

BENEFITS OF COMPETITION

In the Melbourne Weekly Times, of March 16, 1912, one of the leading Australian journals, we find the following advertisements:

MONEY

We have a large amount of Money to Lend from Four Per Cent. in Large and Small Sums on COUNTRY LANDS, for terms of two, three, four, five or seven years, with option of reducing principal when desired.

M'EVOY and CO.,

44 MARKET STREET, MELBOURNE

MONEY

On FARM LANDS from 4 Per Cent. Business Promptly and Cheaply Arranged I ACCEPT LOCAL VALUATIONS Correspondence Invited

Bernard Michael,

Auctioneer and Farm Salesman, 45 Queen St.

This shows the effect of the Australian state system of providing loans to farmers at a low rate of interest. The state has not found it necessary to loan a huge amount to the farmers in Australia because private concerns have been compelled to reduce their rates of interest to meet the state competition. Similarly in Canada the governments will not find it necessary to loan any tremendous sum, as the loan and mortgage companies would be compelled to reduce their rates to a competitive basis.

GLOBE EDITOR VERSUS THE GLOBE

Speaking in St. Stephen's Church on Sunday, June 2, Dr. J. A. Macdonald, editor of the Toronto Globe, denounced war and preparation for war in the strongest terms. The common saying, "In peace prepare for war," was all wrong, he declared, as history and experience proved. "In peace prepare for more peace" was the motto he would have the nation accept. Referring to the hundred years of peace along the international boundary between Canada and the United States and the lack of cannon or fortress along the whole three thousand miles, Dr. Macdonald predicted that if war vessels were placed on the Great Lakes supposedly to maintain the peace, nothing could prevent a conflict in the future. Turning to the financial, moral and racial burdens involved in actual wars or in the everlasting preparation for war, "Is this damnable folly to go on forever?" he asked. "Damnable is the only word, and folly—damnable folly." A special duty lay on Canada, he contended, to point the way for the other nations in bringing in the day of world-wide peace.

So much for the editor of the Globe. Now for the Globe. The Victoria Day parade in Toronto stirred up bitter regrets in the heart of the Globe, it appears, because the Canadian youth were not being trained wholesale in the gentle art of shooting-to-kill.

"The remedy," says the Globe, "is the cutting out of the fuss and feathers that cost so much and count for so little in real warfare, and the placing of a rifle in the hands of every young Canadian between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one under conditions that will permit him to become a competent shot. That would involve the laying out of hundreds of small rifle ranges throughout the country, and a very considerable annual expenditure for ammunition. But the result would be that in time of trouble Canada could call to the colors hundreds of thousands of men who could shoot. And the country that can put into the field great masses of men who can shoot is invulnerable. It is about time for the Dominion to get down to business in the matter of national defence."

In other words, Canada must fall in line in the "damnable folly" business which Dr. Macdonald so strongly denounces. Can it be that one argument is intended for home consumption in jingoistic Toronto, and the better-reasoned plea is presented before the

common sense West? Or is there a split in the Globe? In any case we wonder whether the Globe will convert Dr. Macdonald or Dr. Macdonald convert the Globe.

GOVERNMENT TO BUILD TERMINALS

Grain Growers throughout the West will be glad to learn that the Dominion Government is proceeding to erect a three million bushel terminal elevator at Fort William immediately. The forty-seven acre site secured will be sufficient to allow of the addition of ten or a dozen units of equal capacity. The new grain commission has acted with commendable promptness in this work and announce their intention to have the elevator ready for use by the close of navigation. The announcement of the commissioners states that the new elevator will be a model of convenience and will contain all the modern appliances for handling and storing grain. Though the erection of this elevator is stated to be an experiment there is no reason why it should not be a success, as additional storage is needed and must be had, so that the necessary revenue is already assured. The pitfalls that beset the pathway of publicly owned internal elevators can hardly operate to the disadvantage of public terminals. The attention of the grain commission will next be called to the Western seaboard where there is need of elevator facilities. In order that the Panama canal route may benefit the grain growers of Alberta and Saskatchewan there must be proper bulk grain handling and storing facilities at the Pacific coast. Such terminals should be publicly owned and operated and will not be handicapped by competition.

