

the line, it will now be in order for the Massey-Harris Co. to provide us with further information as to the price at which they sell their binders and the money which they are taking out of the pockets of the farmers thru the aid of the protective tariff.

MR. TROWERN AGAIN

E. M. Trowern, the exceedingly zealous secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association of Canada, has broken out again and has made another vicious attack upon the co-operative movement. This is the gentleman, it will be remembered, who, when at Saskatoon about a year ago, had the audacity to declare that co-operative societies were the greatest frauds that had ever struck the country, and that there had not been an honest co-operative store found in Europe. He also remarked, on the same occasion, that the Grain Growers knew no more about running a store than a cat knew of its grandmother. This time Mr. Trowern's outbreak occurs in a letter to the Toronto Mail and Empire, and is occasioned by an editorial in that paper dealing with the Cost of Living Commission. The Mail and Empire said:

"The practical question before the commission is to find out feasible and sensible methods either of increasing production of the necessities of life or of regulating exorbitant profits of middlemen, or of introducing co-operation in such a form that lowered costs of production and selling can be obtained."

Mr. Trowern considers this reference to the exorbitant profits of middlemen and the suggestion that co-operation would lower the cost of production, very unfair, and intimates that the Mail and Empire knows nothing about co-operation. He says:

"It may surprise you if I say that there are no more deceptive methods in trade than the methods adopted by co-operative societies, inasmuch as they profess to be what they are not. Personally, I have given the subject of co-operative societies a great deal of thought and consideration, both in their methods of securing capital from the public and in their methods of selling goods to the public, and the statements they make in their prospectuses. I know of no greater fraud ever perpetrated upon the public. They do it in the name of philanthropy and religion, and they adopt all the lowest tricks that the meanest trickster could adopt. They recognize that they can clothe themselves in an outward form of religious respectability that will attract a certain class of investors and a certain class of customers, and in some cases they have succeeded, but because they have succeeded financially and some of them made enormous profits, this is no reason or argument why they should be upheld by anyone. Personally I know of no well informed honest merchant who is connected with them in any way, shape or form."

What nonsense to come from a responsible official of a large and important organization of business men. The very mention of the word "Co-operation" seems to go to Mr. Trowern's head and cause him to make a donkey of himself. We have no doubt, however, that Mr. Trowern speaks truly when he says he has given the subject of co-operative societies a great deal of thought and consideration. And he has seen the co-operative movement in Canada, in spite of his impudent, and impotent, attacks spreading and gaining strength every day. He probably read the co-operative number of The Guide, published on March 18 last, and saw there how the farmers of Western Canada had established co-operative societies and co-operative stores, and had actually eliminated the exorbitant profits of the middlemen and saved themselves in the aggregate many thousands of dollars. Mr. Trowern and the association which he represents objects to the farmers or anyone else avoiding the payment of exorbitant profits to middlemen, and the fact that they are doing so to an ever increasing extent is disturbing to his equanimity. Mr. Trowern, however, is many years behind the times if he does not realize that the co-operative movement is here to stay and is destined to be one of the greatest

economic forces of the world. He might as well try to dam Niagara as to stop co-operation, and his vicious and untruthful abuse will simply have the effect of making him appear ridiculous in the eyes of all well informed people.

