

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, July 26th, 1911

## RECIPROCITY PACT PASSES U.S. SENATE

On Saturday, July 22, the Canadian-American reciprocity agreement was ratified by the United States Senate by a vote of 53 to 27, and will receive the signature of the president today. This ends all speculation in regard to the action of the United States, for the agreement as ratified is identically as it was introduced, and as it was before the House of Commons. There is now the standing offer to the people of Canada to enter and sell their produce in the wide markets of the republic to the south where 90,000,000 additional people will bid for the products of Canadian farms. This will be the greatest boon that has been conferred upon the farmers of Canada since the abrogation of the Engin-Marcy reciprocity treaty in 1866. It will also be the first serious blow in half a century to the iniquitous protectionist principle. The Canadian farmers will have better prices for a large portion of their products, and in addition will be placed in a position where they can demand the removal of protection from the manufacturing industry. When the reciprocity agreement has been in effect for twelve months the farmers of Canada will all be convinced (as most of them are now) that protection is a delusion. They can then say to the government quite consistently, "We can prosper without protection, and so can the manufacturers. Down with the protective tariff." Reciprocity is but the first step towards wiping out the trade barriers between Canada, the Mother Country and the United States which are of benefit chiefly to those industries that prey upon the common people. It also marks the first victory of the organized farmers in their fight for a square deal. Inspired by this conquest the organized farmers can go ahead, encouraged by the knowledge that they are a real power in Canadian affairs, and that with the continuation of their educational propaganda they can compel Parliament to remove all concessions to Special Privilege. The fight for justice has only begun, and will not end till Canadian industries stand upon their own feet and not upon the toes of the Canadian people. In Canada the reciprocity agreement has been before the House of Commons and the people of the country for six months and there is not the slightest doubt but that a great majority of the farmers of Canada are strongly in support of its ratification. A large majority of the members of the House of Commons are also in favor and are ready to vote upon it at once. Mr. Borden and his followers, despite the attitude of the country, are determined that majority shall not rule, and that the agreement shall not pass the House. But for this action on Mr. Borden's part the agreement would be ratified and in effect before the end of this week. The Canadian constitution provides for majority rule and the Canadian Parliament is practically the only one remaining in a civilized country where it is possible for the country to be ruled by a minority. This must be remedied before the business of the country can be conducted with proper despatch. Majority rule is the only safe principle, even though the majority may at times be in the wrong. It is the duty of the government to provide for some form of closure in order that when a measure has been fully discussed it can be brought to a vote. There is no justification for prolonging the debate at Ottawa upon the reciprocity agreement. Everything possible has been said upon the subject and the time of the House is simply being wasted at a cost of thousands of dollars every day. One month was sufficient for the discussion of every de-

tail of the agreement. If Mr. Borden is determined that the agreement shall not pass the House until a general election has been held there is nothing else for the government to do but dissolve and go to the country. But such an action would be a great injustice to the people of Canada as a whole and Western Canada in particular. In the natural course of events there would be no election till the end of next year. If an election is held during the next few months more than one-third of the people of the Prairie Provinces will be disfranchised, because there will be no time for the passage of the Redistribution Bill. Again, there will be no opportunity for the people to pronounce upon the general record of the government, and it must not be forgotten that the reciprocity agreement does not wipe out all the sins of the present administration. If the opposition force an election immediately there must be another election shortly after the Redistribution Bill has passed, and there must be a closure in the House of Commons, whereby the majority rule will be a reality. The present action is well qualified to split the farmer-vote in the West, and, of course, will be pleasing to all politicians. So long as the people are divided the politicians and Special Privilege are safe. If the farmers of the West expect to secure the redress they have demanded they must see that the men who go to the House of Commons at the next election are pledged to support the entire Farmers' Platform. Stand-pat misrepresentatives of the people of either party will never assist in bringing in the era of the square deal.

