

of this new company, but we merely wish to state that it has no connection whatever with the Grain Growers' Grain company.

LURKING UNDER COVER

We have had occasion previously to mention a series of articles dealing with the question of sample markets that is appearing in the country weekly papers all over the Prairie Provinces. These articles are unsigned and are condemning the sample market system with extraordinary vigor. There have been some half dozen of these articles, all of which have aimed to show that the farmers will suffer and that the grain combine and elevator interests will gain through a sample market system. These articles are printed on the "patent insides" of country papers and are prepared in Winnipeg. They are then sent out to the country and the local news is printed on the two blank sheets. We point this out in justice to the country weekly papers, because it is not their work whatever. We surmise that these articles are paid for and written in the interest of the railway companies. They seem to have the railway earmark. If the farmers who read these articles would drop a note to the editor of the paper in which they are published and demand that the articles be signed and their origin disclosed they would soon cease. Whatever interests are behind these articles will not come into the light, but the farmers can force them into the light or out of business by this method which we have just mentioned. The railways have buncoed the farmers too often (and made money by it) to be allowed to fool them on the sample market system.

FOR PURITY OF ELECTIONS

Although Great Britain's present election act is wide-reaching in scope and severe in its penalties, the people are not satisfied. Since 1883 all practices which were thought directly or indirectly to influence the electors have been forbidden and the offender has been liable to one, or two years' imprisonment with hard labor or a \$1,000 fine thrown in. At present the candidate must make a return of all his election expenses and any expenditure beyond that specifically permitted by law makes the election null and void. A bill has been introduced in the British Parliament which aims at still further restricting the amount of money which candidates may legally spend. Open bribery has, of course, long been outlawed. Ever since 1729 Parliament has been trying to shut the corrupt politician out of public life, but one door is no sooner closed than he finds some underground passage. The new measure is aimed at the various forms of indirect influence exerted by wealthy candidates in distributing lavish subscriptions to all sorts of associations within their constituency from a horse racing club to a young people's mission circle. The societies benefited are under more or less obligation to support their generous friend. This places the candidates of little or moderate means at a serious disadvantage, as many aspirants from the ranks of the workers have complained. On the other hand, these religious, charitable, sporting and other organizations are often the offenders. Under cover of the regular practice which has grown up, those ambitious for political honors are held up for subscriptions by every little clique, whatever its usefulness or uselessness. To refuse means to lose votes, and so the only thing is to hand out the money with as good an imitation of a smile as can be mustered. These are "voluntary contributions" only in name. For the aspirant who would give all diligence to make his calling and election sure they are as compulsory as the grocery bill or the property tax. In so far as this hold-up custom deters those of limited means from entering political life, it throws Parliament into the hands of the wealthy

class, thus defeating the very purpose for which members are paid salaries, namely, allowing the poor man an equal opportunity with the rich of representing his riding if the people see fit.

The Canadian law, excellent so far as it goes, is by no means beyond improvement. But far more necessary than lengthening the list of express provisions is it that the spirit of electoral purity should prevail. Personating the dead and bribing the living may not be commonly resorted to, but there are other ways of changing the election vote which are just as effective and twice as safe. A candidate who passes around a box of cigars bought with his own money might be promptly brought to book, but if he bribes a whole county with railways, harbor improvements, bridges, public buildings and whatnot, all to be built with the people's own money, that is not bribery; it is statesmanship, and this is the road to knighthoods. Under this reckless and immoral system it is becoming next to impossible to get a fair, unbiased verdict from the electors. Doubtful districts are deluged with promises of public works so that for any community deliberately to reject the proffered bounty appears nothing short of economic suicide. The time is overdue when this wholesale bribery of constituencies should cease. Both parties are equally to blame. It is utterly discreditable to the people and a menace to good government.

