

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, October 4th, 1916

PROTECTIONISTS ARE SCARCE

Since our issue of July 12 we have repeatedly published our offer of \$25.00 in cash for the best 2,000 word article showing how the protective tariff is of benefit to the farmers of the Prairie Provinces. The competition is open to any person living in any part of Canada. When so many politicians, editors, manufacturers, financiers are such strong supporters of the protective tariff we had hoped for a generous reply to our challenge. Strange to say, however, we have had only eight replies to date. Several of them are written by free traders who have endeavored to frame an argument against their beliefs. One is from a manufacturer member of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. We still feel, however, that we have not had anything like the reply that the question warrants and are therefore going to afford a further opportunity to the protectionists. We will extend the time of receiving replies until November 1 and we urgently request that protectionists will send us arguments to show how the protective tariff benefits the farmers in the Prairie Provinces. We guarantee to publish the best argument we receive and possibly more than one. This is a wide open opportunity to protectionists to show the free trade farmers of the West that a protective tariff is a good thing for them and that they should therefore support it. Another month and then we shall positively close the competition. Let us have the protectionist arguments before the first of November.

MAKE SURE OF SEED GRAIN

Well over 30 million bushels of seed grain was used in Western Canada in the spring of 1916. Prospects are that rather more will be wanted for seed in 1917. Undoubtedly enough desirable seed is available counting the crop produced this year as a whole, but there are a large number of localities thru the West in which, owing to damage from various sources, there is no seed grain. The problem now is to locate the districts from which desirable seed grain can be obtained. This each of the provincial departments of agriculture is proceeding to do. But even apart from a desire to assist the departments in this work it will pay every grain grower to find out just how suitable for seed is the grain he intends using. A number of tests already made of this year's crop show a large proportion of the samples with low germination qualities. It is comparatively simple for any farmer with a plate and piece of damp flannel to test grain for germination or samples will be tested free by the Dominion Seed Branch, Calgary; the Weeds and Seeds Branch, Department of Agriculture, Regina or the Field Husbandry Department, Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg. Grain may look bright and plump and yet test very low. This is particularly true of oats damaged by frost. Seed grain will be in demand this year and farmers having high testing grain of either the 1915 or 1916 crops ought to arrange to sell it for seed instead of rushing it to market at current prices. Farmers generally are beginning to realize that it is always a paying proposition to sow the best seed obtainable. All indications point to the importance of arranging as soon as possible for next year's seed grain.

NEW POLITICAL PARTY PROPOSED

Steadily the feeling of revolt against the two old political parties in Canada is growing. The situation has developed into government for party and not for the people. The leading men of both parties put party considerations

first every time with little or no regard for public welfare. Particularly at the present time is there a strong feeling of opposition towards the Borden administration. Practically every election in the last two years in Canada has gone against the party in power and a number of Conservative newspapers are in revolt. The official organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has just published a vigorous onslaught on the Borden government and demands a reorganization of the government and statesmen with backbone to lead it. The Borden cabinet comprises one of the weakest aggregations of men that ever controlled the federal government in Canada.

But despite the weaknesses of the government there are very few who would like to see any change in government until the close of the war and even then there is no enthusiasm in support of the Liberal party, except the enthusiasm created by the Liberal party leaders and the Liberal press. During the five years the Borden government has been in power its record has been one of concessions to the railway, manufacturing and financial interests and a most unbridled orgy of patronage and the never failing corruption which accompanies it. The financial interests are in control of the Ottawa government and the members of the government party simply register the decree of the rulers. But on the other hand, the fifteen years record of the late Laurier government was practically the same thing. Graft and corruption was dominant and the greater part of the pledges which the party made before election were ruthlessly broken when in power. The Liberal party in power was liberal in name only and five years in opposition has not given any sign of improvement. The latest act of the Liberal party in discarding reciprocity from their platform is a sample of what may be expected from that party if it ever returns to power.

The Toronto World, owned by W. P. Maclean, M.P., is calling for the organization of a new party and suggests Sir Adam Beck and Sir Hibbert Tupper as leaders. Beck is an outstanding man in Ontario and has done splendid work in the development of the hydro-electric system. It was undoubtedly partly due to Tupper's vigorous opposition to the Bowser government in B.C. that led to the annihilation of that administration a couple of weeks ago. As far as indicated in the Toronto World, the platform of the new independent party would be nationalization of railways, banking and currency reform, the abolition of the patronage system, a non-partisan civil service, national prohibition and national woman suffrage. The World also calls for honesty in administration, which depends largely upon the standard of the men elected.

The men named as possible leaders of the new party are all regarded as protectionists. Unless there is going to be something progressive in tariff legislation in the platform of the new party it cannot hope to win very much support in Western Canada. The greatest burden on the people of this country is that imposed by the protective tariff and it brings no compensating advantages. This same tariff is the chief cause of corruption in public affairs. If the new party that is proposed actually materializes and is prepared to take the same progressive attitude towards the tariff as towards other national questions, it would seem hopeful that there might be some possibility of the East and the West getting together for mutual advantage. Before Western Canada can develop as it ought to do, the desperate burden imposed by the protective system must be very largely removed and the taxes necessary for federal revenue must be raised in a manner that will distribute them more equitably over the people of

Canada. The corporation income tax provided for at the last session of Parliament is a step in the right direction. If the protective tariff were removed and taxes levied on land values together with a graduated income tax on private incomes and a graduated tax on corporation incomes there would be a better opportunity for the development of a prosperous and contented people than there is under the present iniquitous system.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE

On November 7 the people of the state of California will vote at a referendum election upon the question of removing all taxes from business and improvements and raising all public revenues for state, county and municipality by a tax upon the value of the land. In preparation for this great democratic reform the progressives of the state first had Direct Legislation or the Initiative and Referendum incorporated into the constitution of the state. They then initiated a petition in favor of this tax reform and secured the signature of 130,000 electors, which was more than sufficient to bring the question to a referendum vote. The supporters of the campaign call it "The Great Adventure" or otherwise a struggle to free the earth in California and enable every adult person to own his own home, direct his own life and work, abolish landlordism, pauperism and unemployment and shift the tax burden from labor to privilege and monopoly. Special privilege is fighting very hard against this popular movement to throw off the fetters of the big interests and it will be interesting to watch the result of the vote in November.

In Oregon next month the people will vote on a Referendum in support of what is called "The People's Land and Loan Law." The aim of the law is to take all the land rent community-created for the use of the community. Of the revenue thus derived by the taxation of land values two-thirds will be used for public revenue, while one-third will be used to establish a "Home makers' loan fund" in the state treasury to be used for building homes for those who now pay rent. The Oregon reformers aim to make land plentiful and free and to give the home seeker an opportunity to have a home for himself and profitable employment without being forced eternally to pay rent to landlords and interest to mortgage companies. It is evident that there are some very sincere and earnest reformers in the state of Oregon.

WAR LOAN OVER-SUBSCRIBED

The announcement has been made at Ottawa by Finance Minister White that subscriptions to the War Loan have exceeded \$200,000,000, or more than double what was asked for. This is an exceptionally agreeable result and is an indication of pretty satisfactory financial conditions thruout Canada. There is no doubt that Canada will be able to finance her part in the prosecution of the war to a successful termination. It is also announced that the percentage of small subscriptions is much larger than at the time of the previous War Loan which shows that farmers and wage earners are taking more interest in this War Loan than in the last. If the war continues for another year it will be necessary to raise a considerable additional amount of money by war loans and with the experience of the present and past loans before him the Finance Minister may rest assured that the people of Canada have the money and are willing to subscribe in order that Canada may do her bit in the war.