

fellows. Democracy demands that all should have an equal voice in the government of the country and all should have an equal opportunity to exercise their powers and to enjoy the fruits of their own labor. At present the few are able to govern and to exploit the many, and as long as this condition exists, so long will there be discontent, agitation and revolt.

The Remedy

What is the remedy? To find and apply the remedy and to make Canada a truly Democratic country is a task worthy of the life work of the best and ablest men of the land. We believe that one of the first steps which should be taken to break the power of the Triple Alliance is to make all the railways, telegraphs, telephones and other public utilities of Canada the property of the state. These are essentially public services, and they should be operated in the interests of the people as a whole and not, as now, in the interests of private individuals. Think what would be the result if the post office were run by a private corporation! What rates would such a corporation charge? What subsidies would it demand? What service would the outlying districts get if the post office were run for private profit? Other British dominions and many of the countries of Europe own and operate their railways and other public utilities and almost without exception those services are better managed and more economically conducted than in Canada. Another change in our system which we believe is necessary to the public welfare is the overthrow of the protective tariff. We do not wish to see the manufacturing industries of Canada destroyed, we wish to see them thrive and multiply. And for reasons which we have previously set out in these columns we believe that legitimate industries, suited to this country by climatic conditions and natural resources, would benefit rather than suffer by Free Trade. There can be no doubt that the agricultural industry, for which Canada is pre-eminently suited, is being hampered and burdened and prevented from its normal expansion by the system of protection. As far as the banking monopoly is concerned, we believe that common justice demands that in return for the privileges conferred upon them the banks should be required to give adequate service to the people and should be restricted from charging exorbitant interest to one class and lending to others at much lower rates. We believe also that facilities should be provided to encourage the establishment of co-operative credit banks, and that the Government should be at least as ready to assist farmers to obtain cheap money as they are to aid railway proprietors. Co-operation on the part of the people in manufacturing, distribution and marketing will also aid in freeing the masses from the domination of the few. We might have all these reforms, however, and the people still find their condition not greatly improved unless the land question were also dealt with. It would be of no use to take the power of exploiting the people away from the railways, banks and manufacturers only to hand it over to the landlords. Lower freight rates, lower interest, cheaper living and a lower cost of production, would inevitably bring higher land values, which would benefit but one class, the land owners. To bring these benefits to the people as a whole the increase in the value of land must be taxed into the public treasury and used for the good of the community. The taxation of unimproved land values is the fundamental reform which is necessary to ensure to the people the full benefit of other reforms. Finally, how are the changed conditions to be brought about? First of all there must be more publicity, a more intelligent study of public affairs by the great body of the people. When the people realize the true condition of affairs we believe that they will soon set about to

right them. The most powerful weapon that can be placed in the hands of the people to right their wrongs is Direct Legislation, the Initiative, Referendum and Recall. With this instrument of Democracy, the people can tell parliament and the legislatures what laws they desire to be enacted and what laws they will not permit to pass, and they can also discharge any of their servants who prove unfaithful to their charge. We have said that to find and apply the remedy for present unjust conditions is a task worthy of the best and ablest men of the land. The help of the women of Canada is also needed and, therefore, we look forward to the day when the women of Canada will be enfranchised and will take their places alongside their husbands and brothers in the fight for Democracy.

THE PEOPLE VERSUS THE INTERESTS

The following dispatch, which recently appeared in the press of Canada, requires no elaboration, and we would commend a careful consideration of it to everyone of our readers, because it is of vital interest to everyone.

Ottawa, June 8.—The minister of agriculture, acting on the advice of C. C. James, ex-deputy minister of agriculture for Ontario, who has been engaged by the government to administer the annual grant for aid to agriculture under the vote of \$10,000,000 passed this session, has announced the details as to the spending of the money this year. The total appropriation to be distributed among the provinces during the current fiscal year is \$500,000. Ontario's share on the per capita basis is \$175,733; Quebec's \$139,482; Nova Scotia, \$34,288; New Brunswick, \$24,509; British Columbia, \$27,334; Manitoba, \$31,730; Saskatchewan, \$34,296; Alberta, \$26,094. Half of the appropriation for each province is to be paid over at once as soon as the agreements are signed by the respective provincial ministers of agriculture. The balance will be paid as soon as the federal government is satisfied that the provinces are properly spending the money for the purposes specified. It is provided that the aid given to the provinces shall be supplementary to the agricultural votes now made by each province, and shall not in any way curtail present grants by the provinces.

