

acter that have appeared in the newspaper organs of the two political parties. What per cent. of these charges are true and what false no one will ever know. It is most unfortunate that there is not a decent election act which will help to clean up our political campaigns. One good provision in such an election act would be to make it penitentiary offence for any person to publish falsehoods about any candidate or his organization during an election campaign. With such a provision on the statute books reckless charges would not be made, and on the face of it is evident that there is a vast amount of falsehood published at election time. Today there seems to be no penalty for uttering or publishing the most villainous falsehoods at election time. In fact it is regarded as a part of the game. But it is a part that should be eliminated.

#### MR. DUNNING'S ADDRESS

In this issue we publish the greater portion of the address delivered by Chas. A. Dunning, manager of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co., before the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in Montreal in June. There are a number of plain and wholesome truths contained in Mr. Dunning's remarks which should assist in clearing the minds of the organized manufacturers of some of the delusions which they are harboring. If the manufacturers are at all open to reason, they must realize that the western farmers would not be human to submit to the extra burden of the Protective Tariff unless they could see some compensation. And it must be also very clear to the manufacturers that there is absolutely no compensation, either tangible or intangible, at the present time, for all the extortion which has been practiced upon the western farmers under the shelter of the Protective Tariff. Mr. Dunning also wisely dealt with the "mixed farming" fad, which is so glibly recommended by the manufacturers, and showed some of the difficulties which face the farmers in entering upon diversified agriculture. Up to the present time the manufacturers have had it all their own way and have had the tariff laws made to suit themselves without the slightest consideration being given to the farmers of Canada. The day of meek submission on the part of the farmers, however, is past and they are now fighting for their rights. If the manufacturers are willing to meet them half way the farmers will be glad to come to an amicable arrangement by which the tariff can be adjusted in fairness to all, and at the same time disturb the manufacturing industry as little as possible. If the manufacturers, however, stubbornly refuse to consider the rights of the farmers in any way, they have only themselves to blame when the whole structure of Protection is brought tumbling about their ears and they have not prepared themselves to walk without the aid of the tariff crutch.

#### BINDER PRICES AND THE TARIFF

Owing to an oversight it was incorrectly stated in our last issue that the Massey-Harris Company had reduced the price of their eight-foot binder in Winnipeg to \$160. There has been no reduction in the price since the tariff was reduced from 17½ per cent. to 12½ per cent. and the company still sell their eight-foot binder in Winnipeg at \$164 cash. Whether the company intends to make any reduction in the price on account of the tariff we have not been informed. It would seem, however, that if there is no reduction in price that the duty on binders might be eliminated altogether without any further argument.

It has been pointed out to us that in our comment on the Massey-Harris letter in last week's issue we did not take into consideration the extra equipment supplied with the

Canadian binder (to the value of \$7.00, according to Mr. White). Even if this is considered it does not alter the case, as the western farmers ought to be permitted to purchase whatever binder they consider most suitable to their purpose and also to use their own judgment about purchasing extra equipment. In their letter the Massey-Harris Company pointed out that Fargo is practically directly south of Winnipeg and an eight-foot binder at that point is \$147.50, while the Massey-Harris Company sell their eight-foot binder in Winnipeg at \$164, the difference being \$16.50, so that even allowing for the Finance Minister's estimate of \$7 for the difference in equipment, there is still \$9.50 difference in price. The \$7.00 is based probably on the selling price and not on cost. The freight rate from Chicago to Fargo as quoted by the Finance Minister is \$8.19, while the freight rate from Hamilton to Winnipeg is \$12.80. The fact that higher freight rates prevail on the Canadian side is not the fault of the western farmers, and they should not be punished on account of it. If the tariff were removed the price of binders would drop at Winnipeg to a considerable extent, because they could be purchased on the American side and brought over at a considerably lower price than that which now prevails in Winnipeg. The \$10 difference in price, which is practically the difference admitted in the Massey-Harris letter, is a very important amount of money to the average Western Canadian farmer at the present time, and we believe that if the tariff were wiped out, despite the figures given in the Massey-Harris Company's letter, the Western Canadian farmer could buy his binder more than \$10 cheaper than he can at the present time. At any rate the duty on binders is lower than on any other agricultural implement, so that the farmer can readily see that the tariff tax on his total machinery equipment is a very large item and would amount in the case of most farmers to more than their total profits on their year's operations. If the Massey-Harris Company wish to make any further references to the question of prices and the effect of the tariff we shall be glad to afford them space in The Guide to do so. If they avail themselves of this opportunity, however, we trust that they will explain where the western farmer gets any compensation whatever for the extra \$10 that he pays for his binder on account of the tariff.

