

country before he found that his scrip could not be located and all had paid considerably more than \$500 for the rights. The Dominion land agents who refused to accept their entries were perfectly right in their interpretation of the law, however.

In the official report of the debates in the House of Commons for March 26, 1912, we find the following:

"On Section 7:

"Mr. Rogers.—I have a small amendment to this section, to add the words: 'No such substitute made, constituted or appointed before the 1st of January, 1912, shall have any right under the special act or under this act, except such as is provided for by sections 5 and 8 of this act.'

"Mr. Carvell.—What would be the legal result of such proposed amendment?

"Mr. Rogers.—Nobody who was trafficking in his right before the 1st of January last has any right at all.

"Progress reported."

There is the clause that has caused the loss of time and money to a considerable number of settlers, and there is all the debate upon it. The clause, instead of preventing speculation and protecting the interests of the settler produced the opposite effect. It excluded from the benefits of the act all scrips on which the name of the actual intending user had been registered, while another clause extended the benefits of the act to scrips on which the substitute had not been registered, that is, those still in the hands of the volunteers (if any) and those in the hands of speculators. The Guide has persistently protested against these repeated extensions of time for the location of South African scrip, believing them to be in the interest of speculators and no one else, as the facts have amply demonstrated. Hon. Dr. Roche, Minister of the Interior, has stated however, that a further extension to the end of June, 1913, is to be granted, and we must assume that his promise will be carried out. We trust, however, that if a further extension is to be granted the bill will be of such a nature that its benefits will not be confined to speculators, but will include warrants which have been registered by the substitute. Once registered, a warrant cannot be transferred and consequently cannot be speculated with. We believe that a serious injustice has been done to actual settlers who have bought scrip. This injustice may have been quite inadvertent, and we look to Hon. Dr. Roche to set the matter right, and to other Western members to assist him in so doing.

ALBERTA FARMERS ALSO

The United Farmers of Alberta have the same feeling in regard to expending a huge sum of the people's money in preparation of war, as have the Grain Growers of Manitoba. At their convention in Calgary last week, where there were 600 delegates in attendance, representing 14,000 farmers, the following resolution was passed with but twelve opposing votes:

"Whereas, among the Christian nations of the earth there is an ever increasing desire upon the part of the common people that war and preparation for war which entails such a fearful harvest of human lives and places such a crushing financial burden upon the taxpayers, should be brought to an end, and that this vast energy now devoted to purposes of destruction and death be utilized in the cultivation of the arts of peace, and that instead of promoting distrust and hatred between nations, a spirit of confidence and brotherhood should be encouraged;

"And whereas, both the Conservative and Liberal parties in Parliament have each proposed that \$35,000,000 or more of the public revenues should be devoted to the construction of naval armament without a mandate from the people;

"Therefore, be it resolved:

"That this convention of delegates representing 14,000 farmers of Alberta places itself on record as firmly opposed to any expenditure whatever of public monies for the construction

of naval armament, but decidedly in favor of Canada encouraging to the utmost the movement towards international peace and disarmament and the settlement of international difficulties by arbitration;

"And further, this convention is strongly of the opinion that Parliament is not justified in making any further move on the naval question until the same has been submitted to an actual referendum of the people."

Naturally the party newspapers are beginning to criticize the organized farmers and accuse them of want of patriotism, but the farmers are not easily turned aside from what they believe to be their honest duty. The resolutions passed by the Manitoba and Alberta farmers are genuinely and intensely patriotic in sentiment. But we are quite prepared to admit that those in the farmers' organization who opposed these resolutions are animated by equally honest and sincere patriotism.

In opposing the Liberal and Conservative naval proposals the farmers have shown themselves large enough to rise above party politics. They have, however, laid themselves open to cheap criticism of a kind which often influences unthinking men. But the organized farmers have had plenty of criticism before and are not to be deterred from what they believe to be right by any such efforts.

Let Mr. Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier get together and place their two naval propositions before the people in such a way that they can decide whether either one of these policies are satisfactory, or whether both are undesirable.

