

ada are going to be able to make a decent living in the future. Undoubtedly there are a certain number of prosperous farmers in the Prairie Provinces and also a few who own automobiles, and these facts can be magnified to create political capital by small calibre politicians. The fact that the overwhelming majority of the farmers, however, are not prospering, can be demonstrated to the political leaders by any agricultural implement company doing business with the western farmers. A great many business men in our western cities have also awakened to the true facts of the case, but of course there are some who, ostrich-like, are still refusing to acknowledge the truth. Both Sir Robert and Sir Wilfrid, if they are wise, will recognize the fact that the western problem is a real one and must be given serious attention by both political parties. The people of the Prairie Provinces are no longer satisfied to be herded into a legislative corral and plundered by the Barons of Special Privilege, and the two political leaders will be slow of perception if they do not appreciate this fact before their western tours are completed.

POLITICIANS COMING WEST

Under the new Redistribution Act the Prairie Provinces will have 43 representatives in the House of Commons after the next elections. This additional representation at once makes the Prairie Provinces a very important factor in the federal political field. That both political parties are alive to the importance of the situation is manifested by the fact that both Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier will make speaking tours thruout the West in the course of the next few weeks. It is possible that there might be a general election before Christmas, but it is hardly probable as there seems no immediate cause for an appeal to the people, and the present parliament has only been three years in existence. The natural time for the next general election would be in the fall of 1915, but even tho the elections may be a year away, both the political leaders will be anxious to visit the West and size up the situation for themselves as far in advance as possible, because when an election is in sight both of them will devote most of their attention to Quebec and Ontario, which have the largest representation in the House of Commons and which, as a rule, decide which party will be in power. The interests of the people in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are identical, and, if our election campaigns were conducted on any kind of a reasonable or logical basis, there would be no difference of opinion among the representatives of the three provinces in federal matters. Because of the fact, however, that party is worshipped by a great many men and takes even a prior place to religious matters, there is not a unanimous representation from these provinces. Both Sir Robert and Sir Wilfrid will undoubtedly at their public meetings explain that their opponents are not capable of governing the country wisely and that their own party is the nearest to perfection in general ability and integrity that it is possible to find anywhere on earth. All of these gentlemen will undoubtedly make a splendid appearance on the platform and make out a very plausible case from their own standpoint. When they return to Ottawa they will feel that they are very closely in touch with the West and understand the Western problems. Of all the politicians that will come West we feel that it is highly desirable that Mr. White should actually see the West, because he is the man who is in charge of the finances of the country and also of the tariff laws. Mr. White knows nothing about Western conditions and has an idea that the Western farmers are exceedingly prosperous. The best thing that could be done for Mr. White's enlightenment would be to give him a month's trip thruout

the homestead district of the Prairie Provinces, and let him see the actual conditions under which Western people live. If he could see the natural difficulties which these people face he might be less inclined to assist in plundering them for the benefit of a handful of manufacturers and financiers in Toronto. Mr. White is the one man of the whole party who is mostly in need of such education, but we fear that his only knowledge of Western conditions on his Western trip will be secured by looking thru the windows of his very comfortable private car, or from conversation with "prominent" business men and financiers in the sumptuous club rooms of the Western cities.

CAMPAIGN FUND EXPOSURE

Some light is being shed on the methods employed in raising campaign funds, by the investigation which is proceeding in New Brunswick, and in which the Premier of that province, Hon. J. K. Flemming, is involved. While some of the details are in dispute, it is admitted by the witnesses on the Government side that a fund of approximately \$100,000 has been subscribed for the use of the Provincial Conservative party in New Brunswick at the next election by lumbermen who have been granted licenses to cut timber on government lands. The system seems to have been that a lumberman who was granted a license paid \$100 a square mile to the provincial treasury and \$15 a square mile to the campaign fund. Wherein the difference lies between making an arrangement of this kind and deliberately stealing money straight from the public treasury is difficult to understand, yet this is quite a common and usual practice on the part of Canadian governments of both political complexions. Government contractors in very many cases, expect as a matter of course to make a contribution to the party funds, and the prices which they charge for the goods or the work are fixed accordingly. The present Manitoba Government has very frequently been charged with corruption in this regard, but, unlike the New Brunswick Premier, Sir Rodmond Roblin and his faithful supporters have so far prevented a full exposure by persistently refusing to permit the appointment of commissions of enquiry into charges which have been made.

