

farmers will receive through the reciprocity agreement. Mr. Sharpe understands the problems of the people of Southern Manitoba. He delivered an address on that subject in the House last April, which was reproduced in The Guide on June 8. We do not think Mr. Sharpe need oppose the reciprocity agreement because it will permit the "favored nations" to have the freedom of the Canadian market. Canada competes with all these countries in the free market of Britain, and surely need not be alarmed about them invading her home market. The subsidies given to these steamship companies should be cut out entirely. The money could be better spent in other ways. We agree with Mr. Sharpe that the government should "go after" the transportation companies and the middlemen, but that does not affect the reciprocity agreement. The agreement should be dealt with upon its merits and then the other burdens under which the farmers labor can be attacked. Judging by their remarks both Mr. Lake and Mr. Sharpe can conscientiously support the reciprocity agreement alone. Let us hope that they will do so. Then there remains the tariff on manufactured goods and the regulation of transportation companies to be dealt with. If Mr. Lake and Mr. Sharpe are anxious to see the tariff reduced or wiped out on agricultural implements they will find the farmers right with them, and the same applies to reduced freight rates upon the Western railways. The attitude of the government towards the duty on manufactured goods is not satisfactory to Western farmers. Nor is the attitude of the leader of the opposition and many of his followers to the reciprocity agreement any more satisfactory. In writing to the Grain Growers' Guide in response to a request for views on the tariff, on June 3, 1910, R. S. Lake, M.P. for Qu'Appelle, Sask., said of the agricultural implement industry: "It is an industry which I believe can hold its own without any protection at all." We agree entirely with Mr. Lake, and when the reciprocity agreement is ratified we hope to see Mr. Lake at the forefront of the fight to have the duty on agricultural implements eliminated.

LET US BE THANKFUL

The provincial treasuries in Manitoba and Saskatchewan are safe for another year. The legislators have gone home. In each province much necessary legislation has been enacted and the usual amount of time wasted. As a rule the opposition has opposed the government, and the government has opposed the opposition. But when it comes to tapping the treasury for their own benefit there is no difference of opinion. Like patriotic statesmen tried and true, they stand shoulder to shoulder and magnanimously dip their hands into the people's money. In Saskatchewan the legislators were modest. They tacked only an extra \$100 to their salaries. The Saskatchewan men evidently do not fully appreciate the value of their services. They should take a tip from Manitoba. Last summer the people of Manitoba elected forty-one men to make their laws for them for five years at an annual salary of \$1,000. The very first session these public servants put their heads together and voted themselves each \$500 additional salary. It is difficult to understand just how they arrived at their worth to the province. Are their services worth fifty per cent. more now than they were last summer? Why did they not vote themselves \$15,000 each while they were at it? They could have done it just as easily. The people couldn't stop them. If an additional argument is necessary to convince the people of the West of the necessity of having the Initiative, the Referendum and the Recall upon the statute books, surely the action of their legislators in legally plundering the provincial treasury to benefit their own pockets is sufficient. When it comes to

increasing salaries, both parties are always unanimous. This is an indication of how much fundamental difference there is between the two parties. If the Initiative and Referendum were in force the people could fix the salaries of the legislators permanently. It is hardly a business proposition to hire a man for five years at a fixed salary and then give him permission to raise his salary whenever he likes.

FLEMING REDEEMED

The only anti-reciprocity expression from the organized farmers of the West since the agreement was announced was the resolution passed by the Grain Growers' Association of Fleming, Saskatchewan. At that meeting, however, on February 25, there were only four opposed to reciprocity, yet they formed a majority of one. This resolution was used in the House of Commons to prove that the Western farmers were opposed to the pact. The Grain Growers of Fleming, however, called a meeting last Saturday, and with forty-seven present they rescinded the former resolution and expressed themselves as unanimously in favor of the agreement. This makes the matter right. Not one single farmers' organization in the Prairie Provinces is opposed to reciprocity. Of course they all want more reduction on manufactured goods, but reciprocity first, while it is in sight.

