

centre thruout the three provinces. All that will then be required to do will be for any soldier to get leave of absence from his commanding officer, and farmers will thus be able to go to the nearest point where soldiers are drilling and make arrangements for their seeding help. The arrangement to permit the soldiers to help in seeding will no doubt be more satisfactory than the arrangement for soldier harvest help last year as at that time the greater part of them were drilling at Sewell camp while at present they are scattered thruout the entire west.

TITLES AND TITLES

A correspondent takes The Guide to task for its attitude towards the conferring of titles upon Canadians. He asks:

"Why this continuous and contemptuous reference to 'tin-pot titles'? What's the idea? Can you give any reason why a title conferred by the King at the request of the Canadian people, thru their representatives the government, on some man as an acknowledgement of service rendered the country should be considered 'tin-potish', while the title of president conferred on Mr. Henders by the Grain Growers of Manitoba, thru their delegates at the Brandon convention, as an acknowledgement of his service in and for the Grain Growers' cause, should be considered an honor?"

Perhaps the best answer to this question is to be found in a speech made in the House of Commons on January 31, 1916, by F. F. Pardee, M.P. for West Lambton and chief Liberal whip. Mr. Pardee, in the course of a speech on the address from the throne, said:

"It has become the fashion in this country to attempt to build up a sort of pseudo-aristocracy. Upon every available occasion, when we take up the papers, we see a long list of titles. You positively stumble upon these knights in the streets. I met one of them the other day and I had forgotten for the time that an honor had been conferred upon him. Presently he came around to it and, after preening himself very considerably, he said: 'Oh yes, but you know, Fred, the women want it.' That may be all very well, it may be

true, but, Mr. Speaker, I have an idea in the back of my head that the women are put up to it by the men. Speaking in all seriousness, I jotted down a few moments ago such world-wide names as William Ewart Gladstone, John Bright, Richard Cobden, Herbert H. Asquith, Lloyd George, Edward Blake, George Brown, Alexander Mackenzie. Do you want better men than these? Would Blake, Brown or Mackenzie have been greater Canadians had they had prefixes and half the letters of the alphabet after their names? They stood upon their merits as those merits were recognized by the Canadian people. I say, Sir, that for a young, democratic country, we have had enough of titles and that a man in Canada should be recognized for one thing and one thing only—the merit that there is in him and the good that he does to his fellow-men. Provided he is a Canadian gentleman it is a good enough title for anybody."

If titles were always conferred as an acknowledgement of real service to the country they would not be known as "tin-pot titles." Occasionally a title is conferred on a man who merits the distinction, but often the "honor" is refused by men of high character who have rendered service to the country because they prefer not to bear the same title that has been bestowed on so many men whose only claim to distinction is that they have become rich or powerful by exploiting and corrupting the people.

On February 22, 1916, the cause of agriculture and the rural civilization generally lost one of its greatest friends when "Uncle" Henry Wallace, editor of Wallace's Farmer, of Des Moines, Iowa, died in the harness, at the ripe age of 80 years.

Mr. Wallace was in his early years a Presbyterian minister, but his health failed in 1877 and he went back to the farm. Six years later he went into agricultural journalism, and in 1895 he founded Wallace's Farmer and developed it into one of the best agricultural journals on the continent. He believed in the dignity of agriculture and was an advocate of everything that tended for the betterment

of rural life. He was a fearless opponent of monopoly and special privilege, and held a very high place in the confidence of the farmers of Iowa.

Revelations in the House of Commons at Ottawa last week indicate very clearly that the late shell committee either perpetrated or covered up a whole lot of graft. When the trail got too warm for the Minister of Militia he had a sudden call to the battlefield. He could have done a great deal better service replying to the charges against him in the House of Commons.

The Toronto News derives a great deal of pleasure these days in announcing with great frequency the death of Free Trade because Great Britain is modifying her customs tariff somewhat. The News will discover in the very near future that the Free Trade movement in Canada is by no means dead and is not even dying.

The Manitoba legislature closed last Friday afternoon after one of the most remarkable sessions ever held. The amount of progressive legislation passed has never been equalled in Canada. It has lifted Manitoba up to a more modern plane of civilization.

In any direction you may look in Canada you can see royal commissions at work digging for graft or you may see the excavations where they have already unearthed the object of their quest. Some time possibly the Canadian people will demand that exposed grafters be properly punished.

The one time invincible tower of party politics is trembling on its foundation. No such imposing superstructure can be maintained on the rotten and faulty foundation on which the party system is built.



A ROTTEN FOUNDATION EVENTUALLY SPELLS DISASTER