

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, September 4th, 1912

A PREMATURE EXPLOSION

In the Winnipeg Telegram of August 27 appears an interview with Sir Rodmond Roblin in which he makes the following statement:—

"The announcement made in the morning papers that the President of the United States has signed the so-called Panama Bill, should cause every good patriotic Canadian to begin the week with prayer and thanksgivings that they were not entangled in the meshes of the net set by President Taft on the 21st of last September. If there has been any doubts in the minds of the Canadian people as to the meaning and intention of President Taft and the government of the United States in his statement that he proposed to make Canada an adjunct of the Republic to the south of us, it will be removed by his action of Saturday last. This formal, regular repudiation of the terms of a treaty made with the British Empire because the President and Congress of the United States seem to think it will be in their financial interest should cause the people of this Dominion to shrink away from every thought of having any formal or international arrangement for trade or any other purpose, such as exists among the nations of the world generally."

We certainly cannot see the point of Sir Rodmond's argument. We agree with him that the American Senate and President Taft have violated the terms of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty by discriminating in favor of American ships in the case of the Panama Canal. We cannot, however, understand why this should be any argument against selling our grain to American purchasers at a higher price than we can get in Canada. We believe that a majority of the American people are opposed to the action of President Taft and the Senate in the canal regulations. However, the canal will not be open for two years and during that time the matter will be discussed by the Canadian, American and British governments and may eventually find its way to The Hague for arbitration. If there is no satisfactory settlement Canada has ample opportunity of reprisal by discriminating against American vessels passing through Canadian canals and waterways, if this drastic action is found necessary. In the meantime Sir Rodmond's explosion seems premature. If there is good reason for his prayer of thanksgiving then certainly the Canadian people are in grave danger by reason of their present trade with the American people, which is greater than their trade with any other country in the world. Devastating wars have many times resulted from lesser provocation than the action of the United States in the canal affair, but no one has even suggested such a possibility in the present case, yet Sir Rodmond's explosion is of the nature to encourage warlike feelings. It would seem infinitely better to adopt a sane and reasonable manner and allow the difficulty to be settled through peaceful channels. Sir Rodmond might have allowed the premiers of Canada and Great Britain to consider the matter first, as they are the men who will be called upon to take whatever action is deemed necessary.

MANUFACTURERS' DIPLOMACY

The following comment recently appeared in the Toronto Financial Post:—

"It need not be wondered at if a change of administration, or at least of policy, follows the visit of the organizer of the Cement Merger to this side the Atlantic. It is necessary that the cement industry should have some one connected with it who has the ear of the present government. That cutting of the import duty was a lesson to the management, that the present ministry is prepared to go to unusual lengths in meeting the public needs, and that it is necessary to show it why things should, or should not, be done. It is not intended to supplant Mr. Jones, the capable and up-to-date general manager of cement, but there is a movement in

favor of appointing to an important office in the corporation, some one who is sure to be persona grata to the Dominion Government."

This is an intimation that Sir Max Aitken has been giving some tips to the cement magnates. It is also a brazen admission of an attempt to influence the Dominion Government. If this works out successfully no doubt all the big manufacturers will establish a "diplomatic" department. We will then have in Canada a diplomatic corps. Their duty will be to influence the Dominion Government to give special favors to their employers. It is quite evident that the cement combine would expect to give something in return. This something could not be other than a contribution to election campaign funds, either directly or indirectly. It might be done by means of subsidizing the press as was done at the last elections through the Canadian Century of Montreal, a journal reputed to be owned by Sir Max Aitken. At the present time the protective tariff yields upwards of \$100,000,000 of revenue to the Dominion Government. It also enables the Canadian manufacturers to pluck twice this amount from the Canadian consumers.

As a business proposition how would it do for the Canadian consumers to say to the politicians: "If you will do away with the protective tariff we will contribute \$5,000,000 annually to the campaign fund of each political party." This would of course be very crude and unpatriotic. Nevertheless the consumers would make \$190,000,000 a year out of it. This is approximately the line of argument made by some of the protected manufacturers, so what is good for the manufacturers ought to be good for the consumers, and of course it would help to build up a "well rounded Dominion."

