

The Mail Bag

Continued from Page 9

The preparation and revising of voters' lists is at present in the hands of nominees of the provincial government and the revising appears to be done in a very casual way. The result is that numbers of names appear on the lists that have no right to be there at all. This is a distinct handicap where a percentage vote is required and leaves the door wide open for impersonation. The remedy for this is to take the preparation and revising of voters' lists out of the hands of the politicians entirely and to put the preparation of the same into the hands of the municipal clerk in rural municipalities (I make no proposals for towns and cities); names only to be added on personal application. For municipal elections the old lists should be cancelled immediately after the election and a new list be opened by the clerk, on personal application only. For special elections, like the late Direct Legislation referendum, no provincial lists being in existence, the municipal lists would have to be used.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Silver Vale Grain Growers' association, on January 8, a resolution embodying the proposal was carried unanimously and has been forwarded to Mr. Green to be placed before the coming annual convention. However, with your permission I wish to address an even wider audience. I know of no organization better fitted than the Grain Growers' association to push this reform. Of course the political workers will object; we need not consider them. Personal application would make impersonation difficult, makes a percentage vote look less like a farce and lessens the power of the party machine.

HERBERT C. YOUNG.

Frys P.O., Sask.

THE CHURCHES AND POLITICS

Editor, Guide:—Owing to the tyranny of the policy of privileges to private corporations, competitive grain growing has evolved into that stage of over-production wherein it is impossible for the hard working man to make a profit.

The concentration of capital in the hands of monopolies, rings, trusts and mergers is daily becoming greater. The more alert these privileged interests become, the more other industry is drawn together, which makes the struggle harder for all individuals and businesses who are competing against each other, as is the condition of every working grain grower.

This being so, have we not arrived at that stage of the struggle where the only possible effective solution is the public ownership and control of our grain from the fields to the world's markets, replacing the present system of private and speculative exploitation on behalf of the manipulating capitalists by an economic system of collective state-care of the country's chief wealth production—grain?

The poverty of the heavily mortgaged grain growers of these prairies is certainly not due to an insufficient production of wealth, when in the fall over 1,000 cars of grain were daily inspected and graded in Winnipeg. Nor under such a profusion of loaded cars of No. 1 and No. 2 wheat can the poverty of the hard working farmers spring from a weakness of soil, or from the withholding of nature's sunshine and showers. Then to what is it due but the tyranny of the policy which grants privileges to private corporations to exploit this immense production of wealth and in like manner the wealth production of every other class of workers?

If we review the condition of unrest and disaffection of all working classes and fail to see that it will react against the development of our national, our physical and moral faculties, then we cannot justify our claim that Canada is prosperous, or intelligent, or civilized. And, in this connection, what is the attitude of the churches of all denominations? Are they, as organized institutions, actively and really working for the development of our national, physical and moral advancement, as a united organization should exert its abilities? Are they making any organized effort to put an end to the notoriously corrupt party politics? The undersigned is not aware that the churches' blood has ever boiled up at the dirty, the hideous, the costly, the unscrupulous and incredible party stupidity.

Why cannot they all unite to do something worth while? Preaching heroic

ideals is not going to solve problems, or save or serve humanity. The evil so terribly prevalent in the churches all over the world is, they are not living or working out the heroic ideals they preach.

Churches, universities or moral reform institutions that obtain their endowments of wealth, their honors and elite social positions for their heads and other officials from the glutted hoards of tainted money, raked into huge heaps by tyrannical exploiting oppressors, cannot justify their existence nor have they any right to expect the support of a just and truth loving democracy.

The repose, the silence, and especially the inactivity of these institutions at cleansing Canada from this political filth of the two parties, emphatically proclaim their alliance to party evils. This quiescent evidence shows that neither this hideous tyrannical oppression of the people nor the eternal principles of cause and effect are their concern. Hence "the flocks are astray because of the sloth of their shepherds." They have drifted into that stage of worldliness and subsistence upon the graft-shedels of the world's merged-shylocks, that their members are become blind or indifferent to their own flagrant acquiescence in political filth and moral corruption.

In this matter of tainted endowments and gifts, the modern heads of church-ianity have from the archbishop, the pope and all the other leaders downwards set their seal upon graft, theological dogma and creed, and unwisely ignore the disaffection and unrest of the social status, which status is the result of a degraded and degrading system of factional, sectional and denominational institutions. Away with these invidious and exclusive factional institutions, which divide humanity into castes and classes, whether they be of a national-political, social or religious party stripe they are equally detrimental to unity. There are not a few signs that the time is near at hand when decent men and women, and especially some of those in so called "holy orders," are going to revolt against those leaders and rulers who stand in with the "beast" of tainted fortunes, wringing out of a devoured army of toilers, the number of whom is as the sand upon the sea-shore.

In the Book of Books we are told that the dragon, that old serpent the devil and satan, was laid hold on by an angel from heaven and with a great chain was bound in that bottomless pit for a thousand years. If we look at the legislation enacted by Laurier and Borden and their secret-caucus-parties, we can all of us see the marks of privilege in their hands and the marks of false rulership in their foreheads, so it is obvious that the beast, the dragon, that old serpent satan, has broken the seal that was set upon him. May the same angel come down from heaven and bind the dragon (Laurier and Borden and their adherents) and set a seal upon them that they shall deceive this nation of Canada no more. Bind them for ever. Dear angel, give us good business rulers and a rest from the two parties, is the real prayer of yours sincerely.

FRED KIRKHAM.

Salteoats, Sask.

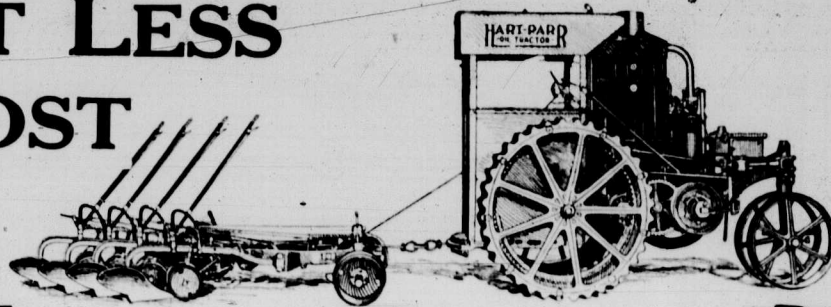
THE PROMISE OF \$10,000

Editor, Guide:—In your issue of Jan. 21 I see a reference to the Herald and Star re a promise of \$10,000 toward a fund to help the farmers to get free agricultural implements. There is no mistake about the promise made by the Herald and Star before the elections on September 21, 1911. I may say I had been a reader of the paper for years, but on account of the stand it took on Reciprocity I cut it out and would not have it inside my doors now, and I believe we all ought to take that stand with all our political papers. When any party paper takes a stand in favor of what we know to be an injustice to the farmer, we should cut it off our list. These papers cannot exist unless we, the farmers, subscribe to them. We, as farmers, should have no paper but the paper that will fearlessly print the truth, as far as possible, regardless of party. If our political men cannot stand the truth, they are not fit to be in our legislature, and the sooner we let them know this, the better for our country and ourselves. Just let them take a pattern from The Guide.

JOSIAH BENNETT.

Austin P.O., Man.

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