Campaign funds dishonestly raised are almost invariably dishonestly used. Where a campaign fund is subscribed voluntarily by those who contribute because they believe in the candidate and in the principles which he advocates, there is not much danger that it will be used to purchase votes. When votes are bought they are usually bought with money that has first been stolen from the people in some way or other. One thing that is badly needed in this country is a law requiring the publicity of campaign funds. The public are entitled to know how much money is spent to elect a man to Parliament, where it came from, and how it was expended. No honest candidate would fear to publish these facts, and their publication would go a long way to ensure clean elections and to prevent the corporations and vicious interests from placing men in parliament to become their tools.

THE HARVEST HELP PROBLEM

For some years past it has been necessary to bring from ten to twenty thousand men from Eastern Canada to aid in gathering the Western harvest. It is not expected that very many men will be needed this year outside of those who are already available in Western Canada. In the cities and towns there is a considerable number of unemployed, and it is the aim of government officials and others interested in the matter to send as many of these unemployed to the harvest field as is possible. In several parts of the West also there is a great shortage in the crop, and, in fact, in many parts practically a total failure. It is reported that the

railways and the provincial governments will co-operate to take the farmers from these districts into the good crop districts, and thus provide them with labor during the harvest season. A general survey of the situation will have to be made in order to see just how much harvest help will be needed, and just how much can be supplied from local sources, the balance can then be brought in from Eastern Canada as in past years. It is a very commendable scheme on the part of all those interested to provide employment for those farmers who have been unfortunate and also for those who are out of work in the cities.

The Canadian Countryman is proposing that the Federal Parliament should aid the Western farmers by voting \$40,000,000 to be loaned out to them at low rates of interest. In the beginning there is no more likelihood of the Federal Government giving such a proposition their support than there is of Mackenzie and Mann bringing back to the public treasury the money they have already taken out of it. In the second place, even if parliament were disposed to vote the money, it is very doubtful if it would be handled in a manner to be of permanent value to the Western farmers. It might for a time create an artificial prosperity which would steadily be seized upon by the protectionists in Eastern Canada as a reason for maintaining high tariffs and even increasing them. We believe that the Western farmers generally can take care of themselves, if the many and grievous artificial burdens are taken off their shoulders. We would suggest that the Canadian Countryman use its influence with the manufacturers, railways and banks, and urge them to give the Western farmers reasonable treatment in their tariffs, rates and interest charges, and when that matter is adjusted satisfactorily money will be far easier than it is now.

In this issue in our correspondence columns we publish an interesting letter from Levi Thomson, M.P., of Wolseley, Sask. Mr. Thomson has given the tariff question considerable study and has made up his mind as to the value of a protective tariff to Western Canada. If each one of the Western members would work in the best interests of the Western people and all would stand shoulder to shoulder in parliament for a square deal to the West, the tariff question would be settled in very short order. The trouble is that most of our Western members have no views on the tariff at all until they get a tip from their political leaders, and they can change their minds as often as they are told to do so. So long as we have that kind of men representing us at Ottawa there is very little chance of anything tangible being done for the benefit of the Western people.

The question of medical attendance and doctors' fees in the more sparsely settled districts of Western Canada is one that has a very vital bearing upon the physical well-being of our people. Medical attendance should be available for every settler at reasonable cost, and if the medical profession impose restrictions upon incoming doctors which prevents them from practicing in Saskatchewan, and thus deprives settlers of their aid, it is time for legislative action.

Arrangements have been completed between The Grain Growers' Grain Company and the Manitoba Government by which the Government elevators will be operated by The Grain Growers' Grain Company for the ensuing grain year. During the past year the operation of these elevators by the company has been much more successful than during the first year, and under the new arrangements it is expected that the next year's operation will prove even better.