.A.	1,053.50
Strathclair G.G.A.	94.75
W. Kingston, Minnedosa P.O.	40.00
Vista G.G.A.	39.00
Beresford G.G.A.	144.50
Ladies of Otterburne District	40.00
Bird Tail G.G.A.	58.70
Dunrea G.G.A.	15.00
Vista G.G.A.	23.70
Culross Presbyterian Church	—
Picnic (Shoal Lake)	25.00
Fairfax G.G.A.	40.00
Harrow G.G.A., Carnegie P.O.	25.00
Ninga G.G.A.	287.60
Collected by Miss Love, of	—
Ninga, for Belgians	50.00
Riverside Sewing Circle	25.00
Firdale G.G.A.	25.00
Ramwood G.G.A.	35.00
Strathclair G.G.A.	30.50
Osprey G.G.A.	22.75
Dugald G.G.A.	25.00
John C. Randall, Oakburn	—
Association	50.00
Tremaine G.G.A., Rapid City	102.00
Oakville G.G.A.	60.00
Total receipts	\$24,200.94

OAKVILLE'S CONTRIBUTION

The Oakville G.G. Association has forwarded an additional check of \$60, being balance of returns for their Patriotic Acre pledges. This amount has been donated by D. A. Moore, P. M. Arthur and A. Page. This makes a total of \$1,166 received from Oakville Association, a very creditable sum, and the Central Association wishes to thank all those who have contributed so generously to our Patriotic Acre fund.

Manitoba

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. C. Henderson, Acting Secretary-Treasurer, Suite 4, Balmoral Court, Winnipeg, to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RE SERBIAN RELIEF

The following letter has been received by Central from the Serbian Relief headquarters in Corsica:—

Ajaccio, July 18, 1916

Secretary,

Man. G. G. Association,
Winnipeg, Canada.

Sir:—The Serbian Colony in Corsica is honored in having to thank you for the generous gift of your noble compatriots to the refugees of our unfortunate country. You have proven that your hearts are close to ours no matter how great the distance between our two countries may be. In the name of my compatriots I express our most grateful heartfelt thanks. Rest assured that we will never forget your coming to our rescue at the most trying moment of our existence.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of the sum of £430 15s 3d, which came thru the Serbian delegation at London. Kindly accept, sir, the assurance of our profoundest respect.

Yours most gratefully,

HARVO NARAKOVITCH

AS OTHERS SEE US

The following article contributed by W. R. Wood, M.P.P., to the Neepawa Press will be of interest to many of our readers who may not have seen it when published:—

Rupert Brooke, the young English poet and litterateur, whose career came to an untimely end by his death from blood-poisoning a few months ago when on his way from Egypt to Gallipoli, has the following interesting references to life and thought in Western Canada in a volume of "Letters from America," recently published. While his impressions may not have been in every case absolutely accurate, his paragraphs are interesting as presenting some of the things that appeared outstanding in the view of a passing traveller.

"Already the West has been a nuisance to the East in the fight of 1911 over reciprocity with the United States. When she gets a larger representation in parliament she will be still more of a nuisance. It is generally believed in the West that the East runs Canada, and runs it for its own advantage. And the East means a very few rich men; who control the big railways, the banks and the Manufacturers' Association; subscribe to both political parties and are generally credited with complete control over the tariff and most other Canadian affairs. Whether or no the Manufacturers' Association does arrange the tariff and control the commerce of Canada, it is generally believed to do so. The only thing that its friends say is, it acts in the best interests of Canada, its enemies that it acts in the best interests of the Manufacturers' Association.

"The Westerner has strong views on a tariff which only affects him by perpetually raising the cost of living and farming. The idea of even a Conservative in the West about reducing the tariff would make an Eastern 'Liberal' die of heart-failure. And the Westerner also hates the banks. The banking system of Canada is peculiar, and throws the control of the banks into the hands of a few people in the East, who were felt by the ever optimistic West to have shut down credit too completely during the recent money stringency.

"The most interesting expression of the new Western point of view, and in many ways the most hopeful movement in Canada, is the co-operative movement among the grain growers of the three prairie provinces. Only started a few years ago, it has grown rapidly in numbers, wealth, power and extent of operations. So far it has confined itself politically to influencing provincial legislatures. But it has gradually attached itself to an advanced radical program of a Chartist description. And it is becoming powerful. Whether the outcome will be a very desirable rejuvenation of the Liberal party or the creation of a third—perhaps Radical Labor—party it is hard to tell. At any rate the change will come. And, just to start with, there will come very

shortly to the Eastern powers who threw out reciprocity with the States for the sake of Empire, a demand from the West that the preference to British goods be increased rapidly till they be allowed to come in free, also for the Empire's sake. Then the fun will begin."

APPLES FOR MANITOBA GRAIN GROWERS

I am pleased to be able to announce that arrangements have been completed by which our Associations will be able to secure their fall and winter supply of apples along purely co-operative lines. Delegates from our Farmers Co-operative Organizations in Ontario have been in conference with us and mutually satisfactory terms agreed upon. While the apple crop in the East is not large and the quality on the whole not of the highest, yet we are assured that our orders will be carefully handled and that everything possible will be done to give us a service that will be satisfactory both as to quality of goods and prices charged. In next week's issue we will be in a position to give our readers the fullest possible information and in the meantime our Associations can rest assured that orders for fruit will be taken care of and satisfaction guaranteed. R. C. H.

LATE MEMBERSHIP DUES

The following branches have forwarded dues this month: Gilbert Plains, Deepdale, Vider, Shoal Lake, Rivers and Wheatland, Otterburne, Spruce Bluff, and Desford.

Note—We hope other branches and secretaries will still keep in mind the work of the Association thru the busy season. Some of our branches have their membership dues all forwarded—others have not yet remitted any for this year.

ORGANIZATION WORK

By J. Milton Simons, Organizer for American Society of Equity

After a new local has been organized the first thing to do is to begin doing business, that's what they organized for, and make a success of it.

Now, then, what is the organizer's duty? Is he, after organizing the farmers in a local union, to go away without a word of advice and not point out the way for them to proceed, leaving them ignorant of the ways and means whereby to go forward and do things? I fear too much of this has been done. My plan is to give good sound advice and urge them to begin doing business at once and that thru headquarters, and not do it alone by guess and by chance. They have gotten together now so they must learn to work together and that thru the right channel. Haphazard, slipshod, bull-headed, blind man's buff and every other foolish way must be cut out and they must do business according to business principles.

Right here is where the organizer can do the farmer's a great service. Insist on their loyalty to the cause and to each other. Confidence lost must be restored. This is to be a brotherhood of men, past doubts and petty jealousies and anything that will hinder and obstruct the way must be buried like the Indian's hatchet. They must join hands in their new life as it were.

Another thing I believe should be done after organizing a local.—Have an investigating committee, say three of the members, appointed and investigate every move, and what they learn between the dates of the meetings report to the regular meeting. In this way pitfalls may be avoided. They should be careful so as to make as few mistakes as possible. These bumps hurt, but go ahead and do business co-operatively. The organizer should bend every effort to advance the cause and assist locals by good sound advice and do all in his power to keep them on their feet. We must work together, brothers, in the cause of equity. If it is a good thing push it along.

Note—Some timely advice in the above which our Manitoba Associations might profit by.

INSPECTORS' GRAIN SAMPLES

Q.—What becomes of all the samples of grain taken out of the cars for government inspection at Winnipeg?

A.—These samples are held in the chief inspector's office in the Grain Exchange Building, Winnipeg, for a considerable length of time and are then sold, the profits going into the general funds of the Grain Inspection Department.