

mistake and suffered the penalty. He still has an opportunity to work for, instead of against, the farmers if he wishes to do so, and may still redeem himself. Mr. Robson's letter contains some truth, considerable untruth, and a lot of misrepresentation. We do not think any one will accuse us of cowardice if we don't devote a great deal of space to Mr. Robson. We think his letter deserves little and we are sorry to see him being led astray by the Winnipeg Telegram and induced to enter a campaign of untruth and misrepresentation from which he is bound to emerge without honor and without prestige.

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### SO FAR ALL IS WELL

The echoes of the farmers' representations to Sir Wilfrid Laurier are still being heard from all over the English speaking world. From Great Britain and United States come reports of the way it is viewed in those countries. Of course, it is not of great importance to Western farmers how their views may be regarded in other countries but such things are nevertheless interesting. What interests Western farmers is the probable action of the Dominion parliament in the matters which were discussed with Sir Wilfrid. Under our system the cabinet rules the parliament, but if the voice of the people is strong enough the parliament will demand that the rights of the people are regarded. The very fact that so much attention is being paid to the demands of the Western farmers is due to the fact that the farmers were united in their demands. Party affiliations were laid aside and therein lay the source of the farmers' strength. Beyond dispute is the fact that the prevailing sentiment in the West favors the demands made by the farmers. The farmers are the ruling class but it would be unfair for them to take advantage of their numbers and impose upon other classes. But the farmers have never exhibited any signs of using their power for such a purpose. They have always favored a square deal. Even should the West be unanimously in favor of lower tariff and government operation of the Hudson's Bay road and the other questions presented to Sir Wilfrid, suppose also that the Dominion government should refuse these demands. Then for the sake of argument suppose that the West went completely against the government and the opposition came to power. Would conditions be improved? Probably not. The West does not hold the balance of power. What then, is the hope to reform? It seems to us that the only hope lies in the farmers of all Canada joining hands and going to Ottawa and there meeting their representatives on both sides of the house. Ontario, Quebec and Maritime province farmers are ready to join with the Western farmers and demand tariff reduction. When that is done neither of our political parties will dare to tamper with the demands of the united farmers. Both high protection parties will realize the weakness of their position and remedy it. There is talk now that parliament will meet early in November and if so the farmers should arrange their Ottawa delegation a week or two later. The Western farmers should not weary in well doing. They have done admirable work thus far and should not take their hand from the plow till the work they set out to perform has been accomplished. Their opponents are active and will spare no effort to nullify the farmers' influence. The spirit of the Western farmers is of the kind that will not hesitate in the face of obstacles. Nothing is worth having that is not worth a struggle.

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A leading Nova Scotia farmer in writing us says: "I think it would be in the interests of the farmers of Nova Scotia to stand unanimously with the farmers of Western Canada in their demand for tariff reduction." Thus the cause advances.

### MR. HORN'S RESIGNATION

Farmers generally will regret to learn that Mr. David Horn has severed his connection with the grain inspection department. For the past quarter century, in fact ever since there has been an inspection department in the West, Mr. Horn has occupied the position of head inspector. In that capacity Mr. Horn has given satisfaction by the fair and impartial manner in which he has performed his duties. This does not mean that all the acts of the inspection department under Mr. Horn have been satisfactory. But it was the Manitoba Grain Act that was to blame and not Mr. Horn. It would now seem to be necessary for the Grain Growers to make sure that Mr. Horn's successor is a man in whom the farmers will have confidence. The appointment will probably be made within the course of a few days so that any action the organized farmers may take should be taken at once.

