

on the battlefield and he rewards his soldiers according to merit. Merit is the amount of support given to the government. The senate, the cabinet, the Canadian judiciary, and the civil service all possess abundant and magnificent opportunities with which to reward the faithful. To gain any of these plums from Sir Wilfrid's gift box a man must be of his political way of thinking. Perhaps Sir Wilfrid cannot be blamed when our system of party politics renders it necessary for him to use every effort to keep himself in power. But it does not seem hardly right that a man's ability and fitness for public office should be measured by his blind devotion to a political leader.

Democracy is supposed to be the rule of the people but in Canada it isn't. It is an absolute rule by one man, and he is a very able man. Although we cannot believe that all he does is in the best interests of Canada, however, as long as party politics is the system by which our country is governed, able men will rise as dictators. Sir Wilfrid's personal popularity is remarkable, and his diplomacy and personal magnetism are two of the factors which render him, through his position, a great man. His government has done a great deal for Canada, but the agricultural interests have not been protected and attended to as have the other great interests. In order to hold absolute power it is necessary to keep the agricultural classes as far as possible in subjection and ignorant of the great public questions of the day. If every elector in Canada were well educated on public matters there would never be such conditions as exist in Canada under party politics. Improvements will come but it will take some time, and the process will be through education.

#### DIFFERENT WAYS OF LOOKING AT IT

Some time ago we sent out a letter asking Western members of the House of Commons to give us, for publication, their views upon four subjects of paramount importance to Western farmers. We did not want these views for THE GUIDE's information alone, but that the farmers of the West might know the feeling of their representatives. Many of the members replied most frankly and their replies were greatly appreciated by the farmers. Some did not care to discuss the questions. The latest letter we have received is from W. M. Martin, M. P., of Regina, as follows:

"With reference to your communication asking me for my opinion on certain very important subjects, I desire to state that I cannot comply with your request. I am willing to discuss these questions at any time before the people to whom I am responsible, but do not believe in publishing my opinions in the newspapers.

(Signed) W. M. MARTIN.

While Mr. Martin has a perfect right to this attitude we cannot agree with him that it is a proper course for him to pursue. The subjects upon which we asked his opinion he admits were very important. He realizes that at the present juncture the Western farmers are very anxious to know what their members think. Mr. Martin in discussing these matters with his own constituents would be doing them a distinct benefit, but such a thing is impossible. In no way could he put his views before all the farmers in his constituency except by letter or by publishing them in a paper. Mr. Martin's whole duty is not confined to his own constituency, but to his country as well. These problems that we have placed before the Western members were national in their scope, and every member who has the interest of the whole country at heart could not do better than to tell the country where he stands. We submit that Mr. Martin takes too narrow a view of the matter and we believe a healthier tone would be given to our Canadian politics if our members were more free in giving their views to the public at other than election time, when people are too excited to think about them.

#### WESTERN TARIFF VIEWS

The subject of the tariff has been very prominent before our readers recently. The farmers' organizations are unanimous in urging that the tariff be reduced and that the offer of United States for free trade in farm implements be accepted. With the exception of Mr. Sifton the Western members of the House of Commons who have expressed their views are all in favor of a lower tariff. In view of this the prospects are good to have the tariff revised downwards. We have a number of able Federal members in the West whose views carry weight at Ottawa no matter on which side of the speaker they may be seated. These members are giving more attention than ever to the problems of the agricultural classes in the West. It is right that they should do so. With the farmers and the members practically all in favor of a lower tariff it would seem difficult for protectionists to maintain the present extortionate system of tariff which is framed for the benefit of manufacturers in the east. The farmers are willing and glad to bear their full share of the expenses of running the public business of Canada, but have a legitimate objection to being taxed unduly for the support of manufacturing institutions that pay attractive dividends to their shareholders. If all the revenue taken from the pockets of farmers by the tariff went into the treasury of the Dominion government then the tariff would not be the instrument of extortion that it is. But such is not the case. The contention that the foreigner pays the tariff does not hold good. When a high tariff is placed on a manufactured article it stops to a great extent the importation of those articles, while the Canadian manufacturers of that article add the amount of the tariff to the legitimate charge for such an article. In these cases the farmer or other consumer pays the whole burden of the tariff but the revenue from this tax does not go into the public treasury. It all goes to the treasury of the manufacturers. This is what the farmers object to. Tariff for revenue where necessary is not objectionable but protection is robbery of the producers.

