

and so make the cost of manufacturing and of manufactured goods lower. It would also compel railway companies and other franchise corporations to contribute to the public revenues. The term "land," as used by the advocates of the taxation of land values, includes all natural resources, water powers, mining rights, railway right-of-ways, and so forth, and under the taxation of land values, corporations, such as railways, which own public franchises, would be required to pay a tax on the value of that franchise which, like the value of land, increases as population increases and as the community makes progress.

DIRECT LEGISLATION REFERENDUM

November 27, 1913, will be an important day in the history of Saskatchewan. On that day the voters will decide whether or not their province shall take a big step toward a more perfect democracy, by adopting Direct Legislation. As most of our readers are, no doubt, aware, the Saskatchewan Legislature, at its last session, passed a Direct Legislation bill embodying the Initiative and the Referendum. Under this bill, if and when it becomes effective, the people of Saskatchewan will be enabled to frame laws and present them by petition to the legislature for enactment. It will also enable the people, with certain restrictions, to require bills passed by the legislature to be submitted to the vote of the people before going into effect. Direct Legislation, in fact, will give the people control over their elected representatives, and will make legislators the servants instead of the masters of the people who elect them and pay their salaries. It was provided in the law passed at the last session of the Saskatchewan legislature, however, that the Direct Legislation bill should not go into force until it had itself been submitted to the people and approved by them in a referendum vote, which was a perfectly reasonable provision. The vote is to be taken throughout the province on Thursday, November 27, and if a simple majority would decide the question there would be little doubt of the bill being put into effect. It is provided, however, that, in order to carry, the bill must not only have a majority of the votes cast, but it must be supported by a vote equal to 30 per cent. of the number of names on the voters' list prepared for the provincial elections last year. To get a vote of that size will be no easy task, and will require a lot of hard work on the part of the active supporters of Direct Legislation. Members of the Grain Growers' Association, which has repeatedly declared for Direct Legislation, will, no doubt, take a leading part in the campaign, and we cannot too strongly urge upon readers of The Guide the importance of putting their shoulders to the wheel to help forward the cause of Democracy by securing a large vote. Even though the 30 per cent. called for by the act is not secured, it is likely that if a large majority is recorded the legislature will make the bill effective, and supporters of Direct Legislation need not, therefore, be discouraged by the difficulty of getting out such a large proportion of the vote. The executive of the Saskatchewan Direct Legislation League has passed the following resolution:

"Whereas, at the last session of the Provincial Legislature an act was passed providing for the inauguration of the principles of Direct Legislation through the Initiative and Referendum,

"And whereas, a proclamation is being issued for the taking of a vote of the electors of the province on the said act on November 27 next,

"And whereas, all organizations interested in enlarging the powers of the people over legislation are finding this method most effective and are awaiting an opportunity to apply it, as is evidenced by appeals to our organization for information as to time, place and method,

"Therefore, be it resolved, by this meeting of the executive of the Saskatchewan Direct Legislation League, that a call be made to all

Grain Growers' Associations, Trades and Labor Councils, Ministerial Associations and Social and Moral Reform Leagues, together with all other allied or interested organizations, to co-operate with this League in arousing the people of the province, to the end that a decisive vote may be secured in favor of the act which is to be submitted to the people of the province on November 27."

As we have said before, the Saskatchewan Direct Legislation Bill is capable of considerable improvement, but, nevertheless, it embodies the principle which is aimed at, and there is no doubt that by making it effective the people of Saskatchewan will place themselves in a much better position to secure good legislation and prevent the passage of laws of which they do not approve.

FARMERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the resolutions passed by the Canadian Council of Agriculture in session at Regina, on Oct. 24. There were present at that meeting the chief executive officers of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and the United Farmers of Alberta, and the resolutions passed have the backing of the three great provincial organizations. The Canadian Council was wise in deciding to make representations to the Dominion Government on behalf of the Western farmers, and we believe that these representations cannot be made too early nor too vigorously. The Dominion Government has already made a considerable step towards public ownership and operation of terminal elevators and in the erection of internal storage elevators. The organized farmers have repeatedly declared that they cannot have confidence in the operation of the terminal elevators at the lake front so long as they are in private hands. Those most deeply interested in the marketing of grain are the farmers who produce it, and their views should carry most weight in the question of the establishment of a sample market. They have declared repeatedly that they do not want to see a sample market established in Winnipeg until such time as the terminal elevators are taken out of private hands and operated by the government. The leaders of the organized farmers have studied the sample market question and have seen the sample market in operation in many places. They are, therefore, not speaking without knowledge. It will be most unwise for the government to force a sample market at Winnipeg against the best interests of the grain growers. There is no need of haste in this matter and the Dominion Government would be better advised to remove the duty on wheat and flour and thus open the American market to Canadian wheat. This would enable Canadian grain to be sold on the Minneapolis sample market and give the Western Canadian farmers actual experience in the operation of a sample market.

The Canadian Council, in dealing with the questions of weights in elevators, co-operation and the tariff, were voicing the feeling of the farmers on the prairies. It is most necessary that the jurisdiction of the Board of Grain Commissioners be extended over the elevators east of Fort William and also that they have full charge of weights in all the elevators in Canada. The Department of Inland Revenue has nothing to do with the grain trade and, therefore, should not have anything to do with the weighing of the grain, which is of such vital importance to every producer. Premier Borden, on his western tour, gave a definite promise that he would have a satisfactory co-operative bill enacted and the Canadian Council are merely asking him to fulfil his promise. A federal bill would have advantages over three separate provincial co-operative enactments, as it would provide uniformity of business management and operation.

The tariff resolution passed by the Cana-

dian Council is very moderate in its tone and demand. The United Farmers of Alberta at their last convention, and also the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, declared for free trade, and both organizations have been pushing the free trade propaganda. The farmers of Western Canada as a whole are in favor of free trade and opposed entirely to the protective system. They have not arrived at this conclusion without careful study. They are better informed upon the tariff question and the results of protection than any other similar number of people in Canada. They realize that a protective tariff cannot be of any use to this country and that it is merely a burden upon their shoulders. When the Canadian Council goes to Ottawa to place the Farmers' Bill of Rights before the government they will receive the support of the farmers all over the three Prairie Provinces. It would be a splendid thing if arrangements could be made by which the Canadian Council delegates, when they arrive at Ottawa could be supported by the farmers in a tangible manner.

A FRANK ADMISSION

When the new U.S. tariff bill was in conference and there was a possibility that wheat and flour would be placed unconditionally on the free list, the American millers were seriously alarmed and strong representations were made on their behalf to President Wilson and the conferees. In a telegram to President Wilson, William C. Edgar, in behalf of the American millers, declared that they were prepared for reciprocal free trade in flour between Canada and the United States, but they objected to Canadian millers having free access to the American market, while American flour was barred from Canada by a duty of 60 cents a barrel. Under these conditions, the telegram stated, "Canadian millers can maintain high prices in their home markets and sacrifice values in our markets, making a handsome profit on the transaction." This is a frank admission on the part of a protected industry that the tariff is used to exploit the home consumer and give an advantage to residents of foreign countries. It is, perhaps fortunate for Canada that Congress imposed countervailing duties on wheat and flour, because the strong probability is that, in order to open the American market to our wheat and flour the Canadian parliament will remove the duty from United States wheat and flour, and so bring about competition between the millers on both sides of the line.

How long is Canadian public life to be disgraced by charges of wholesale corruption after every by-election? Sir Wilfrid Laurier openly charges that the government won the constituency of Chateaugay, Quebec, a few days ago by means of fraud and corruption, and The Toronto News deems it a sufficient answer to retort that the Liberals spent dollar for dollar with the Conservatives. Meantime the people are wondering what has become of Mr. Borden's Halifax platform (August 28, 1907) which expressly promised "to prevent the accumulation of campaign funds for corrupt purposes and to prohibit contributions thereto by corporations, contractors and promoters." All campaign contributions must be published before the people can tell whether the legislation fathered by politicians is not simply a return for the sinews of war supplied at election times.

A bill has been passed by the Alberta Legislature under which a tax of 5 per cent. is imposed on the profits of real estate speculators. This is a move in the right direction, but it is letting the speculators off too lightly. The public create the increase in value, but still they will only take 5 per cent. and leave the speculator 95 per cent.

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