

The Brain Browsers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, August 30th, 1916

WESTERN MEN SHOULD EXPLAIN

A most interesting article appears in the August number of "The Canadian Liberal Monthly." This journal is the official organ of the Liberal Party at Ottawa, and is published by the funds of the party and is franked out thru the House of Commons post office without paying any postage as all other journals have to do. However, that is merely a side-line and the main question is the article appearing in that issue on "The National Liberal Advisory Committee." This is the committee which held a three days session in Ottawa last month and formed a new platform for the Liberal Party. There were forty Liberals present at the meeting and their names are all given in the Liberal Monthly as follows:—

The Right Hon. Sir Wilfred Laurier, P.C., G.C.M.B., M.P.; Hon. W. S. Fielding, Ottawa; A. K. McLean, Esq., M.P., Halifax; G. Fred Pearson, Esq., Halifax; Hon. Wm. Pugsley, M.P., St. John, N.B.; F. B. Carvell, Esq., M.P., Woodstock, N.B.; O. Turgeon, Esq., M.P., Bathurst, N.B.; E. M. Macdonald, Esq., M.P., Pictou, N.S.; Hon. Senator Dandurand, Montreal, Que.; E. Lapointe, Esq., M.P., Fraserville, Que.; Hon. A. Taschereau, Que.; Hon. Sydney Fisher, Ottawa; Hon. Senator J. M. Wilson, Montreal; Hon. Sir Frederick W. Borden, K.C., M.G.; Philippe Paradis, Esq., Quebec; A. Ver-ville, Esq., M.P., Montreal; S. Letourneau, Esq., M.P.P., Montreal; Hon. Geo. P. Graham, M.P., Brockville, Ont.; F. F. Pardee, Esq., M.P., Sarnia, Ont.; Hon. W. L. MacKenzie King, Ottawa; P. C. Larkin, Toronto; Gordon D. Conant, Esq., Oshawa, Ont.; Thos. McMillan, Esq., Seaford, Ont.; Geo. H. Watson, Esq., K.C., Toronto, Ont.; John Muir, Esq., Brantford, Ont.; Hon. Walter Scott, Regina, Sask.; Hon. J. A. Calder, M.P.P., Regina, Sask.; J. G. Turiff, Esq., M.P., Regina, Sask.; John Bain, Esq., Ottawa; Alex. Smith, Esq., Ottawa; A. R. McMaster, K.C., Montreal, Que.; S. W. Jacobs, K.C., Montreal, Que.; Stewart Lyon, Editor Toronto Globe, Toronto, Ont.; J. E. Atkinson, Editor Toronto Star, Toronto, Ont.; H. B. McGiverin, Esq., Ottawa; A. K. Cameron, Esq., Montreal, Que.; Hon. Chas. Murphy, M.P., Ottawa; Hon. W. G. Mitchell, Montreal; C. M. Goddard, Esq., Ottawa, Ont.; Hon. E. Brown, Winnipeg, Man.

Who selected these men we have no idea. The official report of the meeting as it appears in the Liberal Monthly shows that the committee spent a lot of time on questions of social reform, health legislation, welfare of returned soldiers, rural credits, technical education, rural life problems, agricultural development, bankruptcy laws, control of limited liability companies and proportional representation. The official report shows that this National Liberal Committee had a concrete proposition before them on these questions but when it comes to Tariff and Taxation the official report shows nothing more hopeful than "the most careful thought will have to be given to the proper distribution of taxation in the most equitable way and without bearing too heavily on those least able to carry the burden." That is about as fine sounding a line of political bunk as we have seen in some time. The report of the National Liberal Committee published in the daily press at the time of their meeting said that they had agreed that the policy of the Liberal Party should be "free wheat, free flour, free implements and equitable taxation." Taking, however, their report in the daily press at the time of the meeting and the report in their own official organ at the present time, there is no mention of any kind of reciprocity or of the old familiar phrase "wider markets."

It is beyond question a fact that the Liberal Party, or at least these self-constituted leaders of the Liberal Party who composed this committee have thrown reciprocity overboard as a concession to the protected manufacturers of Canada, whose sympathy and support they hope to get in return. At the last election the Liberal Party received overwhelming support from the farmers in Western Canada because they had negotiated the

reciprocity agreement with the United States Government. This National Liberal Committee is preparing a platform now purely in view of a general election for the purpose of catching votes and "free wheat, free flour, free implements and equitable taxation" is what they offer the Western farmer. After the Liberal record on the Tariff question from 1893 to the present time it takes a mighty good party man to have sufficient faith to believe that there is any likelihood of getting genuine low tariff legislation out of the Liberal Party.