#### A BARGAIN OFFER

In order to place The Guide in the hands of a large number of farmers who are not now reading it we are making a special offer at the present time. We will send The Guide to any address in Canada from now until the end of 1914 for 25 cents. That is five months for 25 cents, or 5 cents per month. Premier Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier both will be touring the West in a few weeks and will be met by the organized farmers at every point where they hold a public meeting. Reports of all those meetings with the two politicians will be published in The Guide and it is very desirable that every farmer should read what is taking place. Any of our readers who wish to assist in the work of securing a square deal cannot do better than get two or three of their neighbors to subscribe at this special 25-cent offer. This offer will only be open for a few weeks so we invite all our readers to take hold and help us.

A few days ago the Board of Grain Commissioners sat in Winnipeg to receive the views of all interested parties upon various amendments to the Grain Act which had been proposed. Representatives were present at the meeting from all branches of the grain trade and also from the organized farmers of all three provinces. These meetings of the Commission are held in public and the chairman, Dr. Magill, encourages the utmost

freedom of discussion, in order that the commissioners may know exactly the opinion of those interested in the grain trade. This system of public discussions or hearings which has been introduced by Dr. Magill is one deserving of the highest commendation. The more publicity that is given to the transaction of public business, the less likelihood there is of the iniquitous transactions such as are secretly negotiated between our Governments and Special Interests. The report of the Board of Grain Commissioners recently published contains valuable information for every farmer. It is free for the asking upon application to the Board at Fort William. One amendment to the Grain Act which would benefit the trade generally is that removing the headquarters of the Board of Grain Commissioners from Fort William to Winnipeg. The functions of the Board can be more effectively and expeditiously exercised from Winnipeg than from the lake front, and the services of the commissioners and their officials would be of greater value to the farmers and the dealers where the great majority of the business is handled.

The annual report of the Home Bank of Canada, which has recently been published, shows that financial institution to have had a very satisfactory year, considering the general business depression. The net profits were slightly over \$192,000, which Col. Mason, the president and general manager, stated in his address to be 10 per cent. on the average paid-up capital. Out of the profits the sum of \$10,000 was set aside to inaugurate a pension fund for the employees of the bank, to provide against their old age. One of the outstanding features of the annual meeting was the address delivered by John Kennedy, western director of the Home Bank and vice-president of The Grain Growers' Grain Company. Mr. Kennedy outlined the disadvantages under which the western farmers marketed their crop and the losses they sustained by being forced to throw the larger portion of their crop on the market during the three months following harvest. This evil could be largely corrected, Mr. Kennedy stated, if the banks generally would make an advance of 50 per cent. of the value of the grain while it remained in storage on the farm. Several eastern journals have commented favorably on Mr. Kennedy's suggestion.

The Metropolitan Bank has been absorbed by the Bank of Nova Scotia. At the present rate of progress there will not be more than a dozen banks in Canada in another five years. The men who control those banks will control the Government. The concentration of the money power is one of the greatest dangers to democracy.

It is very fitting that Borden and Laurier should take a short course in the western agricultural university every few years. It will do them both a great deal of good, and will be a sort of antidote for the ideas they receive in the centres of plutocracy where they usually dwell.

Now that war has begun the people of all countries will be in a frenzy and those who advocate peace or condemn the war will receive little sympathy. It is easier and requires less moral courage to support the war and urge Britain and Canada to take part than it does to demand neutrality. The politicians will all be on the war side, but none of them will go to the front.

Watch the Canadians with tin-pot titles declare their patriotism now that Britain is likely to be involved in the war. They will be the most prominent and will make the most noise, but they will take care that it costs them nothing and that the real fighting and bloodshed is done by the common people.

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