

together to keep the burden of protection on the back of the common people. They have great wealth and they are spending it freely for this purpose. If a few moneyed men, who have been developed by Special Privilege, are to rule Canada, then what is the use of parliament? Our readers will note how the truth unconsciously comes from the pen of the writer in Industrial Canada when he says that a protective tariff is necessary for the "development" of "manufacturers." That is the truth. Protection is for the benefit of "manufacturers" personally and not for the benefit of manufactures. The truth is bound to come out.

MUST FARMERS SHUN POLITICS?

The Moose Jaw News maintains that The Guide is nothing more than "a Liberal campaign sheet," and in the course of a lengthy editorial dealing with The Guide, this journal says:

"There probably was a time when it did good work for the Western farmers; but that was before it suggested much in political controversy. As long as it confined its attention to non-political subjects it rendered the farming interests excellent service; but when it went ahead into matters which have constituted the battle ground of the political parties in this country for thirty years or more, then the value of its services became of a doubtful character."

"As a medium for the dissemination of agricultural education it is useless, because it imagines that the life of the farmer is of an almost purely political character. In that it is greatly mistaken; but by presenting this view to the farmer it is doing incalculable wrong not only to them but the general public."

The News predicts that The Guide by continuing its present attitude will disrupt the Grain Growers' movement. We do not regard the statement of the News alone as of any importance, but the same accusations and charges are being sedulously spread throughout the West. For this reason we deem it wise at this juncture to make a few plain statements of fact not for the benefit of our accusers—for the most of them do not want the truth—but for the benefit of those who regularly read our columns. We will venture the assertion that no journal in Western Canada, not excepting even the most partisan Conservative journal, has explained to its readers so fully and truthfully the actions of the Dominion government than has The Guide during the past twelve months. We have used cold, clear, incontrovertible facts to demonstrate that the government has completely departed from the platform it laid down in 1893 and upon which it was elected to office. We have also shown to the best of our ability, by undeniable facts and figures, that Special Privilege has been protected and fostered by legislation or lack of legislation for which the Dominion government is solely responsible. Further, we have demonstrated clearly how the people's money has been squandered under the auspices of the Dominion government for the benefit of a privileged few. We have maintained at Ottawa a special correspondent who has provided our readers with absolutely unbiased and truthful reports of the proceedings of parliament. In our Ottawa reports neither party has been favored and neither party has been spared. We have given both the Liberal and Conservative parties full credit for all they have done, and have also pointed out their shortcomings. We will venture the assertion that no member of the government will regard The Guide as a supporter of the Liberal party. We have ever kept in view the interests of the common people of this Western prairie. It was to protect their interests that The Guide was established, and is still being conducted. We have necessarily dealt with many political questions because the interests of the Western people, the farmers in particular, are completely bound up in politics. Every reform which they have advocated must be

secured at the hands of parliament. We realize that the big interests and all the enemies of the farmer want to see him stay on his farm and mind his own business, rather than exercise his judgment and influence in the affairs of his country which the Almighty intended every intelligent being to do. Our pages are at all times open for the discussion of any public questions regardless of whether or not it meets our own view. We welcome fair and truthful criticism, but the piquey tactics employed by those who resent the growth of the independent spirit and the dissemination of truth causes only disgust. Our policy in the future will be as it has been in the past regardless of the favor or the criticism of the two political parties, who have so ably assisted in building up a feudalism of privileged wealth which the common people are now endeavoring to abolish.

We call attention to the remarks made by W. H. Sharpe, M.P., in the House of Commons on May 1, which are published in another column. Mr. Sharpe's remarks do not contain even a semblance of truth. If Mr. Sharpe is to have any reputation for truth telling he should correct his erroneous statement on the floor of the House.

HUGHES THE STATESMAN

Col. Sam Hughes, speaking in the House of Commons on April 11 in reference to the Grain Growers, said:

"This Grain Growers' Association from the West that came down here, the same sort of fellows we find popping up in blacksmith shop statesmanship. Every one of them a Grit organizer and leader; but the rank and file of the farmers of Canada, but the men who try to push themselves to the front and whose wives are at home wearing long boots and cleaning out the cow stables, while these fellows are hanging around the blacksmith shops spouting statesmanship for the world over."