TAKING STOCK UP-TO-DATE

The large and striking gains of the uprising of the Grain Growers in these Prairie Provinces are easy to note and follow. It has practically broken the monopoly of the elevator combine at interior points. It has compelled the Dominion government to introduce into parliament a bill for ending the rank and wholesale frauds on Grain Growers and buyers of grain for consumption that have so long and so scandalously characterized the management and control of some of the terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur. It has forced the Dominion government to commit itself to the building of the Hudson's Bay Railway to relieve Grain Growers from the exactions of the existing transcontinental lines. Finally, this uprising, which first generally manifested itself as recently as the winter of 1909-10, has compelled the Dominion government to accept the offer of the United States of reciprocity in farm and natural products. These gains of the popular movement in the West are outstanding; so outstanding that even the newspapers of the privileged interests in the Dominion are compelled to take notice of them. What these newspapers do not note, and what, so far as we can trace from our old country exchanges, the Ottawa and Toronto correspondents of the London morning newspapers equally fail to note as resulting from the greatest popular uprising that Canada has known, is the liberation of the minds of men in the Dominion that has accompanied these successes of the Grain Growers of the West and the farmers of Ontario. There was a time—and not long ago—when it was almost treason in Canada, as in the United States, even to mention the word free trade. The only fiscal reform then discussed—and there was not much discussion of this after the betrayal of 1897—was a tariff for revenue only. Today in the Prairie Provinces and Ontario free trade is discussed with almost as much familiarity as tariff reform in England. It even found its way, it will be recalled, into the resolution in favor of reciprocity that was carried by the Saskatchewan legislature where the Conservatives, under the lead of Mr. Haultain, joined in making the vote unanimous. This new freedom of political thought and utterance is one of the most valuable results of a propaganda that is as yet not much beyond its beginnings. The farmers of the West are

as fine a body of men as may be found anywhere. They are thinking men, who day by day are realizing that they and not the politicians are the people who have the right to say what shall be done for and in the West. We are but at the dawn of development in every way. The spirit of freedom is developing in the minds of Western people and will make its mark on the future of the Canadian nation.

WHAT IS INDEPENDENCE?

Two men in Saskatchewan on March 24 each wrote us a letter. One man was S. J. Weir, Weir Hill, who said:

"Yours' of March 16 to hand and I am pleased to say that I don't owe you a dollar as I paid your agent that took the subscription, and I don't want it any longer. I understood it was non-political, but it proves altogether different, and it doesn't suit me."

The other man was Wilfrid N. Schultz, Mount Green, who wrote as follows:

"Enclosed please find \$1.00 for one year's subscription to the Grain Growers' Guide. I find this the only strictly independent paper I have as yet read. Keep up your good work. In my estimation the Grain Growers' Guide is a wall on which to build a purer and greater Canada if every man will do his part."

Both are intelligent men. We know absolutely nothing of their political views. As to which is the broader minded we leave it to our readers. Some persons regard an independent journal as one that always boosts their own political party. The Guide cannot measure up to that standard. Though The Guide has thousands of loyal supporters, we know that they will not agree with every opinion expressed in The Guide; neither will The Guide agree with all the opinions expressed by its most broad-minded readers and correspondents. But both are aiming towards the same end and we hope are sufficiently liberal in their views that we can work together. Before any readers of The Guide condemn us for partisanship we would ask them to examine their own minds. Possibly it is they, and not The Guide, who are at fault.

After all, it is the organization and educational work carried on by the farmers that is making them a power in the land. The organization is still far from perfect; the educational work has only begun. Every local community should be organized, with every farmer as a member. Nothing short of this is the ideal. Meetings should be held regularly and a regular program of addresses and discussion prepared. A library containing books upon subjects of vital interest to the welfare of the country should be started. Every man who informs himself upon the tariff, the railway situation, the tax system, and any one of the score of other problems is a power for good in the country. These subjects are not taught in our schools nor in our colleges. The farmers' organizations of the West are the greatest educational factors in the country today. The good work must be kept going. Governments are being moved to action; they must be moved faster.

The Winnipeg Telegram declares that the reciprocity agreement is unpopular. Yet that same journal can find no proof of that statement. It refuses to publish the resolutions passed by the farmers' organizations in the country because they are every one in favor of reciprocity. The Guide has been accused of publishing only one side of the question yet we stand ready any time to publish the best argument that can be put up by any protectionist.

When a man is privileged to raise his own salary by fifty per cent., as did the members of the Manitoba legislature, he has found an easy road to get rich. How about the people who pay?

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