The Manitoba and Saskatchewan votes for this year include the following specific purposes: Manitoba—For demonstration farms, \$16,000; for demonstration trains, \$4,000; course of lectures, \$6,000; plowing matches, \$2,000. Saskatchewan—College of agriculture for extension work, \$15,000; weed control, \$3,000; dairying and poultry, \$4,000; livestock, \$4,296; supplementary grants for livestock and farmers' organizations, \$7,500.

The Dominion Government has created a good precedent in providing this extra aid for agricultural development throughout Canada. Of course, if Canada were a Free Trade country and all revenues were raised by direct taxation, each province would have the administration of all its own revenue and would, therefore, not need this federal aid. But under the present fiscal system federal aid is required. The point, however, which we want to bring to your particular attention is that the Dominion Government has maintained one of the leading agricultural experts to superintend the expenditure of this half million dollars, and has even laid it down in black and white as to the purposes for which the money shall be used. No details have been overlooked and if the provincial governments do not expend the first instalment wisely, they will receive no further monies. After very elaborate explanations in Parliament and a great deal of advertising throughout Canada, the Government finally provided a half million dollars for agricultural development in which occupation there are over 3,000,000 people engaged in Canada, and so elaborate are the arrangements for the handling of these monies that it will probably cost nearly \$1.00 to expend each dollar. We wish to contrast this with the free and easy manner in which the Government handed over \$15,640,000 in hard cash to Mackenzie and Mann with practically no discussion, with absolutely no explanation, no stipulations attach-

ed, and with no provisions as to the expenditure of the money. This gift to Mackenzie and Mann is thirty-one times greater than the entire grant to agricultural development, and they may spend it in buying coffee plantations in Brazil, wheat lands in Argentina or on picnic excursions to the Fiji Islands, if they happen to feel like it. Thus two men go to the public treasury and get 31 times as large a grant to put in their own pockets as the Government gives for agricultural development which will only indirectly benefit over 3,000,000 people.

We would suggest that each of our readers when they see this article would read it over three times, then sit down and ponder over it for half an hour, and finally ask themselves how much benefit it is to have a representative (?) in the House of Commons.

We are glad to give credit to the C.P.R. and also to the C.N.R. for providing, free of charge, trains for the use of the Agricultural College, in conducting the "better farming" specials throughout Manitoba, for the past three years. This is a step in the right direction and cannot be overdone. The Agricultural College is doing a splendid work at its central headquarters, but, of course, no matter how large the attendance of young men and women may be, it can reach, at best, only a very small percentage of the farmer population of the province. Every effort should be made to encourage farmers to farm in the best possible manner, to be better business men, and to live better than they have. The extension work of the Agricultural College in all three provinces is bound to be a mighty factor in the development of a better civilization. The railway companies have played a big part in the development in this western country, and it is very gratifying to find them working in co-operation with the Agricultural Colleges in this splendid work.

R. M. Horne-Payne, the representative of the C.N.R. directorate in England, has been advising British investors to refuse to purchase Canadian municipal bonds and to put their money into railways and industrial concerns. He thinks Canadian cities are spending money on water-works, sewers, streets and so forth, that ought to be lent to Mackenzie and Mann.

J. P. Muller, the American railway expert, who has examined the books of the C.P.R. on behalf of the Dominion Government, has reported that the company is making much greater profits in Western Canada than in the East. The case for lower freight rates and the removal of discrimination between East and West is irresistible.

An elector in Great Britain recently brought an action against his member of parliament for non-fulfilment of election promises. He lost his case; the judges holding that there was no contract. Wouldn't our Canadian politicians have chills down the back if the courts held them to their pre-election promises?

The Toronto News said on June 4: "The Made-in-Canada legend should have as its companion a Made-Within-the-Empire motto." Will The News back up its words by supporting an increase in the British Preference, open to the whole Empire?

Those Liberal organs which are trying so hard to attribute the Senate's action on the Naval Bill to disinterested patriotism would have an easier task if the same senators had not tumbled over each other to ratify the \$15,000,000 hand-out to Mackenzie and Mann.

Has the dry weather wilted down the war-scares, or should the credit be given to a new spirit of international sanity?

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