#### TIMES ARE CHANGING

The time is fast approaching when the hum of the binder will be heard throughout the West. True, the crop will be a light one in most cases, but it must be harvested just the same. What a change in the face of nature in the West in the past twenty years. There are many people living yet in this country who recall the days of the buffaloes before the railways had come. It is a strange thought to those of us who are younger and who have more recently come to live here. But the history of the past and the advancement that has been made is only what the brain of man is accomplishing the world over. Despite what Providence has done for this country the brain and hand of man have brought about remarkable changes for which Nature had prepared the ground. First came the railways and connected the prairie with the rest of Canada. The people began to come and the wheat began to grow. The steam plow and the eight-foot self-binder followed on. The former stamping and feeding ground for millions of buffalo began to blossom. Who did it? It was the men who had the courage to come here as pioneers. By their work they proved Western Canada to be rich in natural resources beyond the wildest dreams of eastern prophets. But even though we have railways and the farmer has every latest bit of machinery to facilitate the handling of his crop, yet the end is not yet. The rural telephone which was unthought of a few years ago is now a reality. The farmer on his land is now very close to the news of the markets. There is still great room for advancement and the next ten years will see equal advances with the last decade. Rural mail delivery will give every

farmer a mail delivered at his door and will thus place him more closely in touch with the news of the world. Now the inventors tell us that wireless telephones and telegraphs will be common in a few years. We can only hope so and look ahead to it. A wise man now a-days never doubts anything the inventor may tell him. If he tells us that in the future we will burn the gases of the air for our fuel we will not tell him it cannot be. Thus the changes come and we must keep abreast of the times. The farmers of the West are probably ahead of those of most other parts of the world in courage and enterprise. We will see them take advantage of their opportunities as they come.

#### THE EXHIBITION SEASON

Now is the season of the year when fairs are being held all over the West. These fairs are most valuable institutions to the country. They are of great educational value, and they are also of great convenience to the farmers who wish to inspect various manufactured goods and compare them with others. They also form an incentive to stockmen to send good exhibits and this is a great benefit to the industry generally. At the big city fairs the farmers have opportunities to study the advancement of the world along practically all lines. They are great educators. It is also a splendid holiday season. A few days spent at the fair combine to furnish to a farmer probably more real benefit than any other similar time during the year. The children enjoy the circus that accompanies the fair, and the horse racing is not the least important part of the program. One feature of which the West may well be proud is that as a rule these fairs are clean and wholesome and no questionable attractions are allowed upon the grounds. Improvements might still be made by eliminating some of the fakirs and hawkers who pester visitors at the fair, to purchase what they do not want, and annoy them by their continual hubbub.

Sir Wilfrid will no doubt be weary before the Western farmers have completed their case before him at the various meeting points in the three provinces. But this cannot be helped and it should be remembered that Sir Wilfrid has tired the farmers by his treatment of the tariff and the Hudson's Bay Road.

Co-operation is the keynote of the phenomenal success of the farmers' movement in the West. Co-operation will be the cornerstone of all the future work that the farmers may accomplish.

The eyes of the world are watching the Grain Growers' Grain Company. Never before have farmers taken hold of their own business in the way that the Western farmers have done so successfully.

The grain growers find that by handling their grain through their own company they get better prices and save the big profits that formerly went to the elevator men.

There is no reason why the Grain Growers' Grain Company should not develop so that it will handle the bulk of the farmers' grain in the West.

Old Sol has taken a heavy toll off of the farmers of the West. We can't get back at him as we can at the elevator combine.

The farmers of the West have the future in their own hands. They can make this country a farmers' paradise if they are determined.