

# The Brain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, July 5th, 1911

## THE AFTERMATH OF BORDEN'S TOUR

Mr. Borden's tour is now nearing its close and it is pertinent to inquire what has been the net result of the campaign which has been waged by the leaders of the Conservative party in the Prairie Provinces. One of the features of the tour has been the hearty welcome to the leader of the opposition in which all the people have joined, regardless of their party affiliations. The West is glad to have Mr. Borden go through the country and meet the people. It is an education for both. Mr. Borden has learned that his Western followers in the House of Commons have misinformed him as to the feeling towards the tariff in the West and the people have discovered that there is no hope of converting Mr. Borden to a reciprocity and low-tariff policy. Mr. Borden deserves congratulation upon the manly and straightforward way in which he has declared himself, and the people for the determined manner in which they have stood to the principles which they have laid down for the welfare of the West. On practically every question except the tariff the leader of the opposition has declared himself in favor of the Ottawa Platform of December 16 last. For this he deserves the thanks of the Western people, and his support upon these questions will assist materially in securing much needed legislation at Ottawa. But on the tariff question Mr. Borden is utterly hopeless. He has not given the slightest indication that he is prepared to secure any relief from the oppression from which the people of Canada are today suffering on account of the protective tariff which both parties have supported since Confederation. The idea that trusts can be controlled by legislation while a protective tariff exists is like attempting to eradicate a disease without reference to the cause. Following in the wake of the Conservative leader is a feeling of indignation caused not only by Mr. Borden's utterances, but also by the attitude of the government upon Western issues. This feeling is manifesting itself in a demand that candidates be nominated in every constituency, regardless of party, who will fight in parliament for every plank in the Farmers' Platform. Already conventions have been called for the nomination of such candidates to oppose several sitting members on the government side of the House, and there is no doubt but that the Conservative members will also find themselves opposed by candidates who will protect the interests of the West regardless of party dictation. The attitude of the two political parties has driven the Western people to this action. The policy of trifling with the people and playing continually for party advantage, while the country suffers, has become disgusting to the western people. They will nominate candidates in whom they have confidence, and who will have backbone enough to stand up against all odds for the welfare of their constituents. Whether these candidates are nominated as Liberals, Conservatives or Independents, they will be men who will place principle above party. In nominating such men the Western people are taking upon themselves a great deal of responsibility. Such candidates who accept the call of their fellowmen cannot be expected to finance the whole cost of their campaign, and the people must contribute generously to the legitimate expenses of the fight for justice. The Special Interests will contribute largely to the support of all the "stand-pat" machine candidates of both sides, and will make a desperate fight to overthrow any candidate nominated by the people. But if the people are in earnest they

must win. Public opinion is the greatest force of the present day.

## HOW THE FARMERS CAN WIN

The party organs throughout the West are already beginning to ask the farmers if they do not think one party promises them more than the other. According to their political stripe they ask, "Would you not prefer to have Laurier and reciprocity rather than Borden and government elevators, government operated Hudson Bay road and chilled meat industry?" or vice versa. Now does it not seem strange that the people should be compelled to submit to such impositions as this? The farmers of Canada went to Ottawa on December 16 last, and laid down the following platform:

Reciprocal free trade between Canada and the United States in all horticultural, agricultural and animal products, spraying materials, fertilizers, illuminating, fuel and lubricating oils, cement, fish and lumber.

Reciprocal free trade between the two countries in all agricultural implements, machinery, vehicles, and parts of each of these; and, in the event of a favorable arrangement being reached, it be carried into effect through the independent action of the respective governments, rather than by the hard and fast requirements of a treaty.

Immediate lowering of the duties on all British goods to one half the rates charged under the general tariff schedule, whatever that may be; and that any trade advantages given the United States in reciprocal trade relations be extended to Great Britain. Such further gradual reductions of the remaining preferential tariff as will ensure the establishment of complete free trade between Canada and the Mother Land within ten years.

That the Hudson Bay Railway and all terminal facilities connected therewith be constructed, owned and operated in perpetuity by the Dominion Government under an independent commission.

