

# The Brain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, March 31st, 1915

From today henceforth the subscription price of The Guide is \$1.50 per year. Subscriptions actually mailed to us not later than March 31 will be received at the old rate of \$1.00 per year, or \$2.00 for three years. All subscriptions mailed on or after April 1 will be credited at \$1.50 per year, or in that proportion.

## POLITICAL PURITY

The air is full of charges and counter-charges of political corruption both in federal and provincial politics. Undoubtedly many of the charges that are made are true, while, of course, there are the usual number of false charges made purely for political purposes. Graft and corruption have been rampant in Canadian politics for a great many years. The politicians themselves are to blame for a great deal of the corruption, and the graft is about equally divided between the two old parties. But there is a great deal of the blame attachable to the individual electors all over the country. They have not done their share towards cleaning our politics. The time is ripe for a campaign for political purity, and the place to begin such a campaign is right at home among the voters in every neighborhood. If the voters themselves will cease their blind allegiance to the two political parties and stand for political purity and a square deal regardless of party, we can soon have strong, intelligent and incorruptible men in our legislatures and parliament, and the undesirable ones can be relegated to private life. We have, beyond a doubt, a number of honest men in our legislatures and in parliament today, but they are surrounded by conditions which render it practically impossible for them to do otherwise than line up with their party when the whip cracks. Let us free these men and give them full opportunity to represent the people. We have some dishonest men in politics. Let us get rid of them. In the Manitoba Legislature there is one independent member, F. J. Dixon, representing Centre Winnipeg. Mr. Dixon was elected by the efforts of men and women who wanted an independent member with democratic views to represent them. His election expenses were provided by those interested in the cause for which Mr. Dixon stood. He was not asked to pay his own election expenses, nor was he asked to contribute to baseball clubs, hockey clubs, church building funds, nor any such petty grafts that are worked upon too many candidates, nor did he accept any support from the campaign funds of either political party. He stands today as a free and independent man, and he had the largest majority ever polled by any provincial candidate in the province of Manitoba. If the farmers in the West are ready to elect men to the House of Commons, under the same conditions, the time is ripe to strike a blow for democracy and a square deal.

## REVENUE OR PROTECTION?

A number of concessions in regard to the recent increase in the tariff have been announced by Hon. W. T. White. Some of these reductions are made in response to public

opinion while others are prompted by the demand of business interests which are especially affected. The articles affected include: bananas, coffee, platinum, milk foods for hospitals and infants, fertilizers, wines and spirits, and patent medicines, all of which are either wholly or partially exempted from the extra charges at first imposed by the new budget. During the budget debate there was a good deal of contention between the government and the opposition as to whether the increased taxes were imposed for the purpose of protection or revenue, the opposition endeavoring to prove that the chief purpose of raising the duty would be to give more protection to Canadian industries, while the government maintained stoutly that their only object was to increase the revenue of the country without giving any particular advantage to the manufacturers. The concessions which the Finance Minister has now made are very illuminating on this point. The first exemption which he mentioned was bananas, on which he had imposed a tax of 7½ per cent., which has now been removed. There is no banana industry in Canada seeking protection, and the duty upon bananas would, therefore, have been entirely a revenue one. Coffee, which is also exempted from the additional tax, is another article not produced in Canada and one on which the duty would be imposed for revenue only. Tea is not taxed, either by the old tariff or the new, altho if revenue were the object desired, it is one of those things on which a very considerable amount of taxes could be raised. We realize, of course, that duty upon these articles would increase the cost of food, and we do not wish to be understood as being in favor of taxes either upon food or any of the other necessities of life. But the fact that these articles which are not produced in Canada are exempted from duty, while sugar, canned goods, fruit and other kinds of food which are produced in this country are heavily taxed, makes it very clear that protection, and not revenue, was the main purpose of the government and of previous governments, in framing the tariff. The exception always proves the rule, and the exemption of fertilizers from the increased tax comes under that head. Mr. White made the statement that fertilizers had been restored to the free list in order to assist the campaign of the Department of Agriculture for increased production on the part of the farmers. Mr. White is to be congratulated on his decision in this regard and we would suggest that he applies the same reasoning to the duties on agricultural implements, lumber, fence wire and everything else which the farmers must buy in order to carry out the advice which the government is giving to improve their methods of cultivation, to increase their flocks and herds and to increase their production of food stuffs of every kind during the war.

## WHERE MANITOBA LEADS

In the last issue of The Guide our readers will have noticed an article dealing with the Sale of Shares Act of Manitoba, which we would suggest is well worthy of imitation in the other provinces of Canada. Under this act any company wishing to sell

its stock to the public in Manitoba must first of all submit its affairs to the investigation of the Public Utilities Commissioner of the province and satisfy him that it is organized in a fair and proper manner, that it proposes to transact a legitimate business, and that it is likely to produce a fair return for its shareholders. It was this act which kept the Calgary oil boomers from exploiting the worthless stock of their imaginary oil wells among the people of Manitoba. A similar law would have saved millions of dollars to people in every walk of life in Alberta and Saskatchewan and the Eastern Provinces and the governments of these provinces would do a wise and prudent thing if they would take a leaf out of Manitoba's book in this respect. The fact that bogus stock-selling grafters cannot now operate in Manitoba has driven some of these gentry to Saskatchewan and Alberta, and this makes it all the more necessary that the other provinces should take steps to protect themselves.

A Public Utilities Act is now proposed for Alberta, and the bill has been introduced in the Legislature, but the details so far published do not indicate whether or not the commission to be appointed will have control over the sale of shares. If not, it would certainly be wise for the Alberta government to add the necessary clauses.

In Manitoba the administration of this act is in particularly able hands, and Alberta will be fortunate if it secures commissioners possessing the ability, impartiality and courage which have been exhibited by Hon. H. A. Robson, K.C., in the discharge of the difficult duties of the Public Utilities Commissioner for Manitoba.

## RAILWAY PASSES

In the efforts being made to bring about higher standards in our public life, one good step towards this end would be to abolish the use and abuse of railway passes. Up until five or six years ago the members of the House of Commons and Senate travelled about Canada on passes presented to them by the railway companies. These passes were presented by the railway companies with the expectation that those who used them would consider the railway companies favorably in dealing with legislation before the Canadian Parliament. The situation was found dangerous, however, and now every member of parliament has a pass over all the railways of Canada, issued by the clerk of the House of Commons, and is, therefore, not under any obligation whatever to the railway companies. We presume, however, that a great many members still receive passes from the railway companies for their wives and families. The members of the local provincial legislatures in Canada still receive passes from the railway companies. This practice should be abolished. Provincial legislators should receive government passes or an indemnity sufficient to allow them to travel over their own province. So long as railway passes and other favors are extended to lawmakers and newspaper editors it is not possible to have full and frank discussion on our railway questions. In the United States passes are absolutely prohibited by law, and no one,