

The Brain Growers' Guide

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PROTECTION IS CHALLENGED

The Protective Tariff is one of the big items of interest in this country. Our farmers' organizations have one and all condemned the protective system, because they believe it to be detrimental to the best development not only of Western Canada but all Canada. We have published in The Guide in the last five years pretty nearly every free trade argument and we are seldom able to find a good argument in favor of protection. We are anxious to find out whether there is any good reason why the Protective Tariff should be maintained. There are undoubtedly a number of people in Western Canada, and more in Eastern Canada, who for some reason or other are supporters of the Protective Tariff system. If they honestly believe in this system they should be able to show cause for the faith that is in them. We want to get their views to publish. To encourage them to send us their views we are going to give \$25 in cash for the best letter we receive showing how the Protective Tariff benefits the farmers of the Prairie Provinces. This competition is open to every man, woman and child in Canada. The letters are to contain the best possible arguments to show that the Protective Tariff is a good thing for the farmers living in the three Prairie Provinces. This will afford protectionists an opportunity to present their case to our readers. We are throwing it open to all Canada, because if there is any protectionist in the West who is not able to put his own views in the strongest form he is quite at liberty to get the assistance of the ablest protectionist that Eastern Canada can produce. This is, in fact, an open challenge to all Canada, to produce an argument in favor of the Protective system. In order to give plenty of time we will leave the competition open until September 1, but if any person is handicapped by this date we will extend the date a few weeks longer, because we want to give an opportunity to everyone. The letters must not be over 2,000 words in length, but may be shorter if desired. We will pay \$25 in cash for the best protectionist argument that we receive. We hope each and every one of our readers will bring this challenge to the attention of all their protectionist friends in Canada. If the protectionists will take hold of this matter seriously we believe they will assist in clearing the air on this great big tariff question. If there is any doubt as to our ability to judge a protectionist argument we shall be pleased to select a judge who will be satisfactory to even the strongest protectionist.

IMPERIAL FEDERATION

Many problems of outstanding importance to the people of Canada will come up for settlement at the close of the war. One that is now attracting a great deal of attention is the relationship of Canada and the other Overseas Dominions to Great Britain. Considerable criticism has already been voiced by leading Liberal and Conservative members in Canada because Canadian soldiers are not led into action by Canadian officers. The Minister of Militia, according to reports, has this matter in hand and the latest news from Great Britain is that Canadian officers will have charge of Canadian soldiers. This will be gratifying to Canadians generally. This is a part of the "after the war problem," which arises from the fact that altho Canada is contributing 500,000 soldiers, our Canadian Government had no voice in the making of the war, and under present conditions cannot possibly have any voice in the terms of peace. There are many proposals advanced for the remedy of this situation. The most

