

The people of the West are unanimously in favor of not only the reciprocity agreement, but also of eliminating the protectionist element from the tariff schedules completely. They are tired of paying tribute to protected manufacturers and watered stock corporations that are built up solely by the protective tariff and special legislation enacted by the Dominion parliament. The reciprocity agreement is only one short step towards a square deal for the people. The tariff resolutions presented to the government by the Canadian Council of Agriculture on December 16 last indicate the needs of the farmers. Those resolutions have been endorsed by every farmers' organization in the West. Mr. Borden should be thoroughly convinced that the Western people are not willing to be fleeced by Special Privileged classes that have been built up solely by a perversion of the will of the common people.

HUDSON'S BAY RAILWAY. Mr. Borden, speaking for the Conservative party in the House of Commons, stated that the Hudson's Bay Railway should be "proceeded with without delay" and "ought to be operated by means of a commission so as to give every one of the great railways of the West equal rights over it and to give the people of this country complete control of rates." This is quite satisfactory so far as it goes, but further information should be secured from Mr. Borden. Is he prepared to give a distinct pledge that the road shall be completed and in operation within four years, as it should be, or will he pursue the attitude of the government which will mean thirty years? Is Mr. Borden in favor of the government building the road at the very lowest cost and then basing the freight rates upon the actual cost of the road so that there will be real competition with the existing lines? It would be well to have a definite statement upon this subject.

TERMINAL ELEVATORS. Mr. Borden, and the party of which he is the leader, have declared officially that they are in favor of taking over the terminal elevators and operating them as a public utility under a commission. It would be well to ascertain if, in the event of his becoming premier, Mr. Borden is prepared to go ahead at once with this program and also to provide terminal elevators at Vancouver and Hudson's Bay to care for the grain traffic at those points.

RAILWAY REGULATION. Judging by recent statements of the minister of railways in regard to freight rates, the government knows very little about railway conditions in Western Canada. Mr. Borden is probably in the same position. Both parties in the House appear to think that the Railway Commission exercises all the control over the railways that is necessary. But this is a great fallacy which costs Western Canada millions of dollars every year in railway extortion. The freight rates in Western Canada are far higher than just across the line in the Western States, and also far higher than in Eastern Canada on the very same lines. The Railway Commission has recently given a ruling that the express companies in the Prairie Provinces may charge 66 2-3 per cent. higher rates than in Eastern Canada. This is a gross discrimination against the West. Nearly one-half the railways of Canada are West of the Great Lakes, yet there is not a Western member on the Railway Commission. Cattle are killed on the railways by the hundreds all over the prairies, and the railway companies laugh at the owners when they apply for damages. These are all very serious problems, which, as premier of Canada, Mr. Borden would be called upon to deal with. He should be asked to give the Western people a specific understanding as to whether he is willing that this condition of affairs shall continue. The railways and express companies have been and are still

milking the West in a way that is being done in no other country in the world. And no other portion of the universe has given so much in gifts to the railways as has Western Canada.

CO-OPERATIVE LEGISLATION. Co-operative bills which would give the common people an opportunity to get together and do their own business have been smothered in parliament during the past two sessions because they did not meet with the approval of the Retail Merchants' Association. Are these few people to have a monopoly of legislation or are the common people to have some benefit from it? The attitude of the government is clear. Mr. Borden should say what he is prepared to do.

CHILLED MEAT INDUSTRY. Mr. Borden and his party have stated that they are prepared to investigate the live stock situation with a view of devising a remedy for the present existing evils. It should be pointed out to him under what unfair conditions the cattle raisers of the West are laboring and also as far as possible what is required to make the matter right. The government is apparently prepared to do nothing. How far is Mr. Borden prepared to go?

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES. The Canadian Council of Agriculture did not deal specifically with the conservation question when they met the government last December. It is, however, a most important question and one which vitally affects every Canadian citizen. In the past our public lands, mines, timber limits, water powers and other resources have been given away to political friends or designing capitalists and monopolists for a mere bagatelle. Is this to continue? No public lands should be alienated except to actual settlers, and none of the other resources should be allowed to pass out of the hands of the people. If all other resources were leased for a fixed term of years then the revenue from our natural resources would be enormous. The cost of living would be greatly reduced and our manufacturers would be able to secure their raw materials so cheaply that they would be in no need of the slightest protection. What is Mr. Borden's policy on the conservation question?