That the Dominion Government acquire and operate as a public utility under an independent commission the terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur, and immediately establish similar terminal facilities and conditions at the Pacific coast, and provide the same at Hudson Bay when necessary; also such transfer and other elevators necessary to safeguard the quality of export grain.

That cheap and efficient machinery for the incorporation of co-operative societies should be provided by Federal legislation during the present session of parliament.

That aid be given for the inauguration of a (co-operative or government owned) chilled meat export industry, after a thorough investigation.

That the railway companies be compelled to compensate farmers for stock killed upon their lines; that a true physical valuation be made of the railways of Canada and that rates be based thereon; that the powers of the Railway Commission be increased to give them complete control over the railways.

Now, this platform demands what will not only help the agricultural class in Canada, but will be for the welfare of the entire nation. It is something that every farmer in Canada who is not a hidebound party man should support. This platform does not ask for any special privileges nor that money should be taken from the pockets of any other class to assist the farmers. Just as soon as the farmers begin to take an active part in the political life of Canada the politicians get ready to divide them. If the common people of Canada can be kept divided the politicians and the artists of Special Privilege will continue to bleed the country. Today the people of Western Canada are alive to the fact that the two political parties are largely in the control of Special Privilege, and that the hope for democracy is yet far distant. The political life of Canada is steeped in insincerity. Every politician in the country when campaigning, prefaces his remarks with the statement that he is "in politics for the good of the country and at great personal sacrifice." Now, in 99 per cent. of the cases such a statement is absolutely untrue. Most of such poli-

ticians would give all they possess for the nomination of their party. Let us have this "self sacrifice" business cut out completely. Again, is it not peculiar that the minds of the Western members of the House of Commons should act in accordance with the political party with which they are affiliated? Does any person for a moment think that if Laurier declared for government operation of the Hudson Bay road every Liberal member from the West would not be shouting the same policy with all his strength. Or is there anyone who thinks that if Borden should announce himself in favor of reciprocity tomorrow that every Conservative member in the West would not turn a somersault equally quick and declare that he had always been in favor of reciprocity. As a matter of fact our Western members are not representing the people of the West in the House of Commons but are representing their political leaders. As long as any member continues faithfully to follow any political leader he is sure to misrepresent his constituency. Thus it turns out that there are a great many misrepresentatives among the Western members. But the members from each side say: "See, we have offered you a part of your Ottawa platform," and thus they hope to fool the people into voting for them. Now, every member of the House of Commons is (or is supposed to be) a public servant. He is paid to do a certain work. In that way he is exactly like any other servant. But the drawing of his salary is practically the only habit he enjoys in common with any other servant. Suppose any man were hired for a specific purpose at \$2,500 per year by a private company or individual. Suppose this hired servant were instructed to perform three pieces of labor in a certain way. He performs two of these jobs satisfactorily and absolutely refuses to touch the other one, but still he demands his pay for the whole work. What would happen to him? He would be looking for a new job immediately. Wherein is this illustration different from the case of every Western member of the House of Commons? Why should not the same treatment be meted out to each of them? On the 19th day of this month the House resumes, and it will then be wise for every voter to watch the action of his member at Ottawa. Those members are sent there to voice the feeling of their constituents. The fact that they support a part of the farmers' demands gives them no license to oppose the balance. Any member who opposes any plank in that platform does not represent the farmers of his constituency, and should not have their support. That is, of course, if the Western people are in earnest. Certainly if the Western people worship party above anything else then they would be wise to send all these members back to parliament again. But we are taking it for granted that there is sincerity upon the part of the Western people. Then, if not a single member from the West will stand up for the Farmers' Platform, what should be done? That is very simple. Every farmer should attend the nominating convention of the party with which he was once affiliated, and should there see that the nomination does not go to a man who will not take a definite pledge to support the whole Ottawa Platform. This will preclude the possibility of any of the present members getting back to Ottawa unless they change their attitude. Even if the old "stand-pat" party man does get the nomination he can be defeated if all the farmers vote against him. After the redistribution there will be more than forty members from the Prairie Provinces. There will be something wrong with the people of these three provinces if out of all the members they elect