

money out of the pockets of the farmers as Mr. Kennedy claims then certainly it is time for a change. On this same subject we would call attention to the resolution recently passed by the directorate of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, published in the Manitoba section of this issue, as follows:

It was agreed to solicit the co-operation of the western section of the council of agriculture in making a representation to the Dominion government to change the specification of Nos. 1, 2, and 3 northern Manitoba wheat the survey board, and methods of appeal from the inspector's decisions, so as to bring them more in line with similar grades of wheat, board of appeal and methods of appeal in the Minnesota inspection division."

The following are the grade requirements as given in the Manitoba Grain Act.

"No. 1 Manitoba northern wheat shall be sound and well cleaned, weighing not less than 60 pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of at least sixty per centum of hard red Fife wheat.

"No. 2 Manitoba northern wheat shall be sound and reasonably clean, of good milling qualities and fit for warehousing, weighing not less than 58 pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of at least forty-five per centum of hard red Fife wheat.

"Any wheat not good enough to be graded as No. 2 Manitoba northern shall be graded No. 3 Manitoba northern in the discretion of the inspector."

Compare these with the same grade requirements under the Minnesota system, which are as follows:

No. 1 Northern Spring Wheat shall be sound, sweet and clean, may consist of the hard and soft varieties of spring wheat, and weigh not less than 57 pounds to the measured bushel.

No. 2 Northern Spring Wheat shall be spring wheat not clean enough nor sound enough for No. 1, but of good milling quality and may consist of the bearded varieties, and must not weigh less than 56 pounds to the measured bushel.

No. 3 Northern Spring Wheat shall be composed of inferior, shrunken, spring wheat, and weigh not less than 54 pounds to the measured bushel.

On our market pages every week are published the current prices of cash wheat, both in Winnipeg and Minneapolis. Every one can see that, despite the fact that the Manitoba grading system is more rigid than the Minnesota system, the price in Winnipeg is considerably lower than the price in Minneapolis. What is to be done to remedy the matter? The spread between grades at Winnipeg and Minneapolis is far wider than the spread on the same grades of wheat when sold on the ultimate markets. The directors of the Manitoba Association are asking for changes in the Manitoba Grain Act to bring our grading system more in line with the Minnesota system. If the grading systems north and south of the line were more in line with each other it should prove more satisfactory.

It is most desirable that provisions be made for a sample market. Possibly never before in the history of the West has the need of a sample market been brought home to the farmers as this year when there is such an enormous amount of low grade wheat in the country. The spread in price in the low grades will mean certainly a difference of more than a million dollars to the farmers this year. If reciprocity had gone into effect the elevator interests of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and the railway companies also would have been very anxious to assist in providing a sample market in Winnipeg. It would have been necessary under reciprocity to have equally as good marketing facilities at Winnipeg as at Minneapolis, otherwise our Western grain would have gone to the most favorable market. Now, however, with the American market still closed the elevator interests and the transportation companies are not pressing for a sample market. But are the farmers satisfied to leave things as they are? Are the farmers willing to allow the present conditions to continue when they see every day that it is costing them a great deal in hard cash? Somebody gets the extra money but not the farmers. There is no doubt but that the grain act will be amended this winter in regard to the control and operation of the terminal elevators. It would be advisable to have necessary provisions for a sample market

made at the same time. If the farmers of the West are not at present unanimous as to the improvements they want in the grading system and the necessary conditions for the operation of a sample market, it would be wise to have an investigation of the two systems north and south of the line. Possibly the government might be willing to assist in such an investigation, if the matters were laid before them by the Western farmers. If not, the farmers' organizations themselves might appoint some of their own members to make the investigation and report. There is a widespread dissatisfaction with the marketing facilities at the present time, and it is only by study and investigation that the desired improvements can be brought about. The grain trade of Western Canada is the great commercial enterprise of the country. The farmers are by far the greatest wealth producers. It is essential that they should receive the full value of their products which they are not receiving now. This subject is one which we would be glad to have our readers discuss in the columns of The Guide at any time.

PARLIAMENT IN SESSION

Parliament is now in session with the new government at the helm. This week will see all the preliminaries completed, the aspiring social ones presented to vice-royalty, and the decks cleared for legislative action. There seems to be a great deal of speculation as to what legislation will be forthcoming during this first session. There are a number of matters of the first importance requiring attention, but of necessity the new government will require considerable time to decide upon its legislative program. It is to be hoped that there will be only one session this winter and the country thus be saved a large financial outlay.

