

farmers. Neither should the farmers' organization endeavor to protect those farmers who deliberately attempt to evade their just payments to the implement companies. But there is a happy medium which might be arrived at if both parties got together for that purpose.

THE IMMIGRANT'S AWAKENING

Ten years ago in Holland a restaurant owner read in his local paper an advertisement of the possibilities of making money by farming in Western Canada. He had served ten years in the army, had kept a restaurant for two years, and by careful living had accumulated \$2,000. He came to Canada along with fifty-seven of his fellow countrymen, all anxious to improve their condition and build for themselves happy and prosperous homes in this country. For two years he engaged in market gardening near Winnipeg with fair success, but the hunger for land drew him still westward and he located on a homestead in Saskatchewan, forty miles from the railroad. Hard work and frugality saw his possessions slowly and steadily increase until he had fair prospects of making a good home for himself and his wife and his family of children. Then came trouble in the guise of an agent for farm machinery. Many times in the first few years of his homestead life travelling agents had enjoyed, without payment and without price, the generous hospitality of his home. Three years ago he secured the patent for his homestead and was getting along very well, had had a splendid crop of grain, and his yellow field waving in the sunlight was good to behold. The ever-present machine agent had frequently suggested that he should have a threshing outfit, but he always turned a deaf ear to the siren. On this occasion, however, there was a scarcity of threshing outfits to handle the crop. The agent, with his soft voice, his agreeable personality and most accommodating manner showed the Hollander how easy it would be for him to buy the threshing outfit and pay for it by getting his crop threshed early. Other plausible reasons were also advanced. He assured the homesteader that he could purchase the outfit without giving security on his farm, and painted such a rosy picture that at last the homesteader fell, and a \$5,000 threshing outfit was delivered to him. A contract was produced, consisting of a very lengthy document of ingenious legal phraseology and of exceedingly fine print. To the poor Hollander this document was like so much Greek; it had to him absolutely no meaning. The pleasant voiced agent explained that the contract was a mere form, that everybody signed it, and of course it did not mean anything in particular. The contract was signed and the agent departed. The outfit refused to work and a machine expert was called in. After a careful examination he declared that there was something radically wrong with the outfit and that he could not make it work; he went away to get new parts for the outfit to make it workable, but did not return. Shortly after the collector came around for the money. The Hollander explained the circumstances and told what the salesman had promised him, and also of the visit of the expert. The collector explained that he had nothing to do with that. His business was to collect the money and he was going to do it. In the meantime the threshing outfit was lying idle on the immigrant's homestead. Knowing nothing of the law, he had a very clear conception as to justice and equity. He was willing to pay for the outfit if it could be made to work; but he thought he ought not to pay for it if the company refused to make it work. He was summoned to court and engaged a local lawyer to defend him. The judge stated that there was no doubt the Hollander had been goldbricked,

but there was no remedy, as he had signed the contract, which allowed him only three days to make his complaint and refuse to accept the threshing outfit. The judge also told him that if he had been living in Alberta, where a new law is in force, the company would be held responsible for the statements of their salesman, and he would be protected, but in Saskatchewan he must abide by the contract, and judgment was therefore given against him, with all the costs of the court thereto.

The lawyer who was conducting the homesteader's case told him how to escape execution of the judgment by turning all the property over to his wife, and prepared the papers for him after judgment had been given against him. The lawyer should have known that such an action was fraudulent, and that such a transfer of property to his wife would be set aside by any court in the land. The Hollander knew not our laws and depended upon his lawyer. But even his lawyer only put him deeper into the mire. The Machine Company, of course, knew that the transfer of his property to his wife was not valid and proceeded with the case, which could have only one ending, that the farmer lost. During all this time thru the sun's heat and the winter's frost of three years the threshing outfit had been lying idle, while the Hollander waited for justice. Now he is forced to accept the company's terms, which are \$4,000 cash and the return of the outfit. The immigrant has learned his lesson, and it has cost him \$4,000. Many other farmers in this country have learned the same lesson in the same expensive way. They who have had this experience will not sign any more contracts that they do not understand, but those who have not been bitten will keep on signing these contracts and will reap the whirlwind which too often follows in their wake. Some day in Saskatchewan there will be a law which will force the machine companies to live up to the representations of their agents; some day there will be an effort made to protect the immigrants, who come to this country at our own urgent invitation, and who know not our language nor our laws; some day when our politicians realize the value of prosperous and happy farm homes the unjust burden will be lifted from the shoulders of those who are making our country.

