

living. As the wider and nobler aspects of true co-operation become apparent to the people, there is no doubt but that the co-operative movement will spread with even greater rapidity. There are unlimited possibilities in such an organization, and with the present local associations in almost every community there is the germ of a co-operative organization that can be brought forth into full bloom within a comparatively short time. Thru the local associations the farmers and their wives, for miles around, have become acquainted with each other, and there has been established a mutual sympathy and confidence and a mutual desire to help each other, and this is the prime requisite for the establishment of a successful co-operative enterprise. We look forward to seeing the day when every local community in the West will have its co-operative store, warehouse, elevator and everything else that is needed for community service, owned and controlled by the people of the community on true co-operative methods. These local co-operative organizations, by joint and co-operative ownership of large wholesale depots in each Province, will then be able to concentrate their buying and bring the cost of distribution down to the minimum. Further development is also possible when these wholesale societies again unite for the purpose of erecting co-operative manufacturing establishments. This is no visionary outlook, but merely a view of the work that has already been done in Great Britain. The same can be done in Canada, if the people desire it. It will require considerable sacrifice on the part of those who believe in the cause, and it will require an immense amount of educational work. The headquarters for this educational work might well take the form of a co-operative union such as has been in operation for many years in Great Britain. As will be seen by an article in this issue, we have already the beginning of a successful co-operative union in Canada, sections of which might be established in the Prairie Provinces, from which would radiate valuable assistance in all directions.

HELPS THE ASSOCIATION

One of the encouraging features of the co-operative movement is, that wherever the farmers in any local association have set out upon co-operative or collective buying it has brought new life into the association and increased the membership. These are very desirable improvements in all three Provinces, and as the co-operative efforts in each local community increase so will the interest in the local association increase. It is with pleasure that we note the increasing activity of the farm women in the work of the associations, and also in the development of co-operative buying. It augurs exceedingly well for the future of co-operative development when the women take such a deep interest in the work.

THE C.N.R. DEAL

In the Winnipeg Telegram of March 14 appears the following statement issued personally by Premier Borden:

"Reports have appeared in the press to the effect that the Canadian Northern Railway have reached a definite understanding with the government under which a proposal to grant a federal guarantee of bonds will be submitted to Parliament. This report is entirely inaccurate and unfounded. No agreement or understanding of any kind has been arrived at."

The Telegram despatch goes on to state:

The premier's emphatic statement will dispose of the story to the effect that a basis of settlement has been reached. All that has happened is that the Canadian Northern magnates have made an application to the government for a bond guarantee and have presented some reasons why they believe such aid should be granted. There must be a complete show-down by the railway before any assistance is

granted. Even then, before the government commits itself to any policy of assistance, that policy will be presented to a party caucus, which will be held in the near future.

If Mr. Borden forces a "complete show-down" of the C.N.R. finances he will be doing good service to the country. Let the "show-down" include all contributions made to the Tory and Grit campaign funds in the past by Mackenzie and Mann or the C.N.R. The "show-down" cannot come any too soon nor be too complete to suit the public. The entire details of the C.N.R. finances should be placed before the public. The "party caucus" is not enough because the "good party men" will pretty nearly have to swallow whatever pill the cabinet prepares for them. It is the public and not the "party caucus" who have been paying for all these donations to the C.N.R. If the government decides to give more aid to Mackenzie and Mann (which we believe they will) and succeeds in putting it thru the party caucus (which we believe they will) then, in the interests of the people, good security should be taken for every cent advanced. Security on the Canadian Northern system is not enough. It is merely taking security on public money already donated to Mackenzie and Mann, as an excuse, and not as a safeguard, for further gifts or guarantees. Mackenzie and Mann have plenty of property to give good security upon, such as the Winnipeg and Toronto street railways, endless iron and coal mines, lumber properties, South American railways and scores of other properties. The public is sick and tired of seeing wealthy promoters and grasping corporations shoveling money out of the public treasury, which means just that much additional tax burden.

