

PROTECTION'S FAVORITE CHILD

Under the head "Making Paupers," the Toronto News says:—

"Thousands of people are living in Toronto in abject misery. They are herded together in noisome slum dwellings where their health is undermined, their moral stamina weakened and their zest for work destroyed. The most pitiable aspect of the situation is that children are being brought up in these surroundings so that every difficulty is placed in the way of their becoming good citizens. They have but little chance of developing sufficient physical and mental strength to fit them for the struggle of life. Toronto is raising a class of unemployables. While clamoring for immigrants, we do little to save the lives of our native-born children. The rate of infant mortality is abnormal, and when thousands of babies die for want of care, cleanliness and healthful surroundings, other thousands grow to imperfect manhood."

That is Toronto, the stronghold of Protection, as described by the leading advocate of Protection! Whatever benefits our tariff confers, Toronto gets the lion's share, for a large proportion of the beneficiaries of special legislation live there. Yet this is the high pitch of "prosperity" to which Protection has brought its favorite child. For the rest of the country, a few towns and cities excepted, Protection promises little, and the system of legalized extortion has never been known even to do as much as it promised.

MOVING TOWARDS DEMOCRACY

Speaking in the legislature on November 18 on the proposal of the government to introduce a bill providing for Direct Legislation Premier Scott, of Saskatchewan, said:

"This is a new departure in the Dominion of Canada, but Saskatchewan has been the leader in many other matters of legislation, and we are not afraid to take the lead in this. It is true there are persons in both the Liberal and Conservative parties who are inclined to fear that there may be certain risks in introducing this system under the British constitution. But in this matter, I am inclined to agree with William Jennings Bryan, who said, when professing his confidence in the efficacy of Direct Legislation: 'The people have the right to make their own mistakes.' Legislators have not been guiltless in the matter of making mistakes, and while the people may make a mistake, the risk is not as great now as in times past. Owing to the spread of democracy and education, the time is coming when all the people will be competent to express opinion on public matters. The government has, therefore, thought it right and proper to grant the requests that have been made for this form of legislation which is demanded by a large section of electors."

This is the proper language for a man who has been placed in a high and responsible position by the people. Certainly the people will make mistakes, and as Mr. Scott says, even legislators make mistakes—quite frequently. But the people can only learn wisdom by experience. By placing a proper bill for the operation of the Initiative and Referendum on the statute books of Saskatchewan Mr. Scott will be leading the way for true democracy in Canada. He will also place himself in a proud position among the leading public men of Canada.

DISORDER IN PARLIAMENT

The prevalent notion that the British Parliament never departs from the grave and dignified conduct of public business has received a rude shock by reason of the riotous scenes enacted a few days ago. The stately halls of Westminster heard ministers of the Crown called "apes," and the government described as "a circus led by rebels." The Prime Minister was dubbed a "traitor" and pelted with rolls of paper, while Hon. Winston Churchill sustained a black eye from a heavy book hurled from the other side of the House. For the first time in modern history the authority of the Speaker has been practically defied by a large portion of the House and the responsible leaders of a great party have deliberately winked at violence. For a few minutes, indeed, it looked as

though a free fight by the heated competitors could not be avoided. Not without reason has the idea of fighting become identified in the public mind with Irish questions, for the recent disorder rooted in the Home Rule Bill. While it would be unfair to judge the whole British Parliament by the antics of a few unruly members whose tempers were sharper than their wits, yet it cannot fail to stimulate our national pride to think that the Mother of Parliaments, for all her long and honorable life, occasionally lapses farther from the dictates of cool judgment than our own stripling parliament at Ottawa has ever done. Of course, it was party tactics, the only justification being the hope that if the government were compelled to go to the country the Liberal program would be rejected. Even as party tactics, however, it is reassuring to learn that the disorder, so far from damaging the Government in the eyes of the people, is likely to recoil on the heads of the instigators. To exchange self-respect and the esteem of the nation for the sake of scoring a party coup is a poor bargain, whether at Westminster, Washington or Ottawa.

CUTTING THE MELON

It was definitely announced at Montreal on November 18 that the new issue of \$60,000,000 of Canadian Pacific common stock would be offered to shareholders on January 2 at \$175 per share. Here is where the shareholders of the Canadian Pacific Railway will put from \$45,000,000 to \$60,000,000 in their pockets without returning five cents' worth to the people of Canada. Out of 25,000 shareholders of the Canadian Pacific Railway 23,000 are living in foreign countries. Thus the people of Canada are compelled to hand over \$45,000,000 to foreigners for absolutely nothing. This figures out at about \$6.00 for every man, woman and child in Canada. For the average family of seven it means a forced gift of \$42. This is a tax which the people don't see because a tax-gatherer does not come round to collect it, but it is paid just the same.

