

# The Brain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, June 2nd, 1915

## SASKATCHEWAN'S NEED

History is being made fast nowadays, not only on the battlefields of Europe and on the high seas, but also in the council room and the legislative chamber. The session of the Saskatchewan legislature now in progress at Regina bids fair to see the enactment of more progressive legislation than has ever before been placed on the statute books of any Canadian province at one session. The government's bill banishing the bar-room from the province is now before the house and Premier Scott has intimated that a dower law for the protection of married women will be passed. Whether or not the Saskatchewan government intends to introduce a woman suffrage bill at this session is not yet clear. The premier, replying to a delegation which presented a petition from 10,000 women asking for the vote, declared his own conversion to equal suffrage and said his personal investigations in Australia and New Zealand had convinced him that woman suffrage was a complete success in those countries. Nevertheless the premier did not definitely promise that the women of Saskatchewan should be given the vote, the government having apparently not made up its mind whether there was a sufficient body of public opinion in favor of the step to warrant action. If the premier wishes to be convinced on this point, we would suggest that the will of the people can readily be ascertained by a referendum. In the speech already referred to Mr. Scott remarked that public opinion could make itself evident in other ways than by a referendum and this is no doubt true, tho it is also unquestionably true that public opinion can be ascertained much more quickly and with much more certainty by means of a referendum than in any other way. Everything points to the absolute necessity from the democratic standpoint of the passage of a Direct Legislation bill in Saskatchewan. Then the legislature will be able to definitely ascertain the will of the people in a direct and unmistakable manner, and no charge of autocratic action can be laid against the government. If Direct Legislation is placed upon the statute books of Saskatchewan, woman suffrage and the government's temperance measure can be made subject to its provisions, and then the voters can decide for themselves whether they desire these reforms or not.

## THE SUMMERFALLOW

Any experience which adversely affects a man's pocket is likely to be remembered and avoided if possible next time. Consequently last year's object lesson—a very severe one in some districts—will undoubtedly be beneficial to the West as a whole, in that it will stimulate more thorough fallowing methods this summer. While there are objections to summerfallowing such as soil drifting, waste of soil fertility and possible loss thru overproduction of straw in wet seasons, in a dry climate where grain is grown extensively, such a method seems to be the only practical one to keep the soil in a productive condition. What is the object of the summerfallow? Largely the storing up of moisture for the succeeding year's crop and it is found that the cultural methods employed with this object in view are ones which help to attain all the other objects for which summerfallowing is practised. Tillage or cultivation is the keynote of the system. Cultivation applied at the right time and with proper machinery, besides taking care of all the moisture which falls on the land, destroys weeds and increases the fertility of the soil. It is not necessary here to duplicate with

the discussion of the proper methods to follow. Seager Wheeler, in his article on the summerfallow, which appears on another page in this issue, gives advice which he has gathered from his twenty years' experience on his farm at Rosthern, in Saskatchewan. Naturally, the methods described in this article will not be exactly applicable in every locality. Weeds in some districts may form a problem which will make a change of method necessary so that they may be kept in check, but the principles remain true under every condition. The land must be worked to a good depth so as to be in a thoroughly receptive condition so that as much as possible of every rain which falls will be stored up, and the surface two or three inches must be worked so as to form a mulch which will keep this moisture from evaporating.

## COALITION GOVERNMENT FOR BRITAIN

The spirit with which the British people are sinking their differences and forgetting their prejudices in order to concentrate every ounce of the country's strength in the fight for humanity and freedom is emphasized by the recent announcement that the British Cabinet has been re-organized and a number of the members of the opposition party made members of the government. A. J. Balfour, Lord Lansdowne, Andrew Bonar Law, Austen Chamberlain and other prominent members of the Unionist party, as well as Labor men and Irish members had been assisting the government in the work of organizing the forces of the Empire ever since the war broke out and it seems only just and right that those who are performing the great tasks of the nation should carry both the honor and the responsibility which their duties properly involve.