"THE KING OF TRUSTS"

One billion dollars—enough to make a town full of millionaires—is a pretty good profit for a few seasons' business. That is the huge sum which the United States Steel Corporation is estimated to have pocketed during the past nine years. Sheltered behind a tariff wall whose height is all that these ardent protectionists could wish, the trust has been able to make a net profit of \$13 on every ton of steel turned out of the factories. For the simple work of organizing the amalgamation, the banking house controlled by J. Pierpont Morgan received the tidy little commission of \$70,000,000. All of this billion dollars has come out of the people. It is only now and again when such corporation figures are made public that the people can see how rich they themselves really are—or would be if greedy capitalists did not continually fleece them. The vast revenues of the steel magnates, to be sure, were paid in the first instance by the railways and the manufacturing plants throughout America. But these lost no time in shifting the burden onto the patient shoulders of the common people. Every passenger on a train, every shipper, every member, indeed, of the great consuming public, has had to pay his individual tribute to the Steel Trust Octopus.

Inasmuch as the Steel Corporation is praised as the most perfect type of organization known to the business world, is called the "King of Trusts," and is the envy of a host of would-be combinesters, it may be worth while seeing how it treats its employees. Some of its stockholders recently became curious in the same regard, and set out to investigate. Of the 175,000 workmen whose conditions were looked into, more than one-quarter were found to be working for twelve hours a day. This means that for at least six days a week these men had only eleven hours or less at home. Let one subtract the hours of rest and sleep required by a manual toiler, the time for his breakfast and supper, and see how much of a margin is left for reading, amusements, self-improvement and the cultivation of the acquaintance of his wife and children. But this is not the worst.

In some of the combine's plants the workmen must put in the same twelve hours for seven days a week. This information, it must be remembered, comes to us not from a hostile muck-raking commission, nor a magazine sensation-monger, but from genuine stockholders of the Corporation, who regularly draw their dividends (good fat dividends, too) from the concern. Their findings, accordingly, are sure to be well within the mark. One thing is clear. If the "most perfect" trust yet evolved tucks away in its own pockets \$1,000,000,000 and yet shows no more regard for the real producers of that wealth than to grind them down for twelve hours on six days if not the whole week, year in and year out, then the Trust is not such a patriotic and benevolent institution after all. What it needs is not "protection," but "detection" and exposure.

JUST A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE

Here is a gem from our old friend Industrial Canada:—

"These books are being printed in the United States," says The Grain Growers' Guide. "What books? Why, some ivy-covered, prehistoric Free Trade tracts which The Guide is sending out broadcast to convert Canada to a lost cause. We would suggest that their titles be changed to the following: 'Rapid and Certain Methods to Make Canada an Adjunct of the United States.' The Guide and its friends do not want to see anything printed or made in Canada. Their policy is to send the money and work across the line."

This refers to our campaign for circulating Henry George's "Protection or Free Trade." Our policy is to buy where we can get the best value for our money. We do not believe in the slogan of the Canadian Manufacturers' association, namely, "Canada for 2,600 Canadians" who comprise that organization.

Direct Legislation seems in Canada to be a geographical reform. In Manitoba anyone advocating this system of popular legislative control is denounced by the government as Grit; in Saskatchewan the same man would be described by the government as a Tory, while in Alberta, where both parties have endorsed it, the man who opposes is an exception. Probably in some of the Eastern provinces an advocate of Direct Legislation would be described as an "Anarchist." Is anything further required to prove the urgent necessity of removing from party politicians the power they now have to confuse the people?

Cheap money for farmers is one of the issues in the Provincial general election campaign in New Brunswick which is now in progress, government loans to farmers at 5 per cent. being one of the planks in the platform of the Liberal opposition. Mr. A. B. Copp, the leader of the party, has declared that "if the Province can afford to guarantee bonds for railways on insufficient security, the public credit can much better be used to advance money to our own farmers at easy rates and take as security their farms."

Our flag-flapping manufacturers prate about the danger of Canadians allowing themselves to get into the hands of the American trusts. Meantime all Western Canada is praying to be delivered into the hands of the American cement trust in order that they may buy cement 67 per cent. cheaper than our own patriotic merger is charging. There are a great many other American trusts that are angels compared with similar mergers in Canada.

W. R. Travers, president of the wrecked Farmers' Bank, who is now "residing" at Kingston penitentiary, says that banks should be inspected. He knows.