

The Grain Growers' Guide

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THE MANITOBA ELECTIONS

The Manitoba elections, considered not only from the viewpoint of the various interests in Manitoba, but also from a wider aspect of the Dominion at large, cannot but be regarded as extremely satisfactory. In no sense was it a party victory. It was largely an expression of the indignation of the great mass of the people and also of their determination to put an end to the old order of graft and corruption which has characterized this province for the last fifteen years. From the personal viewpoint of the members of the Norris government the verdict of the people showed beyond the shadow of a doubt that they believed that the report of the Perdue Royal Commission was true and just. It will give the members of the government greater confidence in themselves, and it will put an end to the most dastardly attacks on our judiciary that have ever disgraced the journalistic annals of Canada. On general principles it is highly desirable to have a strong and effective opposition in the legislature, but in this case every capable member of the opposition was defeated, and the five who were elected do not comprise in their number a single strong personality. On the other hand, however, had the vote been close, and the Conservative opposition strong, the attacks on the judges would probably have been continued by The Winnipeg Telegram and there would have been the regular charges of corrupt work during the election. Further, thruout Canada there would have been doubt in the minds of the people as to the honesty of the members of the Norris government, and what is even more important, the integrity of the people of Manitoba at large. There will, however, be no lack of honest and effective criticism in the new legislature, in case it is required. There are three independent members who owe no allegiance to any party, two of whom, Messrs. Dixon and Rigg, are able men, effective debaters and thoroughgoing Democrats. In the ranks of the Liberal members there are a number of bonafide democrats who would not tolerate anything short of an absolute fulfillment of the party pledges. In the past fifteen years there has not been in the Manitoba legislature as many able and democratic representatives as the new house will comprise. Every member of the government has declared repeatedly that the party platform will be carried out in full, and if this pledge is fulfilled, Manitoba will in the course of the next twelve months be the most democratic province in Canada, and what is further, the people will have the power in their own hands which will prevent another reign of graft and plunder. The new government has greater opportunities to help the people of Manitoba than ever was given to any government in Canada. They have an overwhelming mandate from the people to go ahead with their work, and up to the present they have given every indication of sincerity of purpose. It is very important, however, that public opinion be kept well informed of the doings of the new government and that more of the public business be transacted in daylight. Great credit is due to those life-long Conservatives who voted for the new government. If the pledges given are fulfilled and an honest administration is

given the new government will enjoy a long term of power, but if not, we believe that public opinion in Manitoba has been aroused to the point where it can never again sink into a condition of apathy and indifference such as permitted the reign of graft and plunder which has recently come to an end.

PRACTICAL SOIL TILLAGE

In this issue Seager Wheeler, the world's champion wheat grower, has another article on tillage that it will pay all farmers, regardless of what they are producing, to read very carefully. Mr. Wheeler, after thirty years' experience, and a wide knowledge of Western Canada, declares that weeds cause more damage to crops than drought, frost, hail and other causes combined. He has demonstrated that his system of tillage will overcome the damage ordinarily suffered in dry seasons. Thousands of farmers are studying Seager Wheeler's dry farming methods and the average wheat crop in the dry belt will be enormously increased by the practical success of his methods. In this article he proposes his remedy for the weed nuisance, which he has also demonstrated to be a success. It will be noted that his remedy for the weed problem follows closely and is really a part of his method for conserving soil moisture. The Guide is co-operating with Mr. Wheeler in giving exclusive publicity to his methods of cultivation, because we believe the result will be of great value to our farmers. Both The Guide and Mr. Wheeler will welcome criticism, suggestion or inquiries in regard to his methods.

ECONOMY CONDEMNED

Industrial Canada, the official organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, complains that the people of Canada are practising too much economy and are not buying the products of Canadian factories as freely as they should. It is said that the people are buying necessities, have cut down comforts, and are doing without luxuries, and Industrial Canada fears that the result may be disastrous to some Canadian industries. There are reasons, no doubt, and among them are the raising of the tariff by the government and the increase of prices by some Canadian manufacturers. When taxes are raised and the necessities of life made dearer, it is time for people to economize and spend less money on luxuries. If Industrial Canada and the powerful body which it represents would use their influence with the government to remove the burdens now laid upon the backs of the producers—farmers, laborers and manufacturers—by our present unjust system of tariff taxation, they would be doing something practical to encourage home industries.

PROTECTION VINDICATED?

That the present war vindicates the National Policy of Protection, is the claim of a leading article in the current number of Industrial Canada, the official organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. The Free Traders' ideal, according to the manufacturers' organ, is that we should confine the energies of our people to agriculture and

the production of raw material, and its opinion seems to be that without Protection there would be practically no factories in Canada and therefore it would be impossible to produce shells and other military equipment in this country. This is, of course, absolutely ridiculous and if it were not for the fact that other Protectionist journals are constantly repeating the same nonsense it would not be worthy of any attention. The Free Traders' ideal is not that this country, with its limitless and varied natural resources, should confine its energies to any one or two pursuits, but that the people should be free to develop those resources in the most economical and profitable manner without the restrictions and the handicaps which are inevitably built up by a protective tariff. In the absence of the artificial conditions created by Protection, capital would naturally be attracted first to those industries in which it could be employed most profitably, and to say that under Free Trade a large proportion of our factories would be closed is to claim that the factories in question are engaged in enterprises which cannot be conducted profitably except with the aid of legislation which compels the consumer of their goods to pay more for them than they are worth. In some industries, the manufacture of cotton goods, for instance, the increased cost imposed upon the consumers in order to benefit the manufacturers, is more than all the wages which the industry pays. But while Protection may encourage some industries—at tremendous cost to the country—it is a burden on all industries. It gives with one hand and takes away with the other and generally speaking it takes even from the manufacturer as much or more than it gives. Of course, so far as the western farmer is concerned the tariff is always taking and never giving, and in fact cannot give. Free Trade would, of course, be a great advantage to manufacturers engaged in the production of war materials and the export trade generally, for Protection increases their cost of production very considerably without adding to the price they can secure in the foreign market by one cent. The Free Trader, therefore, has good grounds for claiming that the abolition of Protection would increase and not decrease the number of legitimate manufacturing establishments in this country.

And again, has Industrial Canada forgotten that Protection, which it declares is vindicated by the war, is the policy of Germany, while Great Britain for many years has practiced Free Trade? German industries today are "protected" not only by her tariff but also by the British navy, which will not permit foreign goods to enter Germany to compete with home products. The days of Germany, with all her military efficiency, are numbered because the time will come when her internal supplies of war materials will be exhausted, while Britain, buying from and selling to practically the whole world, can keep on supplying her troops for ever. Free Trade, made possible by the British Navy, will win the war for the Allies, and Protection far from being vindicated, is proved to be a suicidal policy.

What have the opponents of Direct Legislation to say now?