Mr. Balfour now becomes First Lord of the Admiralty in place of Winston Churchill, who, with the impetuosity and self assertion that enabled him to do great service to the country prior to and in the early stages of the war, has brought about his own downfall by endeavoring to give orders on technical matters to men who are vastly superior to himself in their knowledge of naval tactics. Mr. Churchill still retains a seat in the government as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, a position in which he will have no direct responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of the country. A. Bonar Law, the Canadian born Unionist leader in the House of Commons, has been made Colonial Secretary, and Austen Chamberlain, Secretary for India. Other members of the Opposition party included in the cabinet are; Lord Curzon, Lord Privy Seal; Walter Long, President Local Government Board; Lord Selborne, President of the Board of Agriculture; while Sir Edward Carson, who before the war was practically at the head of a rebellion in Ulster against Irish Home Rule, is Attorney-General. The Labor party is represented in the new cabinet by Arthur Henderson, who has been made President of the Board of Education. The only former ministers who retained their old portfolios in the Coalition Cabinet are Premier Asquith, Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Minister, and Lord Kitchener, who has no political affiliations, Minister of War. David Lloyd George has handed over the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer to Reginald McKenna, and has himself undertaken the great task of mobilizing the industries of the United Kingdom for the production of war material, taking the new position of Minister of Munitions. Lord Haldane, who had many friendships in Germany, and who was very strongly convinced before the war of the pacific intentions of the

Kaiser, has retired from the position of Lord High Chancellor and is succeeded by Sir Stanley Buckmaster. Other Liberal members of the Coalition Cabinet are the Earl of Crewe, Sir John Simon, Walter Runciman, Augustine Birrell, T. McKinnon Wood and Lewis Harcourt. There is very general satisfaction at the failure of Lord Northcliffe in his attempt thru the London Daily Mail and the other newspapers which he controls to depose Lord Kitchener from the War Office. Lord Northcliffe's chief grievance against Lord Kitchener appears to be that he was not allowed to publish sensational and often incorrect accounts of the progress of the war, and tho the British public are very eager for news of what is happening at the front, they resented the attacks which were levelled at Lord Kitchener by the proprietor of the Daily Mail. Lord Kitchener no doubt would be the first to admit that the arrangements, especially for the provision of ammunition, have not been perfect, but the task which he undertook at the outbreak of the war was so stupendous that no one but a miracle man could have done better than he did. The new division of responsibility will greatly strengthen the hands of the Government in any steps which will be found necessary in organizing the forces of the Empire in order to bring the war to a successful end in the shortest possible space of time. The Coalition Government will enjoy the confidence of the people to a greater extent than would be possible for the representatives of either political party, and if it should be decided that as a last resort conscription must be adopted in Great Britain, the people would accept this measure much more readily from a Coalition government than they would have done from the Liberal ministry. Premier Asquith has made it clear that the Coalition is only for purposes of the war and that no individual and no party sacrifices any principles or political opinion. It is open to the members of the cabinet when the war is over to divide again on party lines, to fight out once more questions of Home Rule and Tariff Reform. It is within the bounds of possibility, however, that in working together in the prosecution of the war the statesmen of the new cabinet will realize the benefit which would accrue to their country if they would adopt the same plan in times of peace. It is not necessary that the members of the cabinet should see eye to eye with one another on all questions of political policy. These questions can be readily settled by means of the referendum and if the leaders of both parties are willing to accept the decision of the people on the great questions which now divide the parties, it will be easy for them to work together in peace, as in war, for the welfare of the people as a whole.

## THE PATENT MEDICINE SWINDLE

Of all the forms of fraud and deceit practiced upon the innocent public, it is doubtful if there is any more vicious or more harmful than the patent medicine swindle. The victims of the quack medicine vendor are the sick and the unfortunate, and especially those who are too poor to pay for medical attendance.

Dr. Oscar Dowling, president of the Louisiana State Board of Health, who has done wonders in the last few years in improving the happiness of the people of his State by teaching them the rules of health and compelling their observance in restaurants and dairies, has declared his intention of devoting the next few years of his life to showing the people of Louisiana how they are killing them-