

the act into effect it must not only secure a majority of the votes cast, but that majority must comprise at least 30 per cent. of the number of names on the voters' list. The magnitude of the task which confronts the supporters of Direct Legislation may be gathered from the fact that the Liberal party, though it was returned to power by a handsome majority at the last election, only polled 33 per cent. of the total voters' list, while the Conservatives polled but 24 per cent. A considerable number of voters may be expected to be indifferent, and it therefore behooves every supporter of Direct Legislation to spend as much time as possible organizing and conveying voters to the poll as well as in pointing out the benefits of the act. The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association has repeatedly placed itself on record in favor of Direct Legislation, and the members of the Association should co-operate in every way possible with the Direct Legislation League of the province to bring the referendum to a successful issue. Some supporters of Direct Legislation may be tempted to remain idle because of the apparent hopelessness of the task of getting out the required percentage of voters. This, however, should not discourage the workers. The Legislature meets on November 6 and will be in session when the vote is taken, and it is quite likely that if an overwhelming majority is given for Direct Legislation, even though the vote is less than 30 per cent. of the total voters' list, the Legislature will make the act effective.

AN UNDERHAND CAMPAIGN

What scheme next? One cannot help wondering at the cleverness of the Protected Interests in finding new ways of influencing public opinion in their behalf. Realizing that if Protection had to depend on fair and honest argument it would soon be discredited, the tariff beneficiaries have concocted the most brilliant little plot yet. This is nothing short of the free distribution to weekly newspapers of stereotyped reading matter in cast metal plates, one column or less in length, all ready to put into the type page. A full page of this ready made plate material is furnished absolutely without charge every month to every Western country newspaper that will use it by the British and Colonial Press, of Toronto. Here is the letter sent out by the British and Colonial Press to country editors making this offer. We omit the sentences relating to re-shipment of used plate and other unimportant details:

Dear Sir:—

Under separate cover we are sending you a marked copy of a Western paper which uses our plate. The items marked are portions of a page of plate we issue monthly without charge and express prepaid. These free pages deal chiefly with Western development. We supply two columns of base, but for extra base 75 cents per column will be charged, this amount to be refunded to you at any time you return the base.

If you would like any of our regular pages sent along with the free page, we will forward same to you for \$2.25 per page, express or freight prepaid.

How it will work out:

Western page..... Free
Any other page..... \$2.25

Remember, all our pages are edited and set up in Canada for the Canadian reader. They are well illustrated.

Hoping to secure your order.

Yours truly,

BRITISH AND COLONIAL PRESS,
LIMITED.

Quite naturally scores of Western weeklies have accepted this offer, for what would be more interesting to their readers than articles dealing "chiefly with Western development?" It turns out, however, that every article of this free boiler plate is tarred with the same stick. Every sentence, if not actually prepared in the Canadian Manufacturers' Association headquarters in Toronto, is such as to win the smile, tickle the heart, and increase the profits of the Triple Alliance. A wide range of subjects is dealt with, but high Protection is the moral of every tale. "Praise Protection from whom all blessings flow" is the constant refrain. Sometimes the tune is changed a little and The Guide is attacked.

One day the Triple Alliance free stereotype crew thought they would have a little fun at the expense of a free trade manufacturer, W. J. Tregillus, of Calgary, but when they saw Mr. Tregillus' vigorous rejoinder in the last issue of The Guide it is safe to say they will in the future take their fun in other ways. Not only is this free plate hopelessly lopsided, full of false economics, gross distortions and base personalities. All this might pass unmentioned as a fair sample of Protectionist educational literature. But when the tariff barons furnish acres of tinted reading matter in the guise of news, every item more or less successful in deceiving its readers—then surely it is time to uncover the plot and drag these underground conspirators into the daylight of publicity. We do not blame the country editors for using this stuff, knowing how easy in the rush of making up a paper it is to let such matter slip in. Where all the type must be set by hand this stereotype comes in mighty handy, especially when any required length of plate can be used to fill up the page. It is the Toronto Protectionist agency we blame for carrying on such an insidious and underhand campaign. The cost of this propaganda, what with preparing the articles and giving them away by the full page plates to all who want them, must be enormous. The Triple Alliance figure that it will be money well spent if they can delude the farmers of the West into thinking that high tariff taxes are a blessing. But the revolt of the Prairie Provinces against the extortion of the Triple Alliance is too far advanced to be stopped by any such underground campaign. If Protection is a good thing for the nation its advocates would not be driven to tactics, which for stealth and secrecy seem to have been copied from the fox.

