

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, July 30th, 1913

NO REPLY FROM C.M.A.

At the time of going to press we have no reply to our invitation to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to debate the tariff question. No doubt in next week's issue we shall be able to announce their acceptance.

FARMERS' PSALM OF LIFE

Lives of farmers all remind us,
They must take their little chance;
And in working get behind them,
Larger patches on their pants.

But if Borden swells the tariff,
As he seems inclined to do,
Soon the farmers will have nothing
For to sew the patches to.

MORE LOBBY EXPOSURE

The lobby investigation by the American Congress has lifted the lid only a little, but plenty far enough to allow an unsavory smell to escape from the political cauldron. Later revelations not only confirm the worst suspicions entertained, but show that the real governing power in the United States has not been the House of Representatives and the Senate, but an invisible government behind these elected representatives. The chief business interests of the nation each had their tried and trusted men in both Houses of Congress. In addition to these, confidential agents of all the big trusts made their headquarters at Washington and took a hand in framing laws to their liking and in amending or killing any bill which opposed their interests. Standard Oil had its lobby, the railways had theirs, likewise the steel trust, the woolen trust, the sugar trust, the tobacco trust, the brewers' trust, the wire trust, the banking trust and every other trust of national importance. A simple recital of the wide sweep of the sugar trust's political action makes a "sweet" story indeed. Not that they are sinners above their fellow-beneficiaries of tariff or other special privileges, but up to the present the Congressional probe has uncovered more of their underground work. A nation-wide campaign for tariff benefits was carried on for years. Some agitation, it is true, was done openly in the light, but the really effective work, the master strokes, were plotted in the dark and carried out in secret. People could see the politicians' movements, but they could not see that it was in response to the pulling of invisible wires centering at the lobby headquarters in Washington. Among the disclosures of the sugar lobby were the careful selection of members of Congress to make speeches prepared by agents of the sugar trust, retaining ex-senators as their special representatives at Washington at large salaries, doctoring statistics presented to Congressional committees, purchasing influential newspapers, arrangements with the Associated Press to send interviews favorable to the sugar people and strenuous electioneering in support of their known friends and against any candidate they could not depend on. Even the 1912 campaign manuals of one of the national parties was prepared by the trust agents. One of the letters from Truman G. Palmer, Washington lobbyist of the United States Beet Sugar Industry Association, confiscated by Congress, contains the following admission: "We are in touch with those who are preparing the Republican campaign book and the sugar question will be handled subject to our approval. In fact, the matter is being furnished by us." In the same letter Palmer tells of having mailed 200,000 pro-sugar

speeches and other literature and goes on to say: "We have made a contract with the Public Service Company for general public work on a basis of \$2,500 a month. These people guarantee the publication of 50,000 lines a month of matter pertaining to the sugar industry." The sugar trust paid Aaron Gove, former superintendent of schools of Denver, \$5,000 a year and his expenses to travel through the country "educating" congressmen and finding out the best way to influence them on the sugar question. This Gove seems to have been worth his salary to the trust. In October, 1911, while travelling through North Dakota, he succeeded in getting a lot of newspaper publicity, especially an interview with Arbuckle, the sugar and coffee magnate. C. C. Hamlin, treasurer of the Great Western Sugar Company, congratulated the lobbyist for getting the favorable interview in "virtually every paper in the United States." To which Gove replied: "I have your reply to the Arbuckle stunt. Good. We can't give out too much of such stuff. I believe in the newspaper union. Many farmers read those patent insides. When I looked it up I found a stick-full of stuff each week was not exorbitant in price, and it sure enough does get before the voters little by little." This wholesale prostitution of the American newspapers was brazen enough, but the National Association of Manufacturers carried on a still dirtier campaign, according to the evidence received by the Senate committee two weeks ago. Col. M. M. Mulhall, for the past ten years their chief lobbyist at Washington, has unfolded a few more chapters in his startling exposure. The National Association of Manufacturers, he tells us (and as their \$10,000 agent, he ought to know), is an organization of 4,000 individual members, whose firms represent about \$10,000,000,000 capital and employ 5,000,000 persons. From 1902 up to Wilson's election, Mulhall states that approximately \$200,000 in money passed through his hands alone for bribery and lobby work in Washington and various state capitals. Among the achievements of the manufacturers' lobby are the delaying of legislation favoring the eight-hour day, the warding off of tariff reduction under Taft by urging a tariff commission, the breaking of many strikes by stirring up dissensions among the labor unions, by bribing strike leaders, or by influencing the arbitration boards. Tariff legislation was the special care of the manufacturers and by hook and crook, by bribery and intimidation, by gentle persuasion where that sufficed, and by bull-dozing when that was necessary—by such means, each in its turn, has the tariff legislation been controlled by Big Business.