No doubt attention will early be given to Mr. Borden's promises to the West. The elevator bill is all in readiness as far as the terminal elevators are concerned and will not require much time. The naval question will present a knotty problem for solution and it is to be hoped that the referendum idea will be carried out. Just how much attention will be paid to the tariff it is difficult to predict. Both parties have been pandering to the manufacturers for such a long time that it will require almost a revolution to cause a change of attitude. But we may reasonably expect our Western members to take some action to secure relief for the tariff burdened West. The Cockshutt Plow proposition might well be a matter for discussion in Parliament. The fault of the condition lies at the door of Parliament and the remedy can come only from the same source.

If our Western members really intend to represent the Western people we may expect to hear their voices raised in Parliament against the extortion practised in the West by the railway and express companies. Freight rates are on the average 40 per cent. higher in the West than in the East, and they are too high everywhere; express rates, with the approval of the Railway Commission, are 66 2-3 per cent. higher in the Prairie Provinces than in Eastern Canada. There is no justice in such a condition and Parliament is the only body that can provide the remedy. Millions of dollars are annually taken out of the Western people by the railway and express companies by their grossly unfair charges. The remedy will not come until the Western people make their protest loud enough to be heard. They can make it heard now through their representatives in Parliament.

THE POLITICAL SAW-OFF

This is the season of the Political Saw-Off. Both the Liberal and Conservative parties have had a hand in the work. It has been a case of the working out of the Golden Rule, as interpreted by machine politicians. There was a vast amount of corruption in the last election on September 21, of which both parties

were guilty. Steps were taken by machine leaders on both sides to secure evidence sufficient to unseat a considerable number of candidates elected. It would naturally be expected that our political puritans would have invoked the aid of the law to maintain justice. But did they do this? Certainly not. That is not the way of the politician. The newspapers were full of charges on both sides, but what happened? The machine politicians got together and decided to make a saw-off. Each side agreed to shut their eyes to the crime and corruption on the other side. The result is that everything has gone along swimmingly and all the Federal Cabinet Ministers were allowed to be elected without opposition. Down in Nova Scotia the saw-off was a little more brazen than ordinary and was announced in the papers. The new Provincial Attorney-General was seeking reelection in Annapolis County, while the Federal member of the same county was threatened with a recount which might have cost him his seat. But through the remarkable harmonizing influence of our present-day political machinery the whole matter was satisfactorily adjusted. The recount against the Conservative member did not materialize and the Liberal cabinet minister was allowed his election without opposition. The same thing has been going on for years and years and only occasionally does a case get into court. The saw-off is more satisfactory to the politicians. Where do Premier Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier stand in this matter? Certainly there must be a considerable amount of responsibility resting upon them as it is hardly possible that such work can be carried on and not come to their notice.

A Winnipeg contemporary severely rebukes The Guide for commenting on the fact that Premier Borden spent his recent holiday in the United States, and observes that Mr. Borden has a perfect right to play golf exactly where he pleases. We are sorry that our humor is too subtle for our contemporary: evidently they cannot see a joke unless it is labeled. Of course Mr. Borden has a perfect right to play golf exactly where he likes, and we hope he will always play golf wherever it will do him the most good. He earns his holidays so should spend them wherever they will bring him the greatest benefit. We wish, however, that Mr. Borden would allow the farmers and all other Canadian citizens to spend the money which they earn where it will do them the most good. We fail to see any argument in favor of the protection of the agricultural implement industry, the cement industry, the woollen industry or any other industry, which does not apply equally well to the protection of summer hotels and holiday resorts. We are told that we should be willing to sacrifice our individual interests and pay higher prices for implements, cement and clothing in order to build up the country and keep the money in Canada. It would be just as reasonable to say that we should help build up the country by spending our holidays at Canadian health resorts. We are free to buy our holiday pleasures wherever we think we can get the best value for our money, and we should also have the same freedom in buying everything else we need.

The City of Winnipeg has appointed a committee to investigate the Cement Merger organized by Sir Max Aitken. When they get their information together, if it justifies such an action, it is intended to invoke the aid of the anti-combine law. We will then have an opportunity to see how this famous law works out. It has been already invoked in the case of the United Shoe Machinery Company, but so far has not resulted in anything important. In such a case as the cement combine it seems most unjust that the tariff should be permitted to remain as it is and the people themselves compelled to take action. If the City of Winnipeg succeeds in exposing and punishing the cement trust it will deserve thanks of all the Canadian people.