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### OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The public schools all over the country are now under way and have by this time settled down for the season's work. How many of us realize what a boon it is to have free schools where the coming generation may lay the foundations of a training which will fit them for their life's work. Of course we have become so accustomed to it that we consider free schools merely a matter of course. But not so very long ago schools were not free. They were supported by the people who had children to send and the teacher boarded round. But those were the "good old days" so full of the romance we hear about. We are now living in the twentieth century and must keep abreast of the times. Every man in the land, be he Grain Grower or elevator man should have a deep interest in our rural schools. The city and town schools do not require so much attention. The population in these centers is near to the schools and can take advantage of them without difficulty. Out in the country, however, where children have often several miles to walk the proposition is far different. Too often the children after their long walk enter a school room that is far from inviting and is not equipped with a capable teacher nor with the ordinary necessary appliances for carrying on educational work. Our schools as a rule are neglected. Our boys and girls are our greatest national asset, of incomparably more value than all the other products of our hands or of nature. Yet how lightly are preparations made to care for their future. To improve the system of marketing grain or live stock the people are at once ready to exert themselves. Why should not the same energy be devoted to the proper training of our youth. The farmers in the West cannot lay a surer foundation for the future than by ensuring that their children shall be properly equipped to fulfil those duties that may fall to their lot. We often talk of the "battle of life" but the right spirit in which to train the youths is that of service. If our children while young have instilled in their minds the value of good and efficient service their lives will be of added usefulness to themselves and their country. What is to-day the greatest drawback in the land? It is the need of efficient men and women to serve the people in public positions. By educating our children now to the sacredness of a position of public trust seed will be sown to bear fruit in years to come. To accomplish such work the training must be in capable hands. That means a higher standard of teachers. Human nature is the same among school teachers as among other classes of people. They do not care to spend many years in training themselves to teach and then earn less than a stenographer in a city office or a laborer in the harvest field. Children should also be taught in a school room that has something attractive in its appearance. It will cost but little to make a school room attractive and will be

worth a great deal. Probably at this time of the year many boys and girls are kept out of school to assist during harvest and threshing. It may be necessary in some cases but the principle is a bad one. Until boys and girls are sixteen years of age their place is at school during the school season. The law of the land should compel parents to see that their children are given at least the advantages of a common school education. This is only giving the child a square deal and anything short of it is not. The farmers of the West in their determination to reform conditions should not fix their gaze upon distant abuses so strongly as to forget that there is still room for improvements in the smallest self-governing district in the country—the school section. By making things right at the present time the men and women of the future will not be handicapped in their work as are many men and women of to-day. Remember if the children of to-day do not have the advantages of all that the common schools can give them the fault cannot be laid at their door; the fault is that of the parents or those who are responsible for the upbringing of the children.

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Some of the politicians in England whose policy is to belittle the demand for a lower tariff in Canada are now declaring that it is simply a game for the "Americanization" of Canada. If any of those politicians would come out here he would soon be put right. Wherever Sir Wilfrid Laurier was met by the farmers in the West the leaders in the movement were either natives of Canada or Great Britain. It is time that sensible people stopped talking about the danger of an American "invasion." Some of the very best Canadians in the land are men who were born across the line. In spite of all misrepresentations the cause of lower tariff steadily prospers.

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The Winnipeg Telegram, which has always been the organ of high protection, has come out in favor of having the tariff removed from farm implements and also from cement. It is evident that the "powers that be" in both political parties are beginning to see that the farmers mean business. But of course neither of the parties at Ottawa, where the rulers be, have made any such statements. However, pressure brought to bear steadily and intelligently will soon convince our representatives that the time has arrived to be up and doing in the way of giving a square deal to the farmers.

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An advertiser in Eastern Canada, paying his account to THE GUIDE remarks: "Kindly discontinue sending THE GUIDE to us as we are not among those who seek unduly to force up the price of the farmer's bread." Perhaps the gentleman thinks this is a discovery on his part but we have been thinking that same thing for a long time. We don't want to force up the price of the bread but we do want to force down the spread between the bread and the wheat.

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In Mr. Robson's letter to the Winnipeg Telegram he says: "A financial interest controlling a public press is able to formulate public opinion in its own favor and suppress all just criticism of its misdeeds." The men and the interests behind the Winnipeg Telegram must be pleased to know Mr. Robson's opinion of them.

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The Canadian Manufacturers' Association holds its annual convention in Vancouver in a few days. We wonder if they could be induced to pass a resolution in favor of a lower tariff on some of the goods on which they are now charging the farmer from 10 to 35 per cent. too much.

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Down in Arkansas William Jennings Bryan has been stumping the state for the initiative and Referendum. The big men are beginning to turn their attention to subjects of importance to the people.

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