

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, June 21st, 1911

## MR BORDEN'S PLATFORM

Mr. R. L. Borden, leader of the Conservative party of Canada, and the man who will be Premier of Canada in the event of a change of government, has begun his tour of the West. His address at Winnipeg on the evening of June 19 was the opening shot of his campaign. In that address Mr. Borden dealt with the questions that are at present agitating the West. As will be seen by the report of his address in another column, Mr. Borden stands right with the Western farmers on the Hudson Bay Railway, terminal elevator and chilled meat questions. His statements upon these questions were clear and definite and are certainly gratifying to the Western people. But satisfactory as is Mr. Borden's attitude upon these matters, his attitude upon reciprocity and the tariff in general is equally unsatisfactory. He opposes reciprocity and gives no hope that the great obstacles to trade will be removed. Mr. Borden should be given to understand that he cannot expect the support of the West upon his trade policy any more than can Sir Wilfrid Laurier expect the support of the West upon the government policy towards the Hudson Bay Railway, terminal elevators and chilled meat industry. Sir Wilfrid was skeptical when he came West, but not so when he returned; so let it be with Mr. Borden. The people of the West know what they want and are willing to pay for it. Neither Borden nor Laurier are entitled to deny them their rights. The farmers should make it their duty to see that Mr. Borden is fully informed as to their views upon the tariff question. All emphasis should be laid upon this matter, as Mr. Borden is already converted upon most of the other questions. Let his education proceed. He is younger than Sir Wilfrid, yet even the Premier was not too old to learn.

## REMEMBER HAULTAIN

The present campaign tour being made by Mr. R. L. Borden, together with his attitude towards reciprocity and the farmers' tariff platform, recalls the action of Mr. Haultain, the Conservative leader in Saskatchewan. Mr. Haultain is a Westerner, and knows Western conditions. On March 8, last, he supported, in one of the ablest speeches of his public career, the following resolution in the Saskatchewan legislature:

"That this House is of the opinion that the proposed reciprocal trade arrangement between Canada and the United States will be of benefit to the people of Saskatchewan;

"That while expressing this opinion, this House is nevertheless of the opinion that the proposed arrangement does not fully meet the desires of the people of Saskatchewan with regard to general tariff reduction;

"That this House also desires to express itself strongly in favor of a Canadian trade policy looking to an immediate increase of the British preference and the ultimate establishment of free trade within the Empire;

"Also that in the opinion of this House the said agreement, by its promotion of the prosperity and development of Canada will thereby greatly strengthen Canada's power for Imperial defence, and thus directly assist the British Empire;

"And further, that in the opinion of this House the duties on agricultural implements should at an early date be further reduced if not abrogated."

Mr. Haultain placed the good of his country above other considerations, and was supported by every Conservative and Liberal member of the legislature. In taking such action Mr. Haultain was not endorsing the

Ottawa Liberal party by any means. The reciprocity agreement is a business proposition, purely and simply, and, as such, is a good one for Canada. Mr. Haultain laid emphasis upon the advantage which would accrue to Canadian farmers by having a wider market in which to dispose of their products. In addition to realizing the needs of the country he also read aright the signs of the times. He saw that greater freedom of trade must come, and that the pact was but the entering edge of the wedge. In conclusion he said: "We, out here, are just as able as the magnates of the East to decide what is patriotic or unpatriotic. I am not prepared to sit at the feet of any of these Eastern Gamaliels and study loyalty." In those few words Mr. Haultain delivered a masterly and unanswerable rebuke to those who charge disloyalty upon the friends of reciprocity. Mr. Haultain knows the West and its needs better than does Mr. Borden and the Conservative party at Ottawa, and he is not tied to party.

All honor to Haultain!

