

tion and higher intelligence. Colorado has the Initiative and Referendum and the former is being invoked in an endeavor to secure the power of Recall, as well as other reforms which the Direct Legislation League considers necessary to perfect the tools of Democracy. In Oregon, the pioneer Direct Legislation state, this work has already been done, and it is doubtful if any other country in the world could be found where the people look so seriously upon their responsibilities as citizens or take such an intelligent interest in public questions. In Oregon at the present time the people are not only thinking about whom they will select as their representatives, but also about what measures shall or shall not become law, and groups of thoughtful people are busy preparing bills to be submitted to the people at the November elections. Governor West, of that state, has conscientious scruples against capital punishment, and wishes to see it abolished. He is consequently causing a referendum to be held on the question, and will let the people decide. Meantime he is granting reprieves to all condemned criminals until after the election, and if the people adopt the Governor's bill the sentences to death will be changed to life imprisonment. There is, too, a growing movement towards Direct Legislation in all the states which have not yet adopted the reform. In Pennsylvania, the Grange, the Federation of Labor, and the Keystone party (consisting of Progressive Republicans) are actively supporting the propaganda, and the majority of the Democrats are believed to be favorable. In Texas a petition bearing 40,000 signatures is being presented to the Democratic executive asking that the question of the Initiative and Referendum be submitted directly to the Democratic voters at the July primaries. In New York the Initiative and Referendum have been forced upon the public attention by the unsuccessful fight of the Pacific States Telegraph and Telephone Co. against a taxation law of the State of Oregon, which it sought to have declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court because it was passed under the Initiative. The decision of the Supreme Court that it had no jurisdiction and the discussion of the matter in the press has had the effect of educating the people on Direct Legislation, and there is talk of holding referendum votes on several important issues in New York City and other parts of the State. The conversion of ex-President Roosevelt to the cause is also doing much to popularize Direct Legislation, and it is everywhere evident that the idea of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall pervades the political thought of the United States. Through Direct Legislation the people of the United States are throwing off partizan machine rule and dethroning corrupt politicians. They have discovered that without Direct Legislation, so-called representative government is not representative, and that the people are but the tools of self-seeking politicians. By Direct Legislation the people of the cities and states where it has been adopted have established real democratic self-government, and the remaining states are one by one following their lead. Canada also needs to be freed from the rule of political machines and party bosses. Shall we lag behind our cousins to the south?

JUDGE MABEE'S DEATH

One of the most useful citizens that Canada has ever produced was taken on May 6, when Death called Chairman Mabee, of the Railway Commission. He was taken at a time when, from a worldly viewpoint, he could least be spared, which is but another warning that Death is no respecter of persons. With an unparalleled development of transportation facilities Canada has need of a strong hand at the head of the Railway Commission, in order that the rights of the people may be protected. At the present

time the Commission is beginning its greatest work, namely, the investigation of the freight rates east and west. It was Judge Mabee who ordered the investigation and provided for its wide scope. It was Judge Mabee who gave as his last important ruling, before Death called him, that the West had made out its case and that henceforth the onus was on the railway companies. All Canada owes a debt to Hon. J. P. Mabee, but Western Canada will miss him most. The best of his life has been spent in the service of the public and he was still in his prime. His worth was recognized during his lifetime, and not grudgingly admitted over his grave. As long as Canada can produce public-spirited citizens of the character of James Pitt Mabee there is hope for democracy. No man today is qualified to fill his position, but let us hope that another equally endowed by Nature will be developed.

LIBELLING THE WEST

Under the caption "Mischievous Agitators" the Belleville Daily Intelligencer, one of the oldest protectionist journals of Ontario, in its issue of April 20, calls the Grain Growers some hard names. The writer refers to them as a

"Mischievous and unreasonable organization in the West, which calls itself the Grain Growers' association, in their efforts either to achieve the impossible or disrupt the Confederation of the Provinces. The Western organization referred to publishes an organ called The Grain Growers' Guide, in the columns of which are never recorded anything but the emanations of the 'grouchers' in that section—never a word to intimate that nowhere on the surface of the earth are the people so highly prosperous as in that portion of Canada between the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains. As evidence of the extraordinary ability of these Western growers, the following makes interesting reading:—"

Then goes on extracts from letters from Western farmers published in The Guide. If The Intelligencer published as much of the truth as does The Guide its readers would be better informed than they are. The Intelligencer goes on to deal with letters published in The Guide showing grain prices received in Minneapolis:—

"Dealing with the above statements in their order, it may well be asked whether the man whose wheat was frosted and covered with snow blames the government of Canada for the climatic conditions? If not, why does he voice such a complaint in the organ of the association of which he is evidently a member?

