

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, December 21st, 1910

THE OTTAWA DELEGATION

The famous march on Ottawa on December 16 by the farmers of Canada has now become a matter of history. It was conducted in a most business-like way and its success surpassed all expectations. The farmers from every part of Canada, except the Pacific coast, met together in the big convention on the 15th and found out that their views were one. To those from the West who have been taught that the Western people are in advance of the East in thought, it came as a surprise. The thinking farmers of the East and the West have no difference of opinion on the tariff. The evils produced by this legislative burden are felt as keenly in Eastern as in Western Canada. The tariff resolution shown on page 4 of this issue was passed by the great convention without one dissenting voice. The farmers of Canada have raised the banner of free trade and justice in this country, and as they rally their forces the politicians and the manufacturers will do well to give them a clear path. The iniquity of the tariff system such as Canada has been cursed with for a generation was never more apparent to the common people than today. Some of our politicians talk "tariff for revenue" and others "protection." As a matter of fact we have neither one at the present time. We have the most ingeniously contrived instrument for the perpetration of highway robbery that the mind of man can conceive. But the beginning of the end is in sight.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's reply to the presentation made by the farmers is given in this issue. It will be seen that there is little that may be expected from the government. Of course Sir Wilfrid could not be expected to commit himself nor his government on the tariff question. But he could be expected to do something on the other matters. He knew the farmers were coming and he knew what they wanted. The Dominion government holds out no hope that the farmers will be granted any single one of the requests which they have made. Not even are the terminal elevators to be operated in accordance with the wishes of every interest connected with the grain trade. Sir Wilfrid laid himself open to criticism in taking a stand as an Easterner against the West. By so doing he ignored the 300 representatives from Ontario and their demands, and he also took a backward step from his vaunted position of being a thorough Canadian broad enough not to be an Easterner or a Westerner.

But the farmers need not be discouraged. They have made out their case and though neither political party is prepared to do justice to the farmers, yet justice will be secured. The farmers of all Canada are united. The union must be made stronger. We of the West must see to it that our members of parliament from the West represent the views of the people. On with organization and education. The fight has only commenced and the farmers need all their forces.

THE MANUFACTURERS' CONVENTION

Though we have given considerable attention to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association during the past few months we feel justified in publishing the report of their annual convention in this issue. All the statements published in this issue may be taken as official, because they are reproduced from the official organ of the Manufacturers' Association. It is a striking commentary of the methods adopted by the manufac-

turers, that such a large portion of their time was spent in dealing with the tariff and other methods by which they can take unfair advantage of the consuming public. There was no discussion on methods of improving the products of their factories, and no discussion as to methods whereby they could supply their products to the consumer more cheaply than they can at the present time. The idea of giving the public any returns for the special privileges which they enjoy under the tariff did not enter into their minds. The prime object of practically every one of the manufacturers present was to discover new methods by which they could take money out of the pockets of the public or out of the public treasury and put into their own pockets. They gloated over the fact that they have been able to keep the tariff as high as it is, and also to secure a great many new concessions which the parliament of Canada never intended them to have when the tariff act was passed. In fact they congratulated themselves upon the shrewdness in manipulating the affairs of Canada in such a manner as to add to their, in many cases, already swollen fortunes. The fact that they were engaged in a legitimate business that is absolutely necessary for the wellbeing of Canada and needs no pampering, did not seem to dawn upon them. They mourned together over the fact that some of the manufacturers were not shrewd enough to know that they could take more advantage of the tariff act to their own personal benefit than they are doing now. To the casual observer it would appear that the meeting of the manufacturers was more like a huge political congress rather than a convention of men engaged in industrial enterprise. Their whole efforts seemed to be devoted to the inauguration of schemes which would keep the consuming public forever paying tribute to them. They rejoiced in Canada's great prosperity and no doubt the feeling of their own pockets was sufficient proof to them of the correctness of their views. The mention of the British Preference aroused the greatest enthusiasm and they worked themselves into ecstasy over the prospect of the trade following the flag. The flag of course in which they are most interested is the one bearing the inscription "C.M.A." They were also greatly pleased to observe "That recent elections in Great Britain indicate very clearly that tariff reform is making great headway in the Mother Country." The result of the present elections in the Old Country should do much to clear their minds upon this point and to convince them that Great Britain has no intention of departing from her policy of Free Trade. The members of the association were loud in their condemnation of reciprocity with United States. The fact that United States was lying alongside of Canada and that nature intended the widest possible freedom of trade between the two great nations on the American continent, does not appeal to them. They believed thoroughly in setting aside the laws of nature when it interfered with their pocket books. Mr. Hendry, the president, made an intimation that all immigrants coming into Western Canada should mind their own business and leave the tariff alone. It might be well to turn this around and apply the same to the manufacturers. The newly elected president, Mr. Rowley, was strongly in favor of conservation of our natural resources and felt that if they were properly protected the manufacturing industries would be able to take care of themselves. We agree with them thoroughly in this respect. The agricultural industry is

not protected at the present time. The methods by which the tariff was manipulated upwards and downwards upon a large number of articles was very satisfactory to the manufacturers because they could realize its benefits in dollars and cents, and that is the only benefit that the manufacturers consider. They were immensely delighted over the fact that they had been able to get the government to give them a large number of new and beneficial rulings upon the tariff. The new "drawback" regulations which they secured were their special joy, as well as the fact that their tariff expert was such a popular favorite at Ottawa. The insolence of the organized farmers in demanding tariff reduction stirred them to indignation. They did not understand, or would not understand, why the simple farmers were not pleased to pay tribute to them. But as they discussed the question to considerable length they decided that the time had come when smooth talk and sugar coated words did not serve their purpose any longer and they threw down the gauntlet to the farmers by their declaration that they would fight the battle at Ottawa. These 2,608 men who comprise the Canadian Manufacturers' Association confidently decided that they had more influence with parliament at Ottawa than the 40,000 organized farmers who represented at least 4,000,000 of the population of Canada. Probably they were right, but that remains to be seen.

THE GROWTH OF THE WEST

Ottawa dispatches during the past week indicate that the redistribution of seats in the House of Commons following the census of next June will give at least twenty new members to the three Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. The additional representation in the House of Commons from the West should be a guarantee that the interests of the West would receive more careful consideration at the hands of Parliament. The population of the West is increasing at a tremendous pace and its representation at Ottawa must increase proportionately. There is now provision for the census of the Western provinces being taken every five years to be followed by a redistribution of the seats. The addition of twenty seats next year will give the West a representation of fifty-five seats. Ten years from today it is not too much to expect that the representation from the four Western provinces will be at least a hundred members. This is a moderate estimate and if the tide of immigration continues at its present pace the representation from the West will be greater than one hundred. By the time the West is represented at Ottawa by a hundred members the total membership of the House of Commons will probably be not more than two hundred and thirty or two hundred and forty members. This will give an idea of the important position which the West will soon attain to in national affairs. When conditions are made right in Canada, the growth of the West will be even more rapid than under present conditions. When the tariff is made so that it is not a special burden upon Western farmers and when the land laws are made more equitable, the West will be a much more desirable place to live in than it is today. The cheap and fertile land the West has to offer will be a lure for the next fifty years and will not all be exhausted in that time if properly conserved. There is no quarrel between the East and the West. Each part of Canada has much to offer and