PROTECTIONISTS PLEASE ANSWER

It is considered that the export trade in Canadian manufactured goods is of great importance to Canada. In fact so much importance is attached to this trade that the manufacturers receive the raw material for their export trade free of duty. It is arranged in the form of rebates. Whenever a manufacturer exports goods he prepares a statement showing the amount of imported raw material used in such goods and the duty paid thereon. This report is submitted to the Customs Department, Ottawa, and 99 per cent. of the duty paid on such raw material is refunded to the manufacturer. The following is the Order-in-Council by which this draw-back is allowed:—

"When imported materials on which duties have been paid are used, wrought into or attached to any article manufactured in Canada, there may be allowed on the exportation of such articles beyond the limits of Canada a drawback of ninety-nine percent. of duties paid on the materials used, wrought into or attached to the articles exported; provided, however, that such drawbacks shall not be paid unless the duty has been paid on the materials so used as aforesaid within three years of the day of the exportation of the Canadian manufactured article, nor unless the claims are presented at any one time aggregate ten dollars."

We cannot believe that the export trade of manufactured products is of any more importance than the export trade in natural products. The farmer is a manufacturer to all intents and purposes, therefore, if there is any justice in the drawback regulation it should apply to the farmers as well as to the manufacturers. Every farmer who sells grain for export should receive back from the treasury 99 per cent. of the duty paid on the raw material used for the manufacture of that grain. This raw material is very largely agricultural implements. Now why should not every farmer who ships a carload of grain receive back a cheque from the Dominion treasury for the duty paid on his agricultural implements? We would like some protectionist to answer this question.

ANOTHER FREE TRADE MANUFACTURER

We have a letter from the Regal Fence and Gate company, of Sarnia, Ont., in which the following paragraph appears:—

"We assure you that we are in no way in favor of high tariffs, and believe that we could succeed with our business even if the tariffs were taken off. We are at the present time marketing farm gates and lawn fences at 20 per cent. less than they are being marketed by

the United States. This should show that a tariff would in no way benefit us."

Thus we find another manufacturing concern that is willing to stand upon its own feet and is not desirous of tariff aid to assist in plundering the consumer.

MAX AITKEN FOR FREE TRADE

Sir Max Aitken in an interview with the Free Press on August 24 made the following statement:—

"I am ready enough for free trade if it will be granted all round. The cement man will say nothing if coal and oil and all these other things are brought in free."

This is what the Western farmers have contended for years. They believe that if the manufacturers are allowed to have their raw material free of duty there will be no need for any protection on the finished products. This is undoubtedly the true situation, and in a businesslike adjustment of Canadian affairs the only difficulty that will be faced will be that of providing revenue. The Western farmers have solved this difficulty by their demand for direct taxation.

INSIDE INFORMATION

In the Financial Post of Toronto appears an item of particular interest to Western farmers. It deals with the steel question and the market price of Dominion Steel stock. As is well known the steel magnates have been working hard to have the bounties renewed and this item in The Post states:—

"What will ever be done about the bounty on steel wire rods no one knows, but it is rumored that the matter has not been neglected of late and that the next session will see legislation inaugurated which will give the Dominion corporation some of its old time resources against the United States invasion."

This is sufficient intimation that the "steal" brigade has been quietly bombarding the Dominion Government ever since the last session. They realize that there is more money to be made in plundering the people of Canada by aid of our protective tariff or by establishing a bounty pipe line to the Dominion treasury than in any other way. The steel magnates are making good money at the present time without the bounties and there is no justification for their renewal.

WESTERN REPRESENTATION

A recent dispatch from Ottawa which appeared in the Toronto News indicates that the redistribution bill will be brought before the House of Commons at the coming session and the four Western Provinces will gain twenty-two new seats. The News gives the representation of each of the provinces at the next elections as follows:—

	Next Election.	Last Election.
Ontario	82	86
Quebec	65	65
New Brunswick	12	13
Nova Scotia	16	18
Prince Edward Island	3	4
Manitoba	15	10
Saskatchewan	16	10
Alberta	12	7
British Columbia	13	7
Yukon	1	1
Total	235	221

This will mean 14 new members for the next House. According to this statement there will be at least 43 seats in the Prairie Provinces, of which at least 35 will be largely rural constituencies. As the representation of the West in the House of Commons continues to grow the power of the Canadian Manufacturers' association and other special interests will continue to decline.

Our readers will be interested to know that the Toronto News has answered the challenge published in our issue of July 31. Their reply is very long, but we will publish it in full next week and also some comment upon it.

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