

ing support in their demand for free trade. The legislation regulating the grain trade has been amended by the representation of the farmers through their organization until the grain trade has been revolutionized. And as a result of this legislation, and the grain growers themselves being in the field with their own companies, the profits of the middlemen have been reduced by from \$30 to \$100 per carload upon grain in the past few years. The recent reduction of 20 per cent. in express rates would never have been made if the organized farmers had not joined in with other Western interests and demanded it, and we are quite positive that if the farmers cease their "agitation" there will be no reduction in freight rates, and neither will there be any reduction in the rates of interest charged by banks, mortgage companies and machinery companies. The Co-operative Banking Bill now before the House of Commons is another result of farmers' "agitation." But for the farmers' "agitation" the Hudson Bay Railway would long ago have been given to Mackenzie and Mann and probably the Intercolonial also. Another achievement of the organized farmers which has never been approached in any other place in the world is the development of their own journal, until it has reached the premier place among the agricultural journals in this country.

We consider that the work of the organized farmers who began their "agitation" only ten years ago, is the brightest page in the history of Western Canada, and is something to inspire every man and woman, young or old, with a deep respect for their own calling and capabilities. Today the organization of farmers in the three provinces has reached the place where it is no longer laughed at nor scoffed at, but commands the very deepest respect (and, of course, arouses intense antagonism in some cases) in every quarter of Canada. In the business field the organized farmers must continue their efforts because in that way they make themselves strong and capable and well versed in business affairs, but they must never cease to "agitate" until justice is secured. We have just reached the place with our organization where we have the power to accomplish great results. This power must be increased through education and organization, and it must be placed in the hands of wise and capable men and used with the utmost discretion. If each one does his part honestly and earnestly nothing can prevent the organization as a whole accomplishing the great work it has before it.

### LITTLE HOPE AT OTTAWA

In the debate on the budget last week Mr. White, finance minister, Herbert B. Ames, W. F. Cockshutt and some other high protectionists took the stand that it was all right to tax the people so long as they could stand it. They also talked about the prosperity of the country, despite the fact that there is more poverty in Canada than ever before in its history. Some of them even prated about the abundant prosperity of the western farmers when, as a matter of fact, the past year has been one of the hardest in the west and farmers by the hundreds are being forced off the land by the economic burdens imposed upon them.

These gentlemen seem blind to the fact that the agricultural development of Canada is being injured seriously by this system of giving everything to the railways, banks and manufacturers. They say the country is prosperous because they have \$55,000,000 surplus revenue, yet if they put the screws on tighter we have no doubt that another \$10,000,000 could have been squeezed out of the people, and, according to Mr. White's theory of economics, the country would have been still more prosperous. Mr. White claims that the way to make a man grow prosperous is to squeeze him just as hard

as he can stand it. This is also the principle upon which the Canadian Manufacturers' Association works. Mr. Borden has forgotten all about his plausible promises of a tariff commission and a "scientific tariff." It is evidently less of a mental strain and more satisfactory from a party standpoint to let the Manufacturers' Association arrange the tariff.

A. K. McLean led in the criticism of the budget for the Opposition, protested against extravagance and talked about reduced taxation, but, of course, he did not press very vigorously, as Mr. McLean is a decided protectionist. The Liberal speakers, naturally, could not make any effective argument against the tariff because it was their own child blossoming into vicious manhood that they were criticizing. For 15 years the Liberals allowed the manufacturers to make the tariff laws and now their sins are cast up against them. It is strange that both the Conservatives and Liberals when in opposition are great friends of the people and keen for tariff reduction, but once they get into power they simply register the wishes of the Manufacturers' Association. The Liberal party had their opportunity to increase the British Preference at the time of the reciprocity agreement, and had they done so they would still have been in power. But they chose rather to try to ride both horses and to play into the hands of the manufacturers, with the result that they fell. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in the House of Commons last week declared himself a free trader. If he is a free trader we wonder what would be his description of a protectionist. The Liberal party won strong support from the western farmers because of the reciprocity agreement, which in itself was an admirable measure, but it was not by any means justice. But now the Liberals might as well make up their minds that it is time for them to get a tariff policy that will provide some relief to the public. If they intend to talk free trade or tariff reduction while in opposition, and then betray the people to the manufacturers as soon as they get into power, as they did in 1896, the longer they stay in opposition the better. It is time for the Liberal party at Ottawa to arouse and wake up to the fact that the public want something definite on these economic questions, and they should also remember that they have to live down the betrayal of 1896.