CANADA THE LAST OF ALL

Canada may be progressive enough in some respects but in others she is far behind. Parcels post, for instance. This New Year found Canada the only civilized nation in the world without a parcels post system. The only provision our Government makes for sending parcels is the merchandise rate of 16 cents a pound for packages weighing less than five pounds. What a serious handicap these charges are, compared with those in force in European countries, may be seen from the following comparison of postal rates on a parcel weighing 11 pounds. From London, Eng., to Toronto, the postage would be 73 cents; from Paris, France, to Toronto, 87 cents; from Berlin, Germany, to Toronto, 90 cents. Yet to send a parcel of the same weight from Hamilton to Toronto, a distance of 40 miles, costs \$1.76, more than twice as much as from London or Paris. Even then one could not send a parcel so heavy through the mail. He would have to split it up into three packages each weighing less than five pounds. The parcels post rates which came into force in the United States on Jan. 1, mark a wonderful advance towards bringing consumers close to the farm on one hand and the factory on the other. Butter, fish, fresh meats, dressed fowl, vegetables, fruit, berries and other perishable goods may be sent for short distances. No restrictions are put on mailing salted, dried or cured meats and fish. Eggs will be accepted for local delivery when packed in suitable containers, but when packed separately they may be sent any distance. The rates appear very moderate to us in Canada. A parcel weighing one pound will be delivered within the first zone, which is 50 miles in radius from a central point, for 5 cents, and an 11 pound parcel for local carrier delivery costs only 15 cents; elsewhere, within the 50 mile zone, 35 cents; within the second or 150 mile zone, 46 cents; within the third or 300 mile zone, 57 cents; within the fourth or 600 mile zone, 68 cents; within the fifth or 1,000 mile zone, 79 cents; and so on up to the eighth zone, which sends parcels to Alaska or the Philippines at the rate of 12 cents per pound.

How long will Canada lag behind every other civilized country? Must we be left forever in the grip of the railway companies and express companies? When John Wana-

maker, the merchant prince, was Postmaster General of the United States, he said there were only four reasons why parcels post was not put into operation and those four reasons were the four big express companies. It took years of public agitation to overcome their opposition, but at last the people of the United States are coming into their own. In Canada, unfortunately for the people, the express companies are only another name for the different railway companies. Fortified as they are with all the power and influence of the railways, and judging from the way the railway magnates can get whatever they want from Parliament, the virtual express monopoly will not be relinquished until the people put up a united fight. Country merchants have hitherto looked with suspicion upon the government taking over the express business, on the grounds that the big city stores would get all the benefit. But they are coming to see that a reform which will so largely better the lot of the general public and increase the money at the disposal of the consumers throughout the country must in the end redound to the prosperity of the whole country, in which prosperity they themselves will share generously. The interests of the people at large are bound to win sooner or later, and the sooner the better for Canada.

The Canadian Textile Journal which takes a fling at The Guide every good opportunity it gets, contains an interesting admission, to come from so rabid a protectionist source. Speaking of the New England textile centres, the journal makes this editorial comment:

"The employers find that with a larger proportion of unskilled labor there has been a very perceptible decrease in the output per loom."

What then becomes of the favorite protectionist argument that the manufacturers must be protected against the cheap labor of other countries? Even the manufacturers of New England are now being driven to admit that cheap unskilled labor is really dear when the laborer's output or efficiency is taken into consideration. The skilled and well-paid native workman is so much more efficient and economical in the long run that pauper labor cannot begin to compete with him and protection against such labor is merely a disguise to hide the extra profits of the manufacturers.

Mr. J. H. Burnham, M.P., has introduced in the House of Commons a bill to bring an end to titles of honor in Canada, such as knighthoods, peerages, etc. We would suggest one way to accomplish this end would be to put a graduated tax upon titles. For instance, put an annual tax of \$5,000 on every knight, \$10,000 on every baronet and \$25,000 on every peer.

England's first Dreadnought, which revolutionized naval construction and spurred the Great Powers to a more frenzied competition than ever before, is no longer fitted for a place in the first battle-line, though built only six years ago. The naval pace is getting fast enough for all except the armor-plate manufacturers.

Canadian bankers are not the only ones to enjoy an unbroken record of fat dividends. The First National Bank of New York, starting with a capitalization of \$500,000 has earned, during the past fifty years \$80,000,000 in profits. Is it not plain from facts like this that a bank enjoys privileges too valuable to trust in private hands?

Next week we will publish the "Surtax" bill recently passed by the Saskatchewan Legislature, by which the profits of the land speculator are to be somewhat curtailed.