It needs no insight to apply these revelations to Canada. We, too, have a "national association of manufacturers," the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. Its membership as the July issue of the Association organ "Industrial Canada," boasts, is 2,989, which is three-quarters the size of its American big brother. Considering Canada's population the C.M.A. is relatively ten times larger than the American organization. Indeed, if the latter were proportionately as strong as the Canadian, it would number 42,855 members instead of its present 4,000. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association has fully as much say in tariff legislation at Ottawa as the American manufacturers ever had at Washington in their palmiest days. If the lobbying intrigues have not been as sordid on the Canadian side we cannot attribute it to the superior clay out of which our made-in-Canada millionaires are fashioned. An organization which would fleece the whole consuming population to make extravagant

profits for themselves, which trails the Empire's flag in the mire in order to distort political issues, which cares not how scanty a living its employees and the producing classes receive so long as their own fortunes are guaranteed by an unjust tariff, which lays the whole nation under tribute to pay dividends on fictitious capital and conceals profits by means of watered stock—if this group has not played as foul a political game as their American confreres it is not because they do not know what wires to pull, but because they have not needed to resort to such despicable tactics. In Canada they do not need to bribe—they give their mandates and a compliant party frames the tariff to suit their wishes. Sometimes there is a feeble objection from the Opposition, but once in office and these troubled consciences sleep the sleep that knows no waking. In the United States the power of the Big Interests appears to be broken. In Canada their grip is tightening. Public opinion to the south is so roused that the trusts will never again dictate the legislation of the country. In Canada the Triple Alliance is almost omnipotent. The few who would dispute its sovereignty are as "the voice of one crying in the wilderness." Of all the newspapers in Canada the Toronto Sun was apparently the only one which dared to give its readers a summary of the facts contained in the recent Guide article "Who Owns Canada?" But even though the odds are tremendously in favor of the Special Interests, an awakening is coming in Canada as it has come in the United States.

GOOD FOR SAM HUGHES!

There has been a considerable shake-up in Canadian military circles as a result of the boozing propensities of some of the officers of the permanent force and the prohibition leanings of Col. Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia. Colonel Sam, at the recent Halifax banquet lectured the officers in the way a mother would lecture her naughty children and told them that the permanent force was no place for men to spend their time in idleness, profligacy and social gaiety, and he also gave them a little straight talk on the liquor question. Already one officer has been allowed to retire on account of intemperance, and Colonel Hughes, it is reported, thinks that this lesson will be sufficient. It is a good thing that it was no less a person than Colonel Hughes who made these severe charges against the military officers of Canada, because if such charges had been made by The Guide or any known anti-militarist, it would be promptly laid down to disloyalty. But Colonel Sam is a Militarist of Militarists, so we presume that when he is reading the Riot Act to the officers for boozing and loafing that he knows what he is talking about. We admire Colonel Hughes for the stand he has taken on the liquor question in the volunteer forces and also in the permanent forces and we wish him every success in such work. There is no more reason why the Government should keep a bar-room for the benefit of the Militia than that the Government should keep a bar-room for the benefit of the general public. If Colonel Sam would lead his forces upon the booze department in the House of Commons and abolish it entirely he would be doing a good work also.

There is a house famine in Winnipeg and many other western cities and towns. Why? Because building sites are held for speculation while building materials are taxed by the Federal Government and completed buildings (in most places) are taxed by the city council.