

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, June 30th, 1915

DOMINION DAY

Forty-eight years ago tomorrow, on the first day of July, 1867, the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick became the Dominion of Canada. Since that time Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan have joined the confederation and today the Dominion reaches from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the 49th parallel and the Great Lakes to the Polar Seas. As Dominion day is celebrated on the first of July each year, it would be well for us to look back over the past twelve months and take stock of what the Dominion and its people have done that is worthy of record during the year. Since last Dominion day the calamity of a terrible war has fallen upon the world, and this has given Canada an opportunity to demonstrate her strength and her manhood by sending upwards of 75,000 of her sons across the seas to defend the Empire and to uphold the principles of justice and humanity. The year has also seen a change in the attitude of the people towards political corruption and public opinion has insisted upon the exposure of those in high and low places who have been guilty of betraying the trust reposed in them by the people. It has seen, too, a wave of temperance sentiment passing over the country and the Province of Saskatchewan will celebrate Dominion day by closing, we hope for ever, the bar-rooms of the province. If every province of the Dominion would celebrate Dominion Day in some such way as this each year, Canada would indeed soon be justly entitled to call itself "The home of the brave and the land of the free."

MANITOBA'S POLITICAL MESS

Day by day, as the probe goes into the political scandal in Manitoba, the signs of corruption and graft increase. More prominent people are being implicated daily and it looks now as tho some of the men "higher up" feel themselves in danger. The latest sensation is the charge made by the private Conservative members of the legislature that the new government, or at least some members of it, have been guilty of graft and corruption by accepting or agreeing to accept \$50,000 to withdraw election protests and ease up on the investigation of the parliament buildings graft. The government has already appointed a new royal commission to investigate this counter charge. The people of Manitoba will certainly expect this new charge to be investigated to the limit and if the Norris government or any of its members are shown to be guilty of this political crime, they should be put where they belong—into obscurity. The Manitoba people are tired of graft and political crookedness and it will go hard for any politician who is exposed as a crook no matter whether he be Grit or Tory. One of the extraordinary things about the new exposure is that the Winnipeg Telegram is demanding that the Governor-General, the Duke of Connaught, appoint a commission to do the investigating. If the Norris government had refused to appoint an efficient commission with wide powers, it would then certainly be time for the Dominion government to take action, but until the Manitoba government refuses to do its duty by providing for a thorough probe, the Governor-General would be well advised to keep his hands off. If the Liberal government is guilty of accepting bribes, then those who were the bribers were the political operators of the Winnipeg Telegram. So no matter whether the charge is true or false the Telegram in decency should not make so much noise. And right here

we would point out, lest it might be forgotten, that the Winnipeg Telegram has repeatedly stooped to the dirtiest of tactics to injure the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association and the Grain Growers' Guide. The Telegram is now preaching purity when only a few months ago it was vigorously defending its political proprietors who have been exposed as political crooks. The Winnipeg Telegram has a most unsavory record and its preaching of purity now will not go down very well with those who have known its record in the past. It would be splendid work in behalf of political purity to have one of the royal commissions investigate the ownership and financial backing of the Winnipeg Telegram. The public would then know who it is who paid for the miserable dirty attacks on the Grain Growers' Association and how much of the public money has been misused in supporting this disreputable journal. Let the investigators probe go deep into the Winnipeg Telegram so that we may learn the truth.

FLAX SHIPMENTS PROTECTED

Flax shippers will be glad to learn that the railway commission issued an order on June 21 compelling all railway companies to accept the responsibility for leakage in flax cars. In order to place this responsibility upon the railways it will be necessary for the shipper to pay a charge of \$2.00, which is the cost of a paper lining for flax cars. After this charge of \$2.00 is paid by the shipper the railway company will then be forced to deliver the same amount of flax as they receive or pay for the shortage. Since October the 12th, 1914, the C. P. R. has only accepted flax shipments at owners' risk of leakage, claiming the flax was a fluid grain and therefore extremely liable to leakage. The new order of the Grain Commission will place flax shippers on the same basis as other grain shippers upon payment of \$2.00, the charge specified in the order. The C. P. R. should have been big enough to make such a reasonable regulation itself long ago instead of being forced into it by the railway commission.

WHICH PARTY?

The Toronto Globe does not look with favor upon the movement among the farmers of the West towards the nomination and election of Independent farmer members to the Dominion parliament. The Globe admits that our political life has been dominated by the fantastic notion that agriculture depends for success on the growth of big cities, and that "out of this remarkable confusion of the sustaining with the depending class has grown the policy of doubly taxing the farmer to make a market for him," but suggests that "if the farmers are growing dissatisfied over their position of burden bearers for dependent industries, they will find it more effective to ally themselves with the established party that has always advocated equality before the law." The Globe unfortunately does not give us the name of the party that it recommends the farmers to support and looking back over the history of Canada for the past forty years, we must confess that we are unable to discover what party is referred to. We take it for granted that the Globe is not advising the farmers to ally themselves with the Conservative party, which placed the burden of the so-called "National Policy" upon the farmers and other producers; neither can we believe that the Globe refers to the Liberal party, which continued that same National Policy practically unchanged during the fifteen years of power which it enjoyed between 1896 and 1911. There is just one

possibility and that is that the party believing in equality before the law is the Labor party, represented at Ottawa by a single member, Alphonse Verville, the member for Maisonneuve, Montreal. We understand that Mr. Verville does believe in equality before the law and we have no doubt that when the farmers of the West send men to Ottawa who will truly represent them, they will co-operate with the Labor party in endeavoring to establish Free Trade and to destroy Special Privilege in every form.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR

Experts who can read between the lines assert that the brief official reports issued by the French War Office telling of the capture of a trench here and the occupation of a hill there indicate that a great battle of prime importance is proceeding at the south-eastern end of General Joffre's line. The French have been making slow but steady progress in the neighborhood of Arras and Souchez during the last week and they appear to be getting into a position from which to start the "big drive" that the world has been looking for since the opening of spring. Meanwhile the British, including the Canadian contingent, reinforced by fresh drafts, are keeping the Germans busy and incidentally taking a trench or two occasionally at the other end of the line, while the Russians, tho they have lost Lemberg which they captured from the Austrians last fall, are still full of fight and now barring the road against the advancing enemy. That the Allies are far from having their full strength in the field is shown by the immense number of soldiers in training in every part of Great Britain. Many battalions which were raised immediately after the outbreak of war and which are by this time ready to do duty anywhere, are still training in England. Apparently they are being held in reserve awaiting a favorable moment and a sufficient supply of guns, ammunition and other supplies, before being launched in a tremendous attack designed to drive the Germans out of France and Belgium.

Lloyd George's campaign for a great increase in the production of munitions is already bearing fruit. Before using the compulsory powers which have been conferred upon him he has given the working-men one week in which to enlist for service in the "factory line," asking every skilled man to volunteer his services, pledging himself to work full time in the munition factories and to go wherever he is required. A big response is being made to this appeal and there is no doubt that the result will speedily be seen in a large increase in the munitions of war necessary to give the highest possible efficiency to the men in the trenches.

A LESSON OF THE TIMES

Ever since The Guide came into existence seven years ago and began to advocate progressive measures and square deal legislation it has been a target of attack from all those quarters controlled by Special Privilege as well as by those who believe in "let well enough alone." Even among the farmers in Western Canada, for whose benefit The Guide was brought into existence and for whose benefit it has been published, there has been some criticism. The events of the past two years, however, have proven conclusively to any fair minded person that there is need and abundant need for the reforms which The Guide and the organized farmers have continually advocated. Some of these reforms are already being given effect to, while others cannot now be long