concrete and carefully thought out plan is that proposed by what is known as "The Round Table Group." These views have recently been elaborated by Lionel Curtis in a book just published, which is reviewed in another part of this issue of The Guide. Mr. Curtis proposes an Imperial Federation comprising Great Britain and all the self-governing Overseas Dominions. This would be an iron clad Federation according to Mr. Curtis, in which Great Britain and the Dominions would form units, each bearing a proportionate share of the taxation necessary to maintain an efficient army and navy for the British Empire. An Imperial Parliament or Council composed of representatives from Great Britain and the Overseas Dominions would control all foreign affairs, including war and peace. It is specifically provided by Mr. Curtis that the Imperial Parliament should have no control over customs tariffs or immigration and could never control these matters unless by consent of the various units of the Federation. Mr. Curtis and his colleagues in "The Round Table Group" in Great Britain and in each of the Dominions have spent five years on their project and have a number of ardent supporters in each country. It is difficult to see at present how such an Imperial Council or Parliament could be constituted, except on a basis of population, which would give Great Britain a representation larger than all the several self-governing Overseas Dominions combined. This would restore conditions as they were fifty years ago, or more, when Canada and the other Dominions were ruled directly from Britain. We are doubtful if the Canadian people will ever consent to an agreement by which powers now vested in the Ottawa Government will be delegated to a government located presumably in London. Such plan would withdraw our ablest men to the Imperial Parliament and leave the weaker men to handle our domestic affairs. The definite proposal to eliminate the tariff from the control of the Imperial Parliament is another strong objection to the plan. In every Federation of states or provinces throughout the world one of the first essentials has always been free trade between the various units. This was true in the case of the United States, Canada, South Africa, Australia and even in Germany. Free trade within the Empire would bind the units closer together and create a stronger bond of sympathy between the various peoples that constitute the Empire, provided of course that each unit were left free to regulate its tariff relations with other countries. Without this Imperial free trade in the event of the proposed Federation becoming a fact, the protectionist element in Canada which now seems to favor the proposed Federation will have a stronger grip than ever upon this country. The great strength of the British Empire at the present time is due to the fact that there are no legal bonds. Canada and the other Overseas Dominions have voluntarily given to the utmost of their men and their money in this war against German militarism. They have given all the more freely because it was not compulsory. Would they give as freely under compulsion? The aim of the proposed Federation is to create a power for world peace. Belgium, France and Italy are equally interested. Why could they not be brought also into an alliance with Great Britain and the Overseas Dominions, possibly including also some of the other Allied Powers? All these are big questions not to be settled off-hand. Mr. Curtis' book is worthy of the study of every thoughtful Canadian. The whole matter is one that will receive widespread discussion and it is advisable that every one inform himself as fully as possible on this matter of vast importance to every Canadian.

LIVESTOCK LOANS

There is no class of stock, year in and year out, over large areas of territory and under varying climatic conditions that give such a stability to farming as cattle. Everyone admits this and everyone is anxious to put farming on a more stable basis, less dependant on weather conditions, less wasteful of labor and feed. The process is a slow one and we have need to copy the best methods of other places. There are two essential sides to this question, the saving of the profits on the stocker and feeder business, a very large part of which is annually being lost to us, and the increase of breeding stock on the average farm. A much greater extension of credit is necessary for both. In this issue there is an outline of some of the cattle loaning operations carried on in the United States. Loaning on feeder and stocker cattle in that country is nation wide. It began from the large livestock centres and has gradually spread out until many of the states along and close to the Gulf of Mexico are taking up cattle raising and finishing extensively. It now extends into many parts of Western Canada as well. The fact is the most of the stock fed in the central and northwestern states have loans made on them. The business has been most carefully and yet most liberally handled. The losses have been practically nil. Such loans are now considered the safest loans in the United States as the security is always growing in value and is easily liquidated. The largest Eastern American banks are anxious to buy the notes given for such loans at fairly low rates of interest, and these banks are managed as wisely as any of our Canadian banks. It has taken hard work to educate the banks not directly in touch with livestock work to the security of this paper, but now such has been amply demonstrated.

Loans on breeding stock in that country are nearly all made thru the small local banks and these too have come to regard livestock security as the very best. Many consider it better than grain and the man who has livestock or intends to buy such seems to have little difficulty in getting the necessary money for what would be considered here long terms for such loans. In the meantime we are losing a very large proportion of our feeding cattle to United States and have not been increasing breeding stock enough, largely thru lack of this very credit which our banks could give and which American banks have found the very best kind of loans for themselves and the country as a whole. The system of loaning in United States on feeding cattle may be open to objection on the ground that it might give packers too great control of markets. The lack of system in Canada is more so. Our banks have it in their power to help this out. There would be offers to form cattle loan companies here if the banks would give their support. In one instance a government has set aside a sum of money for advances to settlers on fairly easy terms. We have lessons galore on the strength of the security and desirability of helping this business. Then let there be some concrete work done now of some kind that will get nearer a solution.

THE BIG DRIVE

The "Big Drive" has begun. Germany and Austria are only now beginning to realize the power of the Allied Armies. At the beginning of the war the advantage in training and equipment was with Germany. Today and for some time past that advantage has not been so evident. Munition factories all over Canada, United States, Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy have been turning out munitions at an enormous rate. Preparations