Day by day the possibility of securing a square deal from either of the old parties seems more remote. The only time that they seem inclined to listen to the people is when in opposition. There is an ever-growing feeling in the Prairie Provinces that some independent action must be taken if the voice of the farmers is to be heard on the floor of Parliament. The western farmers have been bamboozled by politicians for a long time but we believe they are getting their eyes opened and we also believe that there will be a rude awakening coming to the politicians within a very few years, as the western farmers become more fully alive to their own needs.

### MADE-IN-CANADA TRAIN

The "Made-in-Canada Train" passed through Winnipeg last week, and while in the city was visited by R. C. Henders, president of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, as well as by the editor and several members of the staff of The Grain Growers' Guide. The exhibit is a nice one, but does not seem as representative as that of last year. We presume that a number of those who exhibited last year found that it was unprofitable and have not continued. We notice that there is no card this year explaining the capitalization and the wages paid by any of the industries. Our readers will remember that last year by their own figures we convicted some of the protected industries of

paying starvation wages. This is an unfortunate omission on their part because these protected industries should all have a statement accompanying their exhibit, showing how much actual cash there is invested in their business, how much watered stock, how much protection they get from the tariff and at what price they sell their goods in foreign countries. This would be very interesting information to have. If the protected manufacturers are wise they will not send any more "Made-in-Canada" trains out through this country as long as the tariff controversy continues, because it merely makes their case weaker year by year, and from a practical standpoint does not bring them any return. We advise every farmer to have a look at the train, because they will have to pay for it anyway.

### COCKSHUTT AND THE TARIFF

W. F. Cockshutt, M.P., as usual, stood up for the manufacturers during the budget debate, and had the nerve to declare that agricultural implements sold cheaper in Canada than in any other part of the world except United States. Yet at the same time he must have known that the Cockshutt Company, of which he is a shareholder, sells its farm machinery cheaper for foreign shipment than when it is to be used by Canadian farmers. Mr. Cockshutt must know that the tariff law is specially arranged so that in addition to all the protection given by the tariff the manufacturers are actually allowed to put their hands into the public treasury and get a bonus upon goods they sell to foreigners. Part of this bonus was no doubt in Mr. Cockshutt's pockets in the way of dividends at the same time that he was making his patriotic plea for the downtrodden manufacturers of agricultural implements. We fancy that Dr. Schaffner and Arthur Meighen could both give Mr. Cockshutt some pointers on the implement tariff. They are both in favor of tariff reduction and can prove that it is needed.

Russia may be a backward country in some respects, but the co-operative idea has taken firm root. There are 3,700 agricultural societies in Russia and over 800 "agricultural partnerships" for the co-operative sale of produce and the purchase of live stock, farm implements, fertilizers and so forth. Last year there were 7,978 mutual loan or savings banks and credit societies in operation. The number of pupils attending agricultural schools was 15,000 in 1911, while over twice this number took special agricultural courses under scientific direction, and 296,000 attended lectures along the university extension line. Proper training plus co-operation is a good combination, bound to give the farmer better returns for his labor.

Germany has discovered that the Krupps and other manufacturers of war supplies have been selling more cheaply to foreign governments than to their own. That sounds a good deal like the patriotism of the Canadian manufacturers who sell their goods more cheaply to foreigners than to Canadians.

A man in Sherbrooke, Quebec, died the other day leaving in his estate 90,000 shares of mining stock in sixteen different mines. The par value of this stock was \$100,000, but the cash value was only \$464. That is a typical fact which justifies The Guide policy of clean advertising in refusing, among other undesirable matter, any mining stock advertisement.

Have you ever considered what would be an ideal rural community, and how such can be developed? If you don't try to get it, it will never come.

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