

C.P.R.) with a capital of less than \$25,000, has paid the C.P.R. in the eight years covered by the enquiry made by the commission, no less than \$13,409,240. The Canadian Express Co., a Grand Trunk concern, with a paid-up capital of \$27,520, has handed over to that company an average of \$923,909 a year. The Canadian Northern Express Co., which is owned by Mackenzie and Mann and their associates, who have invested \$5,000 in the concern, has paid the Canadian Northern Railway Co., owned by the same gentlemen, \$353,126 in the six years it has been in operation. Parliament has delegated its powers in the regulation of the railway companies and their charges to the Board of Railway Commissioners, and if the board permits such imposition and extortion to be practised, it is the duty of Parliament to deal with the railway commission. Here is an opportunity for Hon. Francis Cochrane, the new minister of railways, to show his mettle, and it is the duty of Western members of Parliament, especially those on the government side, to bring the matter forcibly to his attention. When in opposition, some of the members from the West were active in denouncing injustices of this kind, and we trust that they will show equal zeal now that they are in a position where they can exercise more influence upon the government.

### CO-OPERATION VS. COMBINES

The Canadian Co-operator, the organ of the Co-operative Union of Canada, finds considerable cause for satisfaction in the recent political campaign. Not that the Canadian Co-operator is a supporter of high tariffs, but it believes that the result of the election will work out to the advantage of the co-operative movement. Our contemporary says:

"The food combines which are oppressing producer and consumer alike have been enthroned. Nearly one-half of the democracy which essayed by political methods, to 'clip their wings' has been rendered hors de combat. Millions have been spent by the big trade interests in order to maintain the supremacy of the food combines over the consumers of Canada. The result has been a virtual benediction on combines and all their works by a majority of the consumers themselves. The latter can, therefore, have no just cause of complaint if the combines henceforth continue to increase in numbers, power and influence; they will, in fact, be called upon to stew in their own juice."

"Nearly one-half of our fellow citizens are smarting under the exactions of the food combines, either as producers or consumers, or both, and in the discomfiture and chagrin of defeat they will be inclined to look around for some method other than political for relief. Now, therefore, is the time for co-operators to get busy and press co-operative principles home."

In other words the Canadian Co-operator believes that having failed to strike a blow at trusts and combines through the ballot box, the people will turn to co-operation as a means of escaping extortion and oppression. Our contemporary further points out that to secure the adjustment of economic inequalities by political action it is necessary to have a majority of the whole electorate, whereas by co-operation a comparatively small number of people can accomplish their object. This is illustrated by the overthrow of a \$100,000,000 soap combine in England by the Co-operative Wholesale Society a few years ago, and the Co-operator continues:

"Why need we go to Britain for an illustration? Young as our movement is in this country, we have already demonstrated the power of co-operation against trade combination here. The entry some two years ago of our fellow Co-operators at Guelph into the coal distributive business brought down the price 50 cents per ton, although the traders were continuing to pay the former wholesale price to the colliery proprietors. We take it that one-fifth of the householders of Guelph are Co-operators; yet, acting together in fraternal association, they not only helped themselves, but the remaining four-fifths of their fellow citizens, who were too indifferent or insufficiently instructed in the principles of the movement to become Co-operators."

"If one-fourth of the consumers of Canada organized their own demand, and a similar proportion of the farmers conducted—as in Denmark and other European countries—their own co-operative factories, for the conversion into table

commodities of their own productions, they would not need to await the good will of the majority, a great many of whom are at present incapable of thinking sanely on economic questions. They would, by their own self-help, smash every food combine in Canada to the advantage of the intelligent and the ignorant alike."

A committee appointed by the recent Canadian Co-operative Congress is at the present time making new investigations with a view to the establishment of a co-operative fruit and vegetable cannery to make co-operative stores independent of the Canners' combine, and another forward step which has been taken by the Co-operative Union is the appointment of a paid organizer to carry on educational work and assist in the formation of co-operative societies. The chief obstacle to the spread of co-operation in Canada is the lack of legislation facilitating the establishment of co-operative societies, but Premier Borden has pledged himself to pass such legislation and he will no doubt be pressed to carry out his promise during the coming session of the new Parliament. Canada is at present behind most other countries in the adoption of co-operative methods, but there is every prospect that the near future will see rapid development along this line.