LIBERAL GRAFT EXPOSED

Following upon the National Transcontinental disclosures comes the report of scandalous graft on the part of the employees of the late Dominion Government on the Trent Valley Canal. Tho the amount of money involved is not nearly so large, this case is in many ways worse than the other, for dozens of people, men and women, bankers, lawyers, dentists, doctors, undertakers, barbers, merchants and newspaper men were involved, and were demoralized and degraded by being made the tools of dishonest Government employees and politicians. The fact that some of the loot went into the Liberal campaign fund is also established by the report of the investigation presented to Parliament by J. H. Ferguson, M.P. for Grenville, Ont., and altogether there is disclosed about as bad a case of graft and fraud as can be imagined. The method of the grafters was to purchase goods or have work done which had no relation to the operation of the canal, and then instead of paying for it out of their own pockets, to put someone on the canal payroll and pay them wages out of the public funds until their bill was settled. The chief officials concerned are J. H. McClellan, canal superintendent; A. J. Grant, superintending engineer, and George A. Mothersill, auditing engineer at Ottawa. McClellan, however, seems to have been the chief culprit, and of him Mr. Ferguson says:—

"He has not only practiced deception and

dishonesty himself, but has condoned it and winked at it in others."

Mr. McClellan, however, did not keep everything to himself. He was always ready to lend the Government boat, the "Bessie Butler," to his friends, and the refreshments which his guests consumed were paid for by putting the liquor dealers, the grocers, and the cooks on the payroll as laborers. The telephone company's agent was put on as a laborer to pay for the telephone in Mr. McClellan's house, and jewelers, furniture dealers, druggists and confectioners who supplied goods to his household were paid in the same way. Transportation for McClellan's friends when they went on their holidays was paid for by putting the name of the G.T.R. agents on the payroll as carpenters. The manager of the Royal Bank, at Peterboro, figured on the payroll as a laborer, but just what kind of labor he did on the canal is not stated. J. R. Stratton, the former Liberal member for West Peterboro, is directly implicated in the affair by McClellan, who states that Mr. Stratton told him there should be an election fund of from \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year from the Canal office. He proceeded on that basis, and altho the accounts were in a chaotic condition, Mr. Ferguson was able to trace about \$2,000 that went into the campaign fund instead of into the public treasury. Mr. Stratton unfortunately is ill and has not been able to make any explanations, and judgment on his conduct must be suspended until he has been heard from. McClellan, however, has admitted his guilt, and the investigation has certainly revealed a very rotten state of affairs, for which the late Liberal Government must be held responsible. If members of the Government knew what was going on, no condemnation is too strong for them. On the other hand, if the Minister of the Department did not know, it shows that there was something radically wrong with the system amounting to almost criminal negligence. If the Liberals had remained in office instead of being defeated in 1911, all this graft would probably never have been uncovered and would have still been in progress, and that condition of affairs probably had something to do with the fact that Peterboro assisted in the downfall of the Laurier Government by defeating J. R. Stratton and electing J. H. Burnham in his place. All these serious charges by Mr. Ferguson will, of course, be threshed out in Parliament.

We publish in this issue the last of the four articles on "The Kingdom of Canada," by John S. Ewart. We will be glad to have letters containing questions for Mr. Ewart to answer, or dispassionate criticism of the views he advances. We will then either publish these letters or place them before Mr. Ewart and ask him to write another article answering the questions and replying to the criticisms. Canadian clubs all over Canada are generally seeking Mr. Ewart's views, and we consider ourselves fortunate in being able to place them before our readers direct from Mr. Ewart himself. Whether or not we agree with his findings, it must be admitted that he has unearthed a lot of very valuable information that is worthy of careful consideration by everyone in Canada.

We are getting more letters for publication than we could possibly use even if The Guide were five times its present size. Nearly all of these letters are quite suitable for publication, but lack of space prevents it. We cannot write individual letters to each correspondent explaining why his letter is not published, as it would require most of the editor's time to do so. We can only exercise our best judgment as to what letters to publish out of the large number received. In case postage is enclosed, we will return letters that are not used. This will explain to every correspondent the exact situation and save a personal letter.