It is very interesting to note that among those who constituted a part of the Liberal Committee were Hon. Walter Scott, Premier of Saskatchewan, Hon. Jas. A. Calder, Minister of Public Works of Saskatchewan, Hon. Edward Brown, Provincial Treasurer of Manitoba, and J. G. Turriff, M.P., Regina, Sask. Did these four gentlemen agree with the tariff policy laid down by the National Liberal Committee of which they formed a part? Considering the fact that the last provincial election in Saskatchewan was conducted by Mr. Scott and Mr. Calder, purely on the question of reciprocity, it seems a little extraordinary that they would agree to having reciprocity thrown overboard from the Liberal platform when it is needed now even more than it was in 1911. Mr. Scott and Mr. Calder and Mr. Brown should give some explanation on this question.

The chief reason why the people of the West get no more consideration than they do from the Liberal and Conservative parties in the East is because our Western members do not solidly and consistently stand up for the rights of the West but too frequently allow themselves to be influenced and dominated very largely by the party leaders of the East. The time has come when the Western representatives should represent Western people and Western views and cut off connection with the privilege-ridden, party-blind, office-hunting Grit and Tory parties that make their headquarters at Ottawa.

THE MARCH OF SUFFRAGE

Woman suffrage, like a great train on the down grade, seems to be gaining speed with its own momentum. Following immediately after the championship of the federal amendment by Judge Hughes, the Republican presidential candidate in the United States, comes an unexpected statement by Premier Asquith, which seems to foreshadow the inclusion of English women in the suffrage after the war. The question of the revision of the Election Act as regards manhood suffrage came up for consideration and Premier Asquith intimated that he felt the whole matter to be too difficult and complicated to be discussed at this time, but certainly implied that any such change would involve the extension of the franchise to women. This utterance is being widely discussed, as it has always been felt that the greatest obstacle in the way of woman suffrage in England was the personal opposition of Premier Asquith to the measure. With his objection removed, as it seems to be, this reform is in a fair way to becoming an accomplished fact.

All evidence to the contrary notwithstanding there are still some people who insist that this great movement is a fad, a passing phase of feminine unrest. That it has come about in Norway, Finland, Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, the Isle of Man, twelve states of the Union to the south, and three provinces of Canada is not regarded as any evidence of its inevitability by these folk who are determined not to see. But the great statesmen and politicians, whose business it is to keep a finger on the pulse of the people, know better.

At last the truth has been driven home to them that it is only a question of time until there will be universal woman suffrage. Realizing this, Judge Hughes has suggested that the energy that would be exerted in fighting for and against this measure might better be directed into constructive channels in the future and, having had a very good sample of the organizing ability of women since the war began, Premier Asquith appears at last to be of the same mind. The day of the general emancipation of women is coming on apace.

DRIVING OUR SETTLERS AWAY

The emigration figures in Mr. Haslam's article on another page should challenge public attention thruout Canada. If half a million people have left Canada for the United States in the past three years it is time to inquire why. These figures are taken from the reports of the United States immigration authorities, and no less a person than Sir Robert Borden is the authority for the statement that the American immigration figures and records are taken and maintained with the utmost care and accuracy. In Western Canada it is a well known fact that many settlers who have come in from the States have, after a thorough trial, decided that it was more profitable to go back to the country from whence they came and farm on more expensive land where the economic burden was not so great. It is a great waste of public money to carry on an extensive and expensive immigration policy to secure settlers for this country and then impose artificial restrictions which drive these settlers away after we have once got them within our borders. Nature has given us a wonderful country, but man has bungled it. No one will suggest for a moment that all these half million people were driven away on account of economic conditions, but that the great majority of them went to the United States because they hoped to better their condition is beyond doubt. The government, has appointed commissions for almost every other object we can think of and it would be worth while to at least make a casual inquiry if and why Canada lost half a million settlers in three years.

DEFICIENT MORAL TRAINING

Some few years ago when exposures of political corruption were very common thruout the United States our public men and journals and preachers held up their hands in horror. Even as recent as the reciprocity campaign five years ago we were told by our leading politicians that we should have no "truck nor trade with the Yankees" because they were a corrupt nation and that their standards of public morality were very low. But today a Canadian travelling thru the United States finds that the American people, altho they still have plenty of political corruption, look upon Canada as considerably worse than their own country. The developments of the last four or five years both provincially and federally in this country are such as to make us believe that no democratic country harbors as much corruption and such low standards of public morality as we have in our own Canada. We see all kinds of grafters exposed, but none of them punished; we see the public treasury robbed regularly by the privileged interests; we see those who have acquired riches thru special legislation given titles and all kinds of public dishonesty placed at a premium. Both of our political parties have led in the debauch and we look in vain for outstanding leaders among them who will place principle before party and endeavor to give us a cleaner public life.

The recovery from our past public ills will