### BETTER TAXATION METHODS PROBABLE

The Taxation of Land Values promises to be one of the chief issues in the approaching civic elections in Winnipeg. The success of the system in Vancouver, which has been further demonstrated in a striking way by the census returns, has caused the members of the city council and many other leading citizens to take the question of exempting buildings and other improvements from taxation into very serious consideration, and a number of aldermen and members of the board of control who will be candidates for re-election in December have announced themselves as favorable to the adoption of the principle. Controller Waugh, who is a candidate for the mayor's chair, has stated that he is "entirely in accord with the general proposition of a reduction of the taxation of improvements, even to the ultimate goal of taxation of land values only," and Alderman Adams, another aspirant for the mayoralty, has informed a newspaper interviewer that he is considering the question but has not yet reached a final opinion. Other members of the city council have announced themselves either as definitely in favor of the Single Tax as a means of raising civic revenues or as favorably disposed toward the scheme and anxious to see it fully discussed. One-third of the value of buildings and improvements is at present exempt from taxation in Winnipeg, and it seems likely that if the Single Tax is adopted it will be by increasing the exemption from year to year until the whole of the civic revenues are raised by a tax on the unimproved value of land. So far, no opposition to the change has been advanced; indeed, it will be surprising if when the question is fully placed before them, the electors of Winnipeg do not endorse it with practical unanimity.

The cities and towns throughout Canada at the present time are engaged in a race for supremacy. They are all striving to attract manufacturing industries, to increase their population, to surpass their rivals in the number and value of new buildings erected, and to become the biggest and most prosperous cities in their respective provinces. To this end, they are spending large sums of money in maintaining publicity bureaus and in advertising to the world the resources and attractions of the territory in which they are situated. Yet when a manufacturer or an investor comes to look over the ground, he finds that before he can erect a factory or a building of any kind he must first pay an almost prohibitive price to some speculator to secure the land which he requires for his enterprise and then contribute heavy taxes each year to the city

upon his buildings. These two penalties are hindering the establishment of many productive industries, and inducing people instead to invest their money in vacant land, from which they can make profits without producing anything or doing anything useful. If taxation is removed from industry and from the homes of the people and placed on land values, industry and home building will be encouraged. The idle speculator, who will neither use his land nor allow anyone else to do so, will then be more heavily taxed, and legitimate business will be relieved of a good deal of the burden which it is now carrying. The raising of civic revenues by the Single Tax will not, however, effectively check the evils of real estate speculation, because, as in the case of Vancouver, the growth of the city which it will cause will tend to make land still more valuable. To make land cheap and put an end to real estate speculation, the National Single Tax would have to be adopted and the whole annual value of unimproved land taken by the state in the form of taxation. The public are evidently not yet ready for such a radical step, but the Municipal Single Tax is a step in the right direction and one which, if intelligently applied, cannot fail to bring good results.

When the redistribution takes place the basis of membership will be upon a population unit of 30,780. This will mean that in the new Parliament there will be 231 seats instead of 221 as at present. New Brunswick will lose two members, Nova Scotia three members, Ontario four members, Prince Edward Island one member. The Maritime Provinces are asking that their representation be fixed to remain as at present. If this request should be granted then it would mean that a large portion of the Western people would be disfranchised. If the people of the Maritime Provinces would devote their attention to breaking down the protectionist system they would do more to save their representation than in any other way.

In addition to Direct Legislation, a number of other amendments to the constitution of the state were endorsed by the people of California at the election held on October 9, these including Women's Suffrage, which in 2,944 precincts out of 3,121 received 121,166 votes to 118,668 against, a majority of 2,498. The victory for the suffragists is made the more notable by the fact that much of the opposition to the measure came from women themselves, who formed an Anti-suffrage League. The anti-suffragists, though unsuccessful in preventing their sisters from having votes, will at least have the satisfaction of being able to abstain from voting themselves.

It is reported that when the redistribution bill is passed, Parliament will also increase the number of senators from the western provinces, and already the newspapers are discussing the question of who are "entitled" to the new seats. The names of Conservative candidates who were defeated at the recent elections are prominently mentioned in this connection. No one is "entitled" to a seat in the Senate. If there must be a Senate, it should be composed of men who by their qualifications and attitude on public affairs are likely to render good service to the country, and not of men who are appointed because of service to their party.

Sir Max Aitken, M.P., says the cement merger was not over-capitalized. "When the merger was put through," he told the Toronto Globe, "the assets of the various concerns affected were \$16,250,000 and the capital \$15,000,000." The cement merger was capitalized at \$30,000,000, so that 50 per cent. water does not mean over-capitalization in the opinion of the great Canadian mergerer.