THE HEIGHT OF HYPOCRISY

Last summer when the Western farmers were anxious for reciprocity with the United States in order that they could get better prices for their grain, the barons of the Canadian Manufacturers' association held up their hands in horror. They would have neither "truck nor trade" with the crafty Yankees, who were simply waiting to gobble up Canada. At that time the ultra-patriotic manufacturers trembled, and tears came in their eyes, as they thought of the dangers the Western farmers faced in selling their grain to the unscrupulous Yankees. We ask our readers to bear in mind these facts while they read the following interview which appeared in the Toronto Star on August 14:—

"Is it true that manufacturers in Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford and other large centres are insured in the New England Manufacturers' Mutuals?"

"It is," answered E. P. Heaton, the Canadian Manufacturers' association insurance expert, when The Star saw him this morning on his return from England. "To the extent of \$150,000,000, I should say, in Canada in general, and the amount is increasing."

"On my desk here I have a report from one of the largest of these New England concerns. The volume of business is large. The amount at risk on June 30 last was practically \$400,000,000. The fire loss for a term of years has been three and a half cents for each \$100; the total cost, including office expenses, etc., has been 6½ cents. The companies here are quoting from 12 to 15. Why shouldn't our manufacturers place their insurance where they get it at cost and with the best results? Take one big Toronto manufacturing company. Every dollar of its insurance is in these New England companies, and the total can't be far short of \$6,000,000. Why, if this company were taxed to the extent of the protection it enjoys, it would still remain in the New England companies."

Thus we see that these pocket patriots in the Canadian Manufacturers' association

are placing their insurance with the American companies. They are doing their best to build up and strengthen the financial agencies of the American Republic. And for what purpose? Simply because they save money in so doing. As the manufacturers' insurance expert says: "Why shouldn't our manufacturers place their insurance where they get it at cost and with best results." The manufacturers care not a fig for the Canadian insurance companies. It makes no difference to them whether the Canadian insurance companies live or die or whether their employees have to hunt for other positions. The only thing the manufacturers have in mind is to save money on their insurance. And this is patriotism; this is loyalty; this is the action of those patriotic gentlemen who shed their tears and their money to keep the Canadian farmers from trading with the Americans. Was there ever better evidence of deep-dyed hypocrisy. The manufacturers are doing just what they denied to the farmers. Why should the farmers of Canada show an atom of sympathy to these pocket patriots who stop at nothing that will add to their wealth? The manufacturers are perfectly right in getting their insurance at the lowest cost. And the farmers are right in their demand to be allowed to buy and sell where they can get the best terms.

PREMIER BORDEN'S VISIT

Premier Borden is now on his way home from Great Britain where he has spent the last few months in conference with British statesmen and officials on matters of mutual interest to Canada and the Motherland, and also with due reference to wider Imperial aspects. Judging by reports of Mr. Borden's addresses, and also by the official statement he handed to the press before leaving England, no definite arrangements have been arrived at on the most important matters he has been dealing with. Mr. Borden has upheld the dignity of the Dominion which he represents in an able manner and has taken firm and safe ground in declaring that British problems must be solved by the British people and strictly Canadian problems by the Canadian people. Canada has been singularly fortunate in having as Prime ministers since federation men who have maintained the rights of the Canadian people to work out their own destiny as a self-governing nation. The firmness and dignity with which this attitude has been maintained has given Canada a greater self-respect and greater prestige not only in Great Britain but throughout the world. In matters of national policy we have sometimes differed with Mr. Borden in the past, and may have occasion to differ with him in the future, but such differences of opinion will be dictated only by a sincere desire to serve the best interests of the Canadian people. At the present time we join hands with all Canadians in extending to Mr. Borden a hearty welcome on his return to Canada, and we believe that his recent labors in Great Britain will give Canada a more important place in the ranks of the great nations of the earth.

ALBERTA FARMERS NOTE

We are informed that a new grain company, with headquarters at Calgary, has been organized under the name of the "Western Co-operative Grain Company, Ltd." We understand this company is canvassing farmers to buy its stock. It has also been brought to our notice that there is some confusion among the farmers between this company and the Grain Growers' Grain company. We know nothing of the merits