

will never grant it so long as they are in power. The issue is therefore clear cut in regard to the Government, and every elector knows just where they stand. Mr. Norris and the Liberal party have declared strongly in favor of Direct Legislation, and have placed it as a prominent plank in their political platform upon which they will appeal for the support of the people. Ordinarily this declaration would be sufficient. The experiences in the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, however, alter the situation materially. In those two Provinces both political parties prior to the last general election declared themselves strongly in favor of Direct Legislation, but their subsequent action shows that Liberal Governments do not always enact Liberal legislation. The Sifton Government in Alberta enacted a Direct Legislation law, but placed in it restrictions that rendered it absolutely unworkable and useless. The Scott Government in Saskatchewan placed a Direct Legislation bill on the statute books of the Province, and then deliberately killed it by putting it to a restricted referendum of the people, despite the fact that it was carried by an overwhelming majority. In the light of this experience it is essential that the people of Manitoba should have a definite understanding as to what interpretation Mr. Norris and the Liberal party place upon the term Direct Legislation, or the Initiative and Referendum. If they intend to do the same as the two Liberal Governments to the West have done, then they are not in favor of Direct Legislation. Real Direct Legislation such as they have in Oregon, where it has been most successful, gives the people full power to initiate any law they desire, and also to call for a Referendum upon any law that is not satisfactory. The petitions in Oregon are eight per cent. for the Initiative and five per cent. for the Referendum. We should be glad to publish a statement from Mr. Norris giving his views and interpretation of Direct Legislation and outlining the law he is prepared to place on the statute books, if he should become the next Premier of Manitoba. We would suggest that those who favor Direct Legislation in Manitoba should address a letter to T. C. Norris, Griswold, Man., and ask him to publish such a statement for the benefit of the electors.

IMMIGRATION OR EMIGRATION

On two different occasions in the past few months we have published the immigration figures compiled both by Ottawa Government and the Washington Government in regard to the movement of settlers back and forth from Canada to the United States. For several years past these reports showed that Canada was gaining every year. Last year, however, the report showed that altho 139,000 immigrants came to Canada from the United States, there were 143,000 who went from Canada back to the United States, and a large proportion of these were American citizens who had lived in Canada for a time and then went back home. Premier Borden, when he was leader of the Opposition, personally investigated the American immigration system, and emphasized its thoroughness in a speech in the House of Commons on March 14, 1910. We think it is time that a thorough investigation was made of these figures to see whether it is actually true that we are losing more citizens than we are gaining from the United States. If it is true, there is a reason for it, and that reason should be ascertained and the cause removed. It costs Canada a great deal of money every year to maintain immigration offices and support an immigration campaign all over the United States for the purpose of inducing American farmers to move into the Canadian West. Now, if our fiscal policy is such that it forces these people to go back home again, it is a pure waste of money to maintain any immigration propa-

ganda in the United States. It is of no use to wink at these facts and to continue talking about the boundless prosperity of the Prairie Provinces. We have not seen any other journal in Canada discuss these figures, nor has there been any discussion on them in the House of Commons. The Guide has been accused of "knocking" Canada, because we have published these figures. This is a ridiculous and narrow-minded charge to make against The Guide. Nothing that we could publish would influence farmers in this country to go to the United States if they were prospering. Surely that is clear to anyone with even ordinary intelligence. The Winnipeg Telegram, in its issue of March 2, attacks The Guide for declaring that the farmers in Western Canada are more heavily burdened than in any other part of the English speaking world. We would ask the Telegram seriously to consider the true facts of the case, and to analyze the American immigration figures in the light of Premier Borden's statement. It is of no use to put our heads in the sand and shout prosperity. Our intelligence is, or should be, of a higher order than that of the ostrich. The Guide has unbounded confidence in the future of Western Canada, but we do not believe there is a great future before this Western country unless a great many of our man-made laws, which hamper the intentions of the Creator, are radically revised.