"The quotations given for wheat are manifestly false, as grain buyers in the United States would hardly be so foolish as to pay, as The Guide would have us believe, 12c per bushel more for wheat than Canadian wheat, which is of the best quality, could be laid down for in their market, duty paid. The assertion as to the alleged cost of a gas tractor being based on the cost of wheat, falls to the ground."

This statement is made without a grain of argument. No one has ever attempted to blame climatic conditions on the government. But the laws of the land are certainly to blame for the tariff enhanced prices, the high freight rates, the high bank charges and other man-made impositions. We are prepared to prove that many a man has shipped grain across the line this past season, and, after paying the duty, secured a far higher price than could be secured in Canada.

The Intelligencer and other Eastern protectionist organs are doing all in their power to set the Eastern people against the West, by publishing absolutely false statements. Most of these journals are the hip-pocket organs of some politician or corporation magnate. They are designed to publish untruths and to mislead their readers. The people of the East are being kept in subjection to Special Privilege and are being used to keep the Western people in subjection also. Just as long as the beneficiaries of Special Privilege can keep the people divided on party lines, or any other lines, they will be able to fleece them and not any longer.

MORE ANNEXATION NONSENSE

Considerable capital is now being made by the Protectionist journals out of a confidential letter from President Taft to Theodore Roosevelt, written in January, 1911, which has just been published. The letter was in regard to the reciprocity agreement with Canada and one paragraph reads as follows:

"It might at first have a tendency to reduce the cost of food products somewhat; it would certainly make the reservoir much greater and prevent fluctuations. Meantime the amount of Canadian products we would take would produce a current of business between Western Canada and the United States that would make Canada only an adjunct of the United States. It would transfer all their important business to Chicago and New York, with their bank credits and everything else, and it would increase greatly the demand of Canada for our manufactures. I see this is an argument against reciprocity made in Canada, and I think it is a good one."

Now just because President Taft says that reciprocity would have made "Canada only an adjunct of the United States" the protectionist journals would have us believe that Canada's independence would have disappeared. This is the same kind of rubbish that was talked during the campaign. President Taft probably thought that the United States would get the best of the agreement, but the Canadian farmers would have got more for their produce and have been able to buy some manufactured goods at a lower price. Our trade with the United States is increasing every day and is bound to do so but we are getting further from annexation all the time. If the tariff between the two countries were wiped out there would be even less likelihood of annexation than there is today. We want free trade with Great Britain but our protectionists are opposed to any closer relations with the Motherland. This is where their loyalty shows up in its true light. Anything to keep the Canadian people paying tribute is their aim. If the reciprocity agreement would be of such a tremendous advantage to the United States how does it happen that Colonel Roosevelt is now opposed to it? He certainly knows American public opinion as well as any one. If the agreement continues on the United States statute books Canada cannot do better than accept it.

We would commend to the careful consideration of our politicians the chapter from Dickens entitled "The Whole Science of Government." In this it is explained how the politicians when clamoring for power are profuse with promises in the way of beneficial legislation. But when they have landed the job they set out to the very best of their ability to demonstrate "How Not to Do It." Dickens evidently had a vision of Canada today in mind when he wrote that chapter.

A Canadian politician would be lost in a political campaign in the United States. His chief accusation against his opponent of trying to "dismember the Empire" would not be available. Many a Canadian politician owes his chief success to this argument.

It must be annoying to Mackenzie and Mann to be dogged about the country by our politicians who insist upon them taking the people's money.

Wonder who the government will compel to take twenty or thirty millions of the people's money next session.