PURIFYING THE PRESS

The following is an extract from the United States postal regulations in accordance with Act of Congress of August 24, 1912:—

"It shall be the duty of the editor, publisher, business manager, or owner of every newspaper, magazine, periodical or other publication to file with the Postmaster-General and the postmaster at the office at which said publication is entered not later than the first day of April and the first day of October of each year, on blanks furnished by the Post Office Department, a sworn statement setting forth the names and post office addresses of the editor and managing editor, publisher, business managers, and owners, and, in addition, the stockholders, if the publication be owned by a corporation; and also the names of known bondholders, mortgagees, or other security holders; and also, in the case of daily newspapers, there shall be included in such statement the average of the number of copies of each issue of such publication sold or distributed to paid subscribers during the preceding six months; Provided, That the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to religious, fraternal, temperance, and scientific, or other similar publications; Provided further, That it shall not be necessary to include in such statement the names of persons owning less than one per centum of the total amount of stock, bonds, mortgages, or other securities. A copy of such sworn statement shall be published in the second issue of such newspaper, magazine or other publication printed next after the filing of such statement. Any such publication shall be denied the privileges of the mail if it shall fail to comply with the provisions of this paragraph within ten days after notice by registered letter of such failure."

"All editorial or other reading matter published in any such newspaper, magazine, or periodical for the publication of which money or other valuable consideration is paid, accepted, or promised shall be plainly marked 'advertisement.' Any editor or publisher printing editorial or other reading matter for which compensation is paid, accepted, or promised without so marking the same, shall upon conviction in any court having jurisdiction, be

"fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50), nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500)."

This regulation is designed to let the public know who owns the press and also who is spending their money to influence public opinion. Such a law would be an excellent measure for Canada and would expose a number of journals, masquerading as free and truthful, but in reality hip-pocket organs of financiers and politicians, maintained by them to poison public opinion.

PROTECTION AGAINST THEMSELVES?

How unscrupulously a manufacturing combine may conduct its business was backed home to a Winnipeg audience last week by Dr. R. H. Glover, a missionary of Central China. The Anglo-American Tobacco company, taking advantage of the abolition of the opium curse throughout China, has started an enormous cigarette factory in Hankow, employing 40 Europeans and 1,500 Chinese. The output of this factory is 200,000,000 cigarettes per month. Dr. Glover claims good authority for the statement that these cigarettes contain opium. No device known to modern business is being omitted by this enterprising concern in order to convert the Chinese people to the use of these harmless-looking but poisonous cigarettes. Aside from the moral aspect of such business methods, employed by an outfit boasting the name "Anglo-American," how will these manufacturers be able to use the pet plea of tariff beneficiaries that protection is necessary against cheap foreign labor? This would amount to saying that their American or Canadian factories need protection against their Hankow factory. The Canadian tobacco manufacturers at present enjoy tariff protection to the extent of \$3 a pound on cigars and cigarettes. Perhaps the Anglo-American company want more "protection" against themselves.

A cable from London announces that the Alberta Government bonds to the extent of \$5,000,000 have been successfully sold at 97 cents on the dollar. This figures out at 4.12 per cent., and the money market is not considered as particularly good at the present time. This shows the credit of Canadian governments to be good. The credit of the government depends on the prosperity of the people represented by the government. If then there is plenty of money available at 4 per cent. some system can surely be worked out by which farmers can be relieved of the 8, 10 and 12 per cent. interest they are now paying.

We note that the Protectionist Press Bureau is very busy supplying editorial articles to the protectionist journals throughout Canada. These articles prepared by the Press Bureau are published as original editorials in the protectionist papers. Whenever we publish in The Grain Growers' Guide a letter approving of protection, the Press Bureau seizes upon it with great glee and writes an article to prove that the West is in favor of a protective tariff. The Press Bureau takes no account of the fact that for every letter we get approving of protection, we get at least one hundred condemning it.

Don't forget The Guide Referendum. There are only two weeks left before the ballot will be printed. We hope all our readers will be ready, when the time comes, to fill in the ballot and send it in to The Guide. It will be the best possible way to find out where the organized farmers of the West stand on several vital questions of the hour.

Our readers should avoid sending us cash through the mail, wherever possible. Post office, express or bank money orders or postal notes are far safer and can easily be traced by the number on the receipt. Registering letters costs five cents and is not as safe as a postal note costing only two or three cents.