

months before there will be grain to be handled and put through the elevators. We make this as a fair proposition, that the government should give the elevator commission the present season in which to put the government elevators into operation, then it will be time for the government to ask for a renewal of the confidence of the farmers of Manitoba. If the elevator act is going to be administered satisfactorily, there is no doubt but that the farmers of the province will appreciate such work. There is no real reason whatever that can be advanced in the favor of holding an election this summer. The fact that the government has passed the elevator bill and appointed a commission does not convince the farmers of Manitoba that the system of government elevators will be provided. The government still holds the elevator commission in the hollow of their hands, and no matter how good, honest and efficient the members of the commission may be, the government has power to render their work absolutely futile. If the commission had been absolutely independent of government control we do not raise any objections to the government calling on an election whenever they liked, but the government deemed it wise to hold all control over the commission in their own hands and now the situation is entirely up to the government. The commission is responsible only to the government and if the elevators are not provided in a way they should be we cannot blame the commission, but we must blame the government. This is the stand which we take and we believe that the farmers of Manitoba are behind us. We are not considering the policy of the Manitoba government in anything except its attitude on the elevator question, and we confess that we are not absolutely satisfied with the method that the government has adopted. There is still an opportunity for the government to prove itself, and we demand that they do so. We repeat our protest against any election being held before the elevator commission is allowed to do its work. We stand by this and we know the farmers of the province are behind us. The farmers of Manitoba want government owned elevators and they are not in the mood to accept any trifling on the part of the government. If the government will provide a system of elevators satisfactory to the farmers of Manitoba they will then have good reason to claim a renewal of the confidence of those farmers—but not till then.

### DAMMING THE ST. LAWRENCE

A group of American capitalists are asking the Canadian and the United States' governments for a very valuable privilege on the St. Lawrence river. They want the right to generate approximately 600,000 h.p. of electric energy by damming that river at the Long Sault Rapids near Cornwall. It is a somewhat difficult matter to realize at once just what that means; but when we are told that it would take pretty nearly one-half of the yearly output of all the coal mines in Canada to produce the same amount of 24-hour horse power, it can readily be seen how valuable such a privilege would be—to the capitalists at least. To Eastern Ontario, corporation control of that enormous energy might not be so advantageous. Large corporations with monopoly privileges have ever been noted for their strict adherence to the law of monopoly price, i.e., exacting as high a price as is compatible with the greatest possible profit. With them the interests of the consuming public are but incidental to corporation profits.

But there are other more serious objections to the scheme. These have been concisely set forth by the Commission of Conservation in a report on the project made last February before the International Waterways Commission—the tribunal that is to report upon the advisability of the proposed dam. The report of the Commission of Conservation stated that

Canadian interests are given a minimum consideration in the company's plans. Of the total proposed development only a small portion (one-sixth) would be developed on the Canadian side of the river. The Canadian market, it states, cannot at present absorb its half of the proposed development and, should power be exported to the United States, the vested interests it would create there would prevent its subsequent withdrawal to meet the future needs of Canadian industry. Moreover, the company proposes a new channel for navigation on the American side of the river, the approach to which would be beset with dangerous currents. Thus, if permission were given to build the dam, not only would it be exceedingly difficult for Canada to proceed with the deepening of the navigable channel of the St. Lawrence, but an all-Canadian route from Lake Superior to the ocean would become a dream of the past.

### REALIZING WHAT'S WHAT

The United States is waking up to the fact that Canada is fully competent to conserve her natural resources for the use of her own people. Time was when popular opinion in the United States tended to regard Jack Canuck as a hewer of wood and a drawer of water for Uncle Sam. But certain expressions of opinion of a contrary sort that are now continually cropping up in the American press show that this attitude towards Canada is fast giving way. Here is a sample from the editorial columns of the American Forestry Journal:

"Canada is measuring her timber resources and preparing to protect them by progressive and drastic measures against exploitation for the benefit of the wasteful foreign countries, including her next door neighbor. We cannot look to the north for our salvation. We must husband all our remaining resources and plant trees wherever they can be grown more profitably than other crops, in order that our own future may be assured. This is the only way. Canada has not the resources of her own needs and ours too, and she is sufficiently wide awake and intelligent to guard her own. The only way that our timber resources and Canada's can be made inexhaustible is by the application of the highest scientific knowledge and the broadest common sense."

### INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL

The system of direct legislation by which the electors of any country have a certain control over their representatives in parliament is growing in favor most rapidly. In those countries where it is in force it has resulted in making the government really representative of the people. It has reduced the graft system almost to a minimum. Under the Initiative the electors are empowered to initiate and bring before the parliament any measure they deem advisable for the welfare of the country. This would preclude the possibility of such situations as arise in Canada where our legislatures very often refuse to pass legislation that the people want. If the Initiative is brought into effect the members of legislatures will be shown that they are only servants of the people as they are now incorrectly supposed to be. The Referendum will allow the people to kill any vicious legislation. For instance, the corporations may buy up the members of a legislature and get them to pass a certain bill. The people, by petition can demand that a Referendum be taken on that bill before it becomes law. By this means the voice of the people is secured and if they say the bill must not become law, it never goes into force. The advantages of the Initiative and Referendum are more firmly fortified by the Recall. The Recall is the safety valve by which the electors can rid themselves of a member who is of no use to the electors. We often see members of our legislatures who fail absolutely to represent the people who elected

them. If the Recall were in force the people could get rid of such a member. The people could sign a petition compelling the member to resign his seat. This would bring on a by-election and the unseated member would have an opportunity to vindicate himself before the people. It is very doubtful if a member who had been taken out of his seat on a petition of the people would have the nerve to face the people again. However, he would have the opportunity to do so if he wished. These three great principles of true democracy which are known as direct legislation will sooner or later be a part of the constitution of every province of Canada. That time is coming rapidly on and when it comes it will be better for Canada than today. It would be splendid if the system could be worked in the federal parliament. There are some members of the House of Commons, and some of them are in the cabinet, who represent nothing but themselves—unless it be certain corporations. They have fooled the people for some time but their time is coming sooner or later. As the saying goes, "You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time." This will be proven true in Canadian politics in years to come.

During the summer is a good time for farmers to devote thought to the solution of the elevator and live stock problems. All three provincial farmers' associations have placed themselves on record as in favor of government ownership of the terminal elevators and all three provinces are in favor of a government owned and controlled dead meat export trade. The meat combine and the elevator combine have had a good time in the past and have pulled together a goodly parcel of money by exploiting the farmers. Now, it is time for the farmers to look after themselves. The Dominion government must come to the rescue and take over the terminals, and also provide a system whereby the western live stock raiser may be relieved from the present monopolistic system which eats up the profit of his business. One of the best methods of preparing to solve these questions is by instructing the western members of the House of Commons as to their duty in the matter. If they are thoroughly instructed they will be able to do good work in the House of Commons this next session.

We read in press dispatches that all the cabinet ministers are leaving Ottawa during the summer months. The life of a cabinet minister is almost unbearable when he is compelled to take a tour in a private car throughout the west, or a holiday trip through Europe. When we consider how our ministers sacrifice themselves for their country it is most touching.

Each investigation shows that the Grain Growers have been right in their claims that there is graft in the elevator system. There are a number of other investigations yet to be made. The Grain Growers are on the right track and if they keep at it they will soon make the west a farmers' country.

It will not do to let the branch associations die during the summer. There is a good time between seeding and harvest when meetings can be held and a great deal of good work accomplished.

The Saskatchewan elevator commission holds its first session in Moose Jaw on May 18. This commission is getting busy at the work for which it was appointed.

It is to be hoped that Tag Day in Manitoba will result in a large sum being raised to stamp out the great white plague in Manitoba.