## BOOST THE GUIDE

We hope our friends throughout the West are taking advantage of the picnic season, when they are meeting their neighbors in a social way, to speak a word for The Guide. Those who believe in the principles for which The Guide stands, and the strengthening of the farmers' organization, should miss no opportunity of recommending The Guide to their friends, and by securing them as subscribers help to widen the sphere of influence, not only of The Guide but the Grain Growers' Associations and the United Farmers of Alberta. Some of our readers have already done good work in securing new subscribers for The Guide, and every mail brings new names for the subscription list. We wish to thank those of our readers who have helped us, and to ask them to continue the good work, for there are still many districts from which results are not coming. If YOUR neighbors do not read The Guide it is YOUR duty to bring it to their attention and ask them to subscribe. The Guide will be sent to new subscribers from now until the end of the year for 40 cents.

## FARMERS FOR PARLIAMENT

Elsewhere in this issue we reproduce an editorial from the Canadian Farm, advocating the election of a larger number of farmers to the Dominion Parliament. The same opinion is voiced by most journals which cater especially to the farming community and the sentiment is one with which we heartily agree. There are a number of Western farmers in the House of Commons at the present time, but it is difficult to see what they have accomplished for the class to which they belong, by which they have been elected and which they are supposed to represent. The trouble is that the farmer members who have gone to Ottawa so far are politicians primarily and farmers only incidentally. No members of parliament have been more steadfast in their loyalty to party than the farmer members. Those on the government side have always been most circumspect in their speeches, always being most careful to say nothing which they did not know beforehand that Sir Wilfrid Laurier would approve of, and they have always voted regularly with the government. The opposition farmers, on the other hand, have steadily opposed the government, impugning its motives when it has tried to do something in the interest of

the farmers, and adopting the most partizan arguments used by the opposition leaders on all matters of a controversial nature. While the political machine has control of the nominating conventions, farmer candidates will always be party men first and farmers afterwards, for no one can be nominated whether he be a farmer, a doctor or a lawyer, unless he is known to be a man who will support the party at all cost. If the grain growers are going to upset the old order of things and secure the nomination of real farmer candidates, it is time for them to get busy. An election may be called within a few days after the House reassembles on July 18, and even if the government is able to delay dissolution until after a redistribution bill is passed, the time between the announcement of the boundaries of the new constituencies and the holding of the elections will be very short, if an election is held this year. Those in the secrets of the government will, of course, be placed in possession of the details of redistribution some time before the general public become aware of them. The Conservatives also will get early information, and the machines of both parties will then be at an advantage over outsiders in the selection of candidates. The directors of the machine will have their men ready and will call upon the local bosses and heelers to secure their nomination. It behooves the independent men of both parties, and we believe the Grain Growers are such, to be ready also with their candidates for the nomination on both sides, and to make a determined effort to capture the conventions for men who can be relied upon to fight for the farmers' cause.

## THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MERGERS

The recent disclosures as to the manner in which the Canada Cement Company was organized, coupled with the declaration of the defenders of the transaction that there was nothing unusual about it, and the admission of all parties that such transactions are legal and permissible under the laws of Canada, have attracted public attention to the question of mergers generally to such an extent that the government, if it is amenable to public opinion, will be forced to take action in the matter. One member of the government, at least, Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior, is well seized of the situation. Speaking at Brandon, on June 10, Mr. Oliver stated that it was the men who were interested in mergers and other capitalistic combinations who were behind the agitation to defeat reciprocity, and said that according to The Monetary Times ten mergers were floated during 1909 and those ten combinations absorbed the business enterprises of fifty different companies. The capitalization of those ten mergers was arranged at \$135,000,000, divided into \$90,000,000 of common stock, \$35,000,000 of preferred stock and \$70,000,000 of bonds. The bond issue of \$70,000,000, Mr. Oliver added, sufficed to pay for the actual value of the different plants, the \$35,000,000 paid for the share capital that had been subscribed in the original fifty companies, and the \$90,000,000 of common stock formed what was technically known as a melon, and was divided among the people who had furnished the actual money to take up the preferred stocks and bonds. Thus, these mergers carried a load of two dollars for every one dollar of actual capital invested in them, and the efforts of the men who paid the one dollar, but held the two-dollar stock certificate, was to secure such an arrangement that would give them a profit on two dollars instead of one. Merger formation,