THE LAST CALL

To encourage our subscribers to renew promptly we made a special 60 day offer on February 1 that we would send The Guide to any address in Canada for three years for \$1.50. This offer is open to old subscribers as well as new ones. Anyone who sends us \$1.50 and mails the letter not later than March 31 will have his subscription extended for three years from the expiry date on his label. This price does not begin to pay for The Guide, but it is a very important part of the payment and the ready cash helps us at the season when we need it most. We hope that each of our subscribers who are in arrears will take advantage of this bargain. This offer will positively expire on April 1, and after that date our regular price will be as formerly:

- \$1.00 for one year
- \$1.50 for two years
- \$2.00 for three years
- \$3.00 for five years

If \$1.50 is sent in after April 1 it will pay for two years only; but if before that date will pay for three years. The time to take advantage of this offer is now. Delay will mean more expense.

DIRECT LEGISLATION EXPLAINED

In our last issue we pointed out the necessity of securing from the Liberal party in Manitoba an interpretation of the Direct Legislation plank in their platform. In this issue, on another page, we publish a statement recently sent out by the Manitoba Direct Legislation League, containing the interpretation of Direct Legislation as given by Leader Norris and T. H. Johnson, of the Liberal party. This interpretation covers the great fundamental principles of the Initiative and Referendum, and provides that they shall be made effective and satisfactory tools of democracy in the hands of the people. It is highly satisfactory to have these statements from the two leaders of the Liberal party, and it precludes the possibility of any such political jugglery as was resorted to by the two Liberal Governments to the west on

the same question. If the Liberal party should come into power in Manitoba it is difficult to see how they could avoid placing on the statute books a genuine and workable Direct Legislation bill. At the forthcoming Liberal convention, as well as the temperance convention, there is no more important subject that could be discussed than Direct Legislation, and it is of the highest importance that an effective act be secured.

Ottawa despatches indicate that the government is likely to grant a bonus to the steel industry during the present session of Parliament. These industries are all doing well at present and there is not the slightest excuse for granting them any bonus. It will simply be a robbery of the taxpayers of Canada for the enrichment of a few millionaire promoters, who will, of course, donate generously to the campaign funds. It will pay the western farmers to be on their guard and to be ready to send a vigorous protest to Ottawa, unless they want some more of their property taxed into the pockets of Special Privilege.

The farmers of the West will heartily approve of the action of the Liberal party at Ottawa in demanding free agricultural implements. This will give a decided reduction in the price. It seems passing strange that only two years in the opposition should educate the Liberals to free implements, particularly when, during the 15 years of Liberal regime the need and demand for free implements was equally strong as now, and the Laurier government was definitely opposed to it. It certainly does not pay to allow any government a long term in office.

We are endeavoring to have The Guide reach every subscriber not later than Friday or Saturday of the week it is published. In cases where The Guide does not reach the subscriber until the following week, we should be glad to have a letter stating the facts of the case, so that we can correct it if possible. Sometimes it occurs that a post office is 40 or 50 miles from the railway, and it is impossible to catch the mail in time to reach the subscriber on Saturday. We would like, however, to have all complaints of late delivery, and will do all in our power to correct them.

In its issue of March 14, the Winnipeg Telegram says:

"A substantial reduction in the duty on farm implements is not only a generous tribute to the farmers of Western Canada, but a concession to which the agricultural industry is entitled as a matter of right."

This inspired statement quite evidently foreshadows action by the Dominion government.

Col. Sam Hughes is extending the time for receiving applications for Fenian Raid veteran bounties for another two years, and will now give it to everyone who even thought of taking part in the Fenian Raid. Wouldn't it be simpler and more to the point if Col. Sam would make it a wide open offer of \$100 from the public treasury to every man who would agree to vote right at the next election?

John S. Ewart, whose articles, entitled "Kingdom of Canada," we are publishing in The Guide, has written to state that he will be very pleased, after the conclusion of his articles, to answer any questions that the readers of The Guide might care to ask. We would, therefore, ask our readers to reserve their questions until the last article has been published, and then forward them to us and we will place them before Mr. Ewart for reply.

Owing to lack of space we have been compelled to hold over a number of reports on co-operative buying by local associations. These will be published next week.