The above are the most vital questions in Western Canada today. The attitude of the government towards them all is clear from past experience. The people of the West now should know what is to be expected from Mr. Borden if he is returned to power. Mr. Borden is a highly educated, widely experienced and cultured gentleman. He will be glad to meet the Western people and to discuss their problems with them. He will be as glad to have their opinions as Sir Wilfrid Laurier was last summer. If Mr. Borden is the right man to be premier of Canada the Western people want to know it, and now is their opportunity to take up these questions in a manly and business-like manner. Every voter is entitled to know the opinions of a public man upon public questions. It is purely a business proposition for the Western farmers. Arrangements should be made and appointments secured with Mr. Borden at once. No doubt the central associations in each province could arrange dates with Mr. Borden at each of the points where he is to speak.

DIRECT LEGISLATION GAINING STRENGTH

The report of the Manitoba Federation for Direct Legislation indicates that in the few months since the organization started much good work has been accomplished. The better the aims of Direct Legislation become known the more popular is the support given the propaganda. No good arguments can be advanced against increasing the power of the people. Premier Roblin gave the delegation which waited upon him a courteous

hearing but realized that the people of the province were not sufficiently informed upon the subject of the Initiative and Referendum to warrant him in placing it before the legislature. However, Premier Roblin recognizes the fairness of the Initiative and Referendum as is shown by his offer to Sir Wilfrid Laurier to settle the boundary question by that means. The premier's suggestion that the educational work be continued was a good one. Those who approve of placing the law-making power in the hands of the people must carry on the campaign and secure popular support. In placing the Initiative and Referendum upon the statute books the work of the legislature will not in any way be interfered with. The members of the legislature will still have their work to do as usual. They will, however, be relieved of the necessity now devolving upon them of separating into two parties and dividing the people so that popular rights are sacrificed. When Direct Legislation takes its proper place in the political life of the Western Provinces it will be far easier for the people to secure the much needed reforms for which they are asking. A study of the article on Oregon in recent issues of The Guide shows the value of this reform.

The late Senator Forget, of Montreal, was a director of the C.P.R. The vacancy caused by his death recently was immediately filled by the appointment of H. S. Holt, who is president of the Royal Bank of Canada, President Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co.; director Ogilvie Milling Co.; director Dominion Textile Co., and director National Trust Co. Of course he knows a great deal about railroading and will be deeply interested in the welfare of the common people.

By the appearance of things at Ottawa the people will soon have the opportunity of looking into the methods used in forming "water wagon" combines under a protective tariff to fleece the public. Sir Sandford Fleming has made charges against the watering business of the Canada Cement Co. This is one of our newest mergers carrying an immense amount of water. An investigation should be a splendid thing if the politicians will permit it.

In Britain and Canada the corruption in political life of United States is often quoted as the worst in existence. Lorimer, of Illinois, and Stephenson, of Wisconsin, have recently bought their way into the American Senate. These cases are regarded as two of the most finished products of American plutocracy. These two gentlemen were trained in United States, but it causes reflection to know that Lorimer was born in England, and Stephenson in New Brunswick.

Wouldn't it be worth while to pay Mackenzie & Mann a salary of \$5,000,000 annually and let them run Canada? It might be a lot cheaper than paying from \$200,000,000 to \$300,000,000 a year to our Special Privileged class for the mere joy of having them with us.

Senator Lyman Melvin Jones, president of the Massey-Harris Co., has gone to the Coronation. Considering the great service he has conferred upon the people of Great Britain by selling them his farm implements cheaper than he sells them in Canada, we should not be surprised if the Senator came back with a "Sir" attached to his name.

We get a regular weekly letter from the Liberal campaign bureau at Ottawa which is evidently being sent to papers all over Canada. We are deeply obliged for this attention on the part of the government, but really we feel quite capable of turning out all the material we need without help.