

In taking this position we are following a course which has been followed with marked success in Michigan. In Michigan the Grange is the representative farmers' organization. This body in Michigan deals with public questions in the same way that we propose to deal with them here. The Grange in Michigan has never yet named a candidate for the State Legislature, and yet, by its educational work, by its influence on public opinion, it has forced both old parties to declare for equalization of taxation, and the result has been the enactment of legislation under which \$3,000,000 more is being paid to-day in taxation on corporation property in that State than was collected before the Grange began its work. Like means, we believe, will accomplish like results here.

A clearer indication of the idea behind the organization, of what is meant by what has been said in the preceding paragraphs, will be given by a statement of the steps already taken by the Association and the reasons therefor.

At the first annual convention, which, by the way, was attended by some one hundred and fifty farmers, representing almost every county in Ontario, certain resolutions were adopted. Let us repeat the resolutions, and give with them a few facts bearing upon the subject matter of the same.

The granting of public money to private and corporate interests in the form of bonuses and bounties is unjust to the masses of people, and should be forthwith discontinued.

This resolution, although general in its terms, is aimed particularly at the granting of bonuses to railway promoters and bounties to iron and steel manufacturers.

The reason for the passing of the resolution is found in the public reports of the Dominion and Ontario Governments. All told, as the reports referred to show, there has been voted by the Dominion, the Ontario, and Municipal Governments, \$228,539,890 towards the building of railways in this country. (See page 390, the Statistical Year Book of Canada, 1901).

In addition to this, 54,000,000 acres of land have been granted for the same purpose. (See Year Book, page 395, and W. H. Hoyle's return in Legislature).

\$250,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RAILWAY INTERESTS.

If we deduct the cost of the Intercolonial, which the people own, and allow a fair valuation for the land grants to private railways, there will be left \$250,000,000 in cash or lands to represent the sums we have donated to railways we do not own—railways which belong to private companies. There are, roughly, 1,000,000 families in Canada. This means, then, that on the average each householder in the Dominion has been levied upon to the extent of \$250 for the purpose of making this total grant of \$250,000,000 to private corporations.

Does the Farmers' Association do right in protesting against a continuance of this policy? Does it represent the views and interests of farmers in declaring that not another dollar of public money shall be voted for the enrichment of private corporations?

Now as to the bounty part of it.

In the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1902, there was paid from the Dominion treasury, a bounty of \$3 on every ton of pig iron made in Canada from native ore; a like bounty was granted on every ton of steel made in this country. All told, \$791,000 was given in that one year in bounties to iron and steel manufacturers in Canada. (See page xi, Public Accounts for the year 1902.) This means that the taxpayers of the whole country were forced to contribute over three-quarters of a million dollars, and the sum so raised was passed to a few manufacturers for their enrichment. The official figures for 1903 are