

the Manitoba division and \$2,971 in the Saskatchewan division. The claims advanced by the railway companies for so many years to bolster up their extortion of the West cannot stand the light of day. Their favorite plea that revenue is lower and expenses are heavier in the West than in the East is seen to be mere buncombe. After this array of evidence compiled from the railways' own returns the West will confidently expect of the Railway Commission long-delayed justice in the matter of freight rates.

BRITAIN WILL RETAIN FREE TRADE

The movement in favor of re-establishing the protective tariff in Great Britain is not flourishing. The promise of protectionist politicians and newspapers that a tariff, by shutting out foreign manufactures, would give work to the unemployed, gave a certain amount of popularity to the movement, for there were many who were willing to make any experiment which offered the possibility of curing the great evil of unemployment which existed in England a few years ago. In spite of this, however, the Free Trade party was successful in the general elections of 1906, January, 1910 and December, 1910, and now, with trade booming and unemployment less than it has been for many years, there seems less likelihood than ever that Britain will forsake the policy that made her the workshop of the world. It is not only increasing the prosperity of British trade and the success of Lloyd George finance, however, that has apparently defeated the Protectionist movement in Britain. The Unionist party, though officially favoring Protection, or "Tariff Reform" as they call it, has never been united on the question. There are Protectionists in the party, Free Traders, and Free Fooders. Latterly the Protectionists have been in control of the party and it was because of Mr. Balfour's lack of enthusiasm for their cause that they deposed him from the leadership and chose Mr. Bonar Law in his place. Mr. Bonar Law is an out and out Protectionist and he has the courage of his convictions. Mr. Balfour, himself doubtful of the beneficent effects of Protection, had promised that if the Unionists were returned to power their Tariff Reform proposals would be submitted to a referendum before they were enacted. This enabled many Unionists who were not convinced of the wisdom of Tariff Reform to support Mr. Balfour, and another very large section supported the movement hoping that when the details were made known it would be found that their own products were to be protected and goods which they consumed admitted free. Whether or not taxes were to be imposed on wheat and other foodstuffs was a very vexed question. Popular opinion, it was recognized, was likely to be against food taxes in a country where many thousands of people never get enough to eat, but food taxes were a necessary part of the Tariff Reformers' program, both to secure the support of the landlords and to make possible Joseph Chamberlain's original imperial preference idea. Mr. Bonar Law, aided and abetted by Lord Lansdowne, the Unionist leader in the House of Lords, has consequently taken the logical course, withdrawn the Referendum pledge given by Mr. Balfour, and made food taxes definitely a part of the Unionist program, with the stipulation, however, that representatives of the colonies should be called to a conference to arrange the schedules. It would be necessary to go back many years to recall a pronouncement by a leading politician that has wrought such havoc within his own party. A great many of the Unionists are antagonized by the withdrawal of the Referendum pledge. Others strenuously object to food taxes and are inclined to throw Tariff Reform overboard altogether, and a great many of the rest are disgusted with what

they consider a cowardly attempt to throw the onus of the unpopular food taxes upon the overseas dominions. The Northcliffe papers, The Times, the Daily Mail, the Evening News, and the Daily Mirror, all Unionist papers with great influence, are demanding that Bonar Law repudiate food taxation, claiming that otherwise the party can have no hope of returning to power, while the Morning Post and Pall Mall Gazette support Bonar Law, and print vicious attacks on Lord Northcliffe and his papers. The result is the complete demoralization of the Unionist party, the discrediting of the Unionist leaders, Mr. Bonar Law and Lord Lansdowne, and the practical destruction for the time being, at least, of the Protectionist movement in Great Britain. At all of which Free Traders throughout the world will heartily rejoice.