FREE FARM IMPLEMENTS

Sir Lyman M. Jones, president and general manager of the Massey-Harris Co., was in Saskatoon when the Wilson Tariff Bill went into effect and gave a statement to the local press, stating that opening the American market to agricultural implements would be of no benefit to Canadian manufacturers. He remarked that:

"The United States have kept their tariff so long that they have built up immense industries, larger than those of most of the other countries combined. They have all the advantages, the raw material, the coal, the short haul. While I say that I am speaking generally. There may be some slight exceptions, as for instance in the case of a patent. Of course, we have our American plant."

He was asked what would be the effect if Canada were to remove her duty on farm implements.

"Well," he replied, "I would say that our American plant would perhaps do a little more trade."

"If you did that you are getting into a much larger problem. If you lose your tariff revenue you would have to make it up by direct taxation, and is the country prepared to do that?"

It is a fact that there are some very large implement factories in the United States, but equally a fact that there are many smaller ones. The Massey-Harris American plant at Batavia, N.Y., is by no means as large as several other American plants, yet it holds its own, and two years ago was even underselling what it called the "trust." We have right here in Canada a number of factories in the same line of business as the Massey-Harris Co., yet they seem to prosper. Coal should be practically the same price at Toronto as Chicago if it were allowed to come into Canada free of duty. But Ontario has cheap government owned electrical power that will compare favorably with any part of the United States. As for raw material and haulage, there is not sufficient difference to affect materially the price of the implements. True, we have high freight rates, but if the Canadian Manufacturers' Association had no tariff protection they would aid the farmers in having freight rates brought down. Canadian freight rates should be far below American, and it was with this purpose in view that Canadian railways received such enormous aid from the public treasury. The Massey-Harris Company naturally wants a protective tariff upon its implements as long as possible, but the

is no just argument in favor of its continuation. As for direct taxation, the sooner it comes the better by long odds for the people.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS FOR CO-OPERATION

A despatch to the daily press from Toronto conveys the interesting news that as a result of investigations conducted by the Ontario government into the co-operative plan of marketing, agencies may be established in the big centres for the sale and distribution of the products of Ontario farmers. Those who have conducted the investigation, it is understood, are convinced that the scheme will both insure the farmer better prices and reduce the cost of living to consumers. No one who has made any inquiry as to the reasons for the high cost of living can help being struck by the great difference between the prices paid by consumers of farm products and those received by the producers. An army of middlemen are exacting unjust and exorbitant profits, and it is by eliminating the middlemen and substituting for them a co-operative agency that the Ontario government proposes to benefit producer and consumer alike. The Ontario government and the people of Ontario are to be congratulated, and the people of the West will wish them every success. The Prairie Provinces, too, are making progress towards co-operative marketing. At the Manitoba Agricultural College during the coming term instruction will be given the students along this line. In Saskatchewan the same thing is being done, and in addition a co-operative section has been established in connection with the department of agriculture, and literature dealing with co-operative marketing is being issued. In Alberta the government is also assisting in the promotion of co-operation, and is assisting among other things in the organization of co-operative egg circles. Thus we have the governments of four of the provinces, representing both political parties, actively supporting the co-operative movement. This is a very hopeful sign and we trust its significance will not be lost upon Premier Borden. When he made his tour of the West, previous to the election of 1911, he promised that if returned to power he would provide for the passage of a Dominion Co-operative Bill. So far his promise has not been fulfilled, but he will be given another opportunity as soon as Parliament reassembles.

The Chicago Meat Packers' Association, seven hundred strong, sat down to a banquet costing \$150,000. J. Ogden Armour, the multi-millionaire packer, arranged for the spread, and resolved to make it the most magnificent feast of the kind ever held in America. For the dinner \$100 a plate was spent, or \$70,000, for the costumes of guests and waiters \$50,000, for souvenirs \$17,500, for decorations \$10,000, and for entertainment \$2,500. Among the diversions provided at the Congress Hotel, where the banquet was held, was a real fox hunt. No wonder consumers have to pay 128.5 per cent. more for bacon than ten years ago, 111 per cent. more for pork chops, 102.5 per cent. more for round steak, 75.2 per cent. more for sirloin steak, and other meats in proportion. Will the meat trust tack on a cent or two to retail prices in order to pay back the Chicago millionaires for their blowout?

A product of Chicago's slums, Spencer by name, has confessed to the murder of sixteen people because he was "sore on the world." Some day society will wake up to the fact that the cheap living enforced upon the population of the cheap slum districts is too dear at any price.

The Railway Commission is shortly making a tour of Western Canada. We trust they will enjoy themselves. This is good weather for tourists.

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