FRENZIED BUSINESS

A despatch from Vancouver, dated March 5, reads as follows:—

"The Marama this evening brought a list of 250 passengers and another large shipment of New Zealand butter arrived on the liner. For Victoria and Vancouver there are 89,000 pounds of this commodity. The Vancouver cargo is made up of lobsters, butter, onions, pineapples, mutton, veal, beef haunches, frozen rabbits, hides, machinery, gum and one automobile. The Marama also brought news that two new liners are now being constructed for the Canadian-Australian line, operating also via San Francisco, and probably Puget Sound ports, as well."

We are importing from New Zealand butter, mutton, veal and beef, evidently because we need them to eat. Our government is spending money to encourage trade with New Zealand. We pay a bonus to steamship companies to bring these articles to Canada, and then impose a tariff tax to keep them out. No doubt, if the bonus were big enough all our beef would come from New Zealand. How would it do to encourage our Western farmers to produce these commodities? This would seem to be more in accord with the much-praised protective system we have in Canada.

Every farmer who buys implements on time and gives notes in payment should endeavor to meet his notes when they come due. These are contracts, and tho many of them are most unfair, the implement company has the power to enforce the fulfilment of the contract. If the farmer ignores the notices of payment and refuses to give security on past due payments, it will simply mean additional costs and trouble, because the holder of the notes has the whip hand. The time to make better terms is before the contract is entered into. It is useless to fight when you are already beaten. There must be a great change in the terms and conditions of machinery contracts, but that will be in the future and will not affect existing contracts. Let us all try to clear up old contracts and have new ones fair to the farmer.

We are willing to wager that Mackenzie and Mann will get away with another big haul from the public treasury, and that without explaining their system of financing or campaign fund contributions, either.

We get a great many enquiries from local associations all over the Prairie Provinces to assist them by providing information for debates. These enquiries are growing in numbers every month. It is not possible for us to furnish information other than that which is published in The Guide, unless it can be secured in book or pamphlet form. Every reader of The Guide should keep every one of his copies of the paper and fasten them together, so that at the end of the year he will have a library of information on practically every subject that is being discussed by the farmers. Our book catalog gives a list of a large number of books and pamphlets on a wide range of subjects that will help in debates. It will be sent to any address free on request. By studying these books and pamphlets it is possible for every intelligent person to prepare a very interesting and instructive paper to be read before an association. These books are also replete with information helpful in debates.

Canadian farmers have more than once voiced a grievance against the exactions of the cotton combine. Here we are all consumers of the manufactured goods made wholly or in part from cotton. There is another cotton combine which farmers in the Southern States have to contend with in the marketing of their raw cotton. The Farmers' Fireside Bulletin, of Arlington, Texas, in its issue of January 28 publishes a letter from H. E. Osborne, a farmer of Kaufman, Texas, whose cotton the trust refused to buy except at less than half its value. By ignoring the cotton ring, however, and shipping a distance the farmer saved \$68 on two bales. The cotton combine, like other combines, are not satisfied unless they get the farmer both coming and going.

These are bad times for Grits and Tories who always vote for their party. It keeps the hard-shelled party man on the jump to find out what he is supposed to believe in and advocate. The "good party" men ought to have a special wire to Ottawa, so they can know regularly when their party bosses have decided to change their policies. Wouldn't it be better for the people to make the policies, and let their "servants" at Ottawa carry them out? This would seem more logical.

President Woodrow Wilson has asked Congress to repeal the law granting exemption from Panama canal tolls to American coast shipping. By his action President Wilson has placed himself in the very front rank of world statesmen. He intends to keep good faith with Great Britain. With these two great nations united for good-will and peace, it will have a remarkably beneficial effect upon the other nations of the earth.

Our readers generally will be deeply interested in our next week's issue, which is our Annual Co-operative Number. We have received a large number of very interesting reports from different local associations in the Prairie Provinces. It is doubtful if we will be able to publish them all in one issue. If not, we will publish another Co-operative Number on the following week.

When Sir Wilfrid Laurier accuses Premier Borden of breaking his pre-election pledges and mismanaging the affairs of the country for partizan purposes, Mr. Borden replies, "You did the same when you were in power," and there it rests. Of course, they are both right. Pre-election pledges are useful to fool the people, and that is usually their chief aim.

Judging by the automobiles, travelling expenses and gold braid in the report of the militia department, Col. Hughes' portfolio should be changed to Minister of Fuss and Feathers Department.