CANADIAN PLUTOCRATS BEWARE

The haunting dread of dying rich, which Andrew Carnegie has said means dying disgraced, has been pursuing the Iron King for several years now. The best that his philanthropy can do, apparently, is to get rid of the enormous revenue which keeps pouring into his coffers to increase his already prodigious fortune. The 1,500 libraries he has built, the 6,000 church organs given away, the founding of hero funds in various countries, his university schemes, his \$10,000,000 Palace of Peace, and his technical institutes—all these benefactions mounting up to about \$200,000,000 have done little except use up the surplus millions due to the natural increase in the value of his holdings. His mountain of gold, which began to worry him some years ago still towers in all its glittering glory. Carnegie, handing out charities along present lines, with due caution against unworthy persons taking advantage of his generosity, can no more dispose of his fortune than a lone miner can level a mountain with a pick. The truth that his is a losing struggle to die poor has at last dawned upon Carnegie for he has decided to give up the effort. He has created a Carnegie Corporation of New York, whose whole duty will be to get rid of his \$500,000,000 or so. Carnegie retains a paltry \$25,000,000 in his own hands, a little "pin money," so to speak. To those of us who think charity a poor substitute for justice it seems curious that Carnegie should not have acted on a suggestion frequently made and recently repeated by A. G. Gardiner, Editor of the London News. Why does he not turn his attention to the source of his wealth, the Steel Trust? It is capitalized at \$1,400,000,000, one-half of which is water. To pay dividends on this fraudulent capitalization thousands of employees are ground down 12 hours a day for seven days a week in return for barely enough wages to live on. The more one knows of the exactions of the steel trust as of other trusts, the more clearly shines the truth that Carnegie does not need to go far afield in getting rid of his millions and so saving himself from dying disgraced.

TORONTO BUSINESS MEN AGREED

"We are all agreed that the present system of taxation is vicious and iniquitous. The Provincial Government should appoint a commission, not of politicians, but of impartial, level-headed men, to go abroad and study the systems prevailing in other countries. There is no argument against the taxation of unearned increment." This is the statement of G. T. Somers, President Toronto Board of Trade.

When the President of the Toronto Board of Trade can say in regard to his fellow members of the Conference Committee of one hundred of the Board of Trade that they are "all agreed that the present system of taxation is vicious and iniquitous," then, surely, it is time something was stirring. Toronto has, to say the least, its full share

of people possessed of an inordinate reverence for antiquity, or at any rate anxious to preserve the existing order because of special benefits and advantages they derive therefrom. When a hundred representatives of the Board of Trade members can be brought to say the present system of taxation is vicious and iniquitous, let anyone who thinks nothing is wrong look well to his sanity. Just how wrong is the way Toronto taxes its citizens and neglects to tax the land values may be seen at a glance. In 1909 land value in Toronto was placed at \$86,000,000. By 1912 the land value had increased to \$201,000,000, or 234 per cent. of its value three years before.

Believers in Proportional Representation will be encouraged to learn that the British House of Commons passed an amendment adopting this principle by a majority of 230. The clause, it is true, is only a minor provision of the Home Rule Bill, but the large majority it received shows the progress being made by Proportional Representation. Sir A. Mond moved to amend the Government Home Rule Bill by providing that in any constituency which returned three or four members to the Irish House of Commons the election should be held along Proportional Representation lines and each elector should have one transferable vote. John Redmond and Premier Asquith both accepted the amendment as being more just to all classes in this particular instance, at any rate.

The naval policies and the way they have been produced give a good indication of the amount of independent thought among the representatives of the people in Parliament. The members of the Conservative party did not know anything about the policy of the government until Mr. Borden announced it in the House. The Liberal members did not know anything about the Liberal policy at that time but they knew that it was their duty to oppose it. That is a part of the game. Then the leaders of the Liberal party worked out a "policy" for a navy and every Liberal member was at once in favor of it. The two policies are the work of a dozen men in the two parties and the balance of the members have simply joined in behind their leaders like little men, regardless of the interests of the people who elected them.

It has come to our notice that some persons are taking subscriptions to The Guide at less than \$1.00 per year. We wish to state that no person has any authority to take subscriptions at less than \$1.00 per year and that any taken at a lower rate will not be placed on our subscription list. We would be glad to know the name of any person who is cutting the price in this way.

The Dominion Parliament has given the first reading to a bill introduced by George Bradbury, M.P. for Selkirk, making it an offence to use the Union Jack for advertising or any other purpose calculated to bring the national emblem into disrepute. Why not make flag-waving by politicians at election times for party capital subject to punishment?

If the grain growers in their annual conventions were to divide into two parties, each interested in trying to elect themselves to office, they would get about as much done as do the politicians. There would be just as much sense in the grain growers acting in this manner as there is in the blind partizanship of the politicians.

The surest method of getting a Canadian government to oppose any legislation is to have the opposition party in favor of it. That is how our Canadian democracy works.