Yet Hughes is a "friend" of the farmer and a statesman.

MAKING RAILWAY TRAVEL SAFER

The following interesting news dispatch was sent regarding a meeting of the Railway Commission at Ottawa on May 3:

"Seven hundred people in Canada were killed as a result of head-on and rear-end collisions in the six years preceding 1911," said Mr. Justice Mahor, when discussion on the block system of signal was in progress at the Railway Commission.

"That includes employees," remarked one of the railway officers present.

"Railway employees are ranked very much as other men when they're dead," remarked Mr. Mahor suavely.

The Railway Commission was dealing with the "block" system which is a system of signals warning one train not to enter a switch area when another train is already within that area. This system is used on more than 99 per cent. of the railways in Great Britain and over 23 per cent. of the railways in United States. The representatives of the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific railways were present at the meeting in Ottawa and opposed the institution of the "block" system because of its great expense. Possibly they, like Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, have the idea that railway accidents are good things "to clear up the surplus population." In the year 1910 there were 616 persons killed outright, and 2,139 injured in railway accidents in Canada. Many of these accidents are easily avoidable if the railway companies were anxious to make their traffic safe, but the belief prevailing is that it is cheaper to pay for accidents than to prevent them. This is easily understood when it is considered that dividends are the chief things desirable in the operation of railways. The Interstate Commerce Commission of the United States, which is undoubtedly the most expert railway board in the world, recommended to Congress as far back as 1903 that legislation should be enacted that compelled all railways operating passenger trains to be equipped with the "block" system. The

influence of the railway companies was strong enough to prevent the recommendation being accepted, and the same recommendation was made to Congress last year. It is necessary that every precaution should be taken to protect the public travelling upon trains. There are a number of automatic stop systems which are very valuable in preventing accidents, but railway companies are very slow about adopting them. Level crossings are a fruitful source of accidents, but it is usually not until several people have been killed that railway companies will make any honest endeavor to protect these crossings. The additional expense that would be entailed by this would not nearly equal the vast surplus profits which the railway companies yearly accumulate.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The travelling agricultural college train which will go over all the C.P.R. lines in Manitoba during June is a most commendable departure in educational work. On another page of this issue the purpose and itinerary is fully explained. With demonstration cars and a capable staff of lecturers and instructors aboard, the farmers of the province should derive great benefit from the scheme. No one denies that there is vast room and great need for improvement in agricultural work in the older parts of Manitoba especially. Farming must receive closer attention and more study at the hands of the farmers if Manitoba is to retain its reputation as an agricultural province. It would be an excellent plan for the secretaries of Grain Growers' Associations, within reach of the points where the train will stop, to notify all farmers in the district, whether members or not. Associations might co-operate in order that every farmer might get the full benefit of the information that will be thus freely provided for his benefit. No doubt the success attending this trial will determine if the experiment will be repeated.

The municipal tax system in the Prairie Provinces has shown the farmers how much more equitable things are when improvements are exempt. It is probably this fact which causes a tendency towards a more equitable system of raising revenues than is used in Canada today. Western Canada is advancing very rapidly along democratic lines, but there is still a long way to go.

So long as the people of the West are able to prosper through the unearned increment and speculation, the progress of reform will be delayed. When land values have reached their maximum some years hence the real burden will rest very heavily upon the wealth producers.

Land monopolization is making enormous strides in Western Canada. Before many years have gone, growing boys who intend to farm will face the heavy task of paying a huge figure for their land. The "unearned increment" will be in the pocket of the landlord and the speculator.

If in one generation the control of Canadian railways, finances and corporations has been gathered into the hands of a very small group of individuals, how long will it be under the very same process until one man will be actual dictator?

Because other countries have a protective tariff for the benefit of a privileged few, that is no argument in favor of Canada doing likewise. The same arguments were advanced in favor of slavery in olden days. But slavery went, and protection is going.

The Lloyd George budget is beginning to create a movement in real estate in Great Britain. If it moves so that a few more free born Britishers can get onto the land, the budget will be amply justified.

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