## THE FUEL BILL

Most of us in this country burn coal to keep body and soul together during the long cold winters that we experience. Nature has been kind to the West in many ways, but the Prairie farmer has no wood lot as has the farmer in most parts of the East, so relies upon the coal, which is abundant. Coal should be cheap, there is so much of it, but, of course, it has largely been corralled by the speculator through the kindness of legislators. This monopolistic control puts up the price, but the railways step in and take another tribute from every man's pocket by their exorbitant charges for haulage. Coal is a human necessity, so the railways can levy their taxes directly upon the consumer at will. The Free Press points out the rates upon coal in Western Canada as compared with the rates just south of the line in the Western states. Here is the comparison:

From	Railway	Miles	Rate per ton
Edmonton to Ramia, Sask.	C.N.R.	499	\$3.79
Estevan to Plunkett, Sask.	C.P.R.	504	3.45
Williston to Cayuga, N.D.	G.N.R.	507	2.20
Kenmare, N.D., to Buffalo, Minn.	C.P.R. (800)	482	1.75
Edmonton to Kamsask, Sask.	C.N.R.	549	\$3.80
Strathcona to Hebert, Sask.	C.P.R.	548	3.85
Estevan to Cheviot, Sask.	C.P.R.	545	3.60
Williston to Aberdeen, S.D.	G.N.R.	577	2.40
Lehigh to Pembina, N.D.	N.P.R.	521	2.25

Our readers will note that the Canadian Pacific Railway, which was built by donations and privileges, amounting to more than the total cost of the road, from the Canadian people, charges \$3.45 to haul a ton of coal 504 miles in Canada, but the same company under the Stars and Stripes can haul a ton of coal 482 miles for \$1.75. This is just approximately 100 per cent. higher in Canada than in the United States. This great railway corporation, built up by Canadian money, is gouging the Canadian people to the extent of nearly 100 per cent. in unjust profits in order to put money into the pockets

of a handful of men who are already wallowing in millions. If an agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway held up all coal consumers in the West at the point of a revolver and compelled them to pay tribute of \$1.70 per ton upon their coal the agent would be punished. But in this case the law permits the company to do the same thing, and the men who do it are the great men of the land. And the Canadian Northern Railway is even worse than the Canadian Pacific, because it levies even greater toll. These two railways—one built with the people's money and the other upon the people's credit—are the Great Taxgatherers of the Great West. And yet in the face of this evidence, Hon. George P. Graham, Minister of Railways, speaking in the House of Commons, said that freight rates were lower in Western Canada than in the United States. Still further, the government makes no attempt whatever to curb this robbery on the part of the railways. Whatever the railways want they get. The British North America Act provides that Parliament may collect revenues by direct taxation, but instead of using this power Parliament has handed it over to the railways. Why are the politicians always so solicitous about the railways? How is it that we never see the politicians attempting to secure justice for the people against the rapacity of the railways? Is not our very system building up a railway octopus which will usurp the powers of Parliament? No wonder the railways love the West. It is to them a milk cow that gives all cream. And yet we must not have reciprocity for fear it will injure our railways! They can stand a little injury in the way of reduced rates.

## DEPENDS UPON VIEWPOINT

Last year J. S. Willison, editor of the Toronto News, the leading anti-reciprocity organ of Canada, visited the West during Sir Wilfrid Laurier's tour. He saw how the Western farmers talked to Sir Wilfrid at that time, and this is what Mr. Willison wrote back to the News:

"The West is not to be overcome by phrases. It is frank, direct, and practical. The spokesmen for the Grain Growers are not agricultural failures, political weaklings, or seekers for notoriety. They are among the most representative and successful of Western farmers. They represent a powerful organization, and they have given long and patient consideration to the questions which they urged upon the attention of the prime minister. They support each demand by lucid and powerful reasoning."

These men who presented their case to Sir Wilfrid were the very same men in nearly every case who met Mr. Borden. But Mr. Willison and the News have nothing good to say about the Western farmers now.

## THE PEOPLE MUST RULE

If there is any one fact that has been forced home to the people of the West during the last two years it is that the supreme and final legislative power must reside in the people. The campaign of education for needed reforms is being carried on without cessation, but the opposition met in all legislative circles is powerful and dangerous. The remedy for this condition can only come by giving the law-making powers back into the hands of the people from which they originally came. Direct Legislation, as the Initiative and Referendum have come to be called, is coming not only to be a desirable instrument but a necessary one. Our legislators have not taken the matter seriously as yet, and they will not do so until the people feel the need of it sufficiently to demand it. With

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