WORK FOR THE WOMEN

The organization and progress of the women's branches of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, which is reported in every issue of this paper, is a matter of sincere congratulation not only to the Women Grain Growers themselves but to the whole farmers' movement. There is no question that the farm women of Western Canada can and will, as they have opportunity, render invaluable help to their husbands and brothers who are working for the betterment of conditions, moral, social, economic and political, in the West. In some respects, indeed, the women will probably lead the men towards higher ideals and nobler aims. Already the executive committee of the Women Grain Growers of Saskatchewan has entered the Banish the Bar crusade, and it is now seeking to bring together in one organization representatives of all the different societies which are working for Woman Suffrage. For the latter purpose the executive has invited the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Political Equality Leagues of the province, together with any other organizations in favor of Woman Suffrage, to join with them in the formation of a Woman Suffrage Federation, and there is every prospect that the proposal will be carried out. Many ways in which to promote Woman Suffrage and temperance will no doubt suggest themselves to the farm women, prominent among which will be educational campaigns among both sexes. As a practical and direct means of securing the reforms that are sought, however, the women of Saskatchewan cannot do better than to concentrate a great deal of their energy upon securing the passage of the Direct Legislation bill by the provincial legislature. The Saskatchewan Direct Legislation bill, it will be remembered, was submitted to the people of the province and then endorsed by a vote of five to one, was not put into force, because the number of votes recorded did not come up to the requirements stipulated. There is no doubt, however, that the majority of the people of Saskatchewan are in favor of the adoption of the Democratic principle of popular government embodied in Direct Legislation and it is quite within the probabilities that the government would respond to a popular agitation in favor of putting the Direct Legislation Bill on the statute book at the next session of the legislature. The Saskatchewan Direct Legislation bill, as we have frequently pointed out, is not by any means a perfect measure, containing restrictions which seriously limit its usefulness, but it would at least provide facilities by which such legislation as the banishing of the bar, or, indeed, of the liquor traffic in its entirety, and the extension of the franchise to women, could be passed, provided they had the support of the majority of the electorate. By their own agitation, and by stirring up the men to approach the government to ask for the enactment of Direct Legislation, the women of Saskatchewan can help not only to gain the vote for themselves, but also to secure the power to make that vote effective when it has been won.

It is suggested that in selecting volunteers for active service preference should be given to real estate speculators, mining company promoters, political heelers and others who are without useful occupation.

The present war is the strongest possible argument in favor of universal disarmament and the settlement of international disputes by arbitration.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company is deserving of commendation for its action in making advances aggregating upwards of \$10,000 to a number of rural schools in the irrigation block east of Calgary, which otherwise would have been compelled to close their doors. School districts in this district have been greatly handicapped by the fact that the C.P.R. irrigation lands, by an exemption clause, are not liable for taxation until occupied by resident settlers, and, as a result, in many places it has been impossible to establish or maintain schools. The C.P.R., however, has now remedied the situation to a considerable extent, by making a number of loans, averaging \$700 each, to the school districts affected. While the C.P.R. is to be commended for its generosity, it is altogether likely that its investment will bring good returns, for the educational facilities which will be provided will undoubtedly make the land more attractive and valuable.

Any Canadian citizens, who have enjoyed what this country has to offer for several years, and who are now leaving to fight against Canada should never be allowed to return. If Canada is their home let them support Canada, if not, let them get out and stay out. Differences of opinion will always exist among the people of every intelligent nation, but a home that is not worth fighting for is not worth having. People who have come to Canada to escape oppression or starvation at home should be glad to fight for the integrity of the nation which grants them all the privileges of citizenship under a democratic government.

Emperor William has recently been described as the "madman of Europe" on account of the manner in which he has conducted himself during the present crisis. He has snapped and bitten at each of the great nations in turn until he has forced them all to turn upon him. Had he exercised even reasonable judgment he might have had only one nation against him and had a possibility of winning, but now no matter how well his armies may do battle he is doomed to ultimate defeat.

Parliament is called to meet on the 18th, and in next week's issue of The Guide we will give our readers a full account of the part that Canada will play in the present war. Now that Britain has entered the struggle the sword can only be sheathed when victory has crowned her efforts. As a British dominion Canada is a party to the war, and in self-protection and for the protection of the Anglo-Saxon democracy must do her full share to uphold Britain against the aggression of the German military autocracy.

Sir Lyman Jones, president of the Massey-Harris Co., has issued instructions to close the various plants of the company at Toronto, Brantford and Batavia, N.Y. This action will throw about 5,000 men out of employment. Sir Lyman states that it has been found necessary to close down as all European orders have been cancelled on account of the war and it will not require full time operations to supply the Canadian demand. It seems strange that one of the largest manufacturing plants in Canada should take such drastic action on such short notice.

A customs tariff is one of the worst possible means of raising revenues in war time. With foreign trade paralyzed the revenues of all protected countries will fall enormously. To increase the tariff would be to reduce the revenue and bring starvation to thousands.