

rebuilding larger and better than ever almost before the outside world realized the extent of the damage, the Queen City of the wheat belt has set a worthy example typical of the West.

### FARMERS' GRAIN BEING RUINED

As a direct result of the defeat of Reciprocity last September there are five hundred cars of off-grade wheat, flax and oats now at Fort William or between Winnipeg and Fort William, many of which will be a total loss. More than half a million bushels of this grain are now awaiting treatment and the drying capacity, with the present great variety of grains, does not exceed forty cars per day, while more tough grain is going in day by day. Many a farmer who shipped his grain with the expectation of receiving a check for from \$300 to \$1,000 in return for his labors will find that his grain when it reaches Fort William is hardly worth the freight bill. It is understood that efforts are being made by the Grain Commission to have Armours big portable drying plant brought to Fort William to relieve the situation and it is to be hoped that this can be accomplished. Owing to the rigidity of the Grain Act much time is lost at the drying plants as cars of practically (though not technically) the same grades are not allowed to be lumped, but must go through individually and each requires a separate bin. It is also stated that cars are not sent to the dryers in the order of arrival, and that in some cases discrimination is shown in favor of cars shipped by elevator companies. If the low rates to Duluth were still in force considerable relief could be effected in that direction, but the railway companies are now keeping traffic as much as possible going "east and west." In addition to the actual loss now being sustained on tough and damp grain it is practically impossible for any of the grain companies to make advances on grain until it is unloaded at the terminals, as a considerable portion even of that which passes inspection as straight grade grain is out of condition when it reaches the terminals. This will be a serious handicap in a country where grain has always been considered as cash. The entire situation, and the resulting heavy loss to the farmers of the West, is directly due to the defeat of the Reciprocity Agreement. Had reciprocity been in force at the present time, not a bushel of the tough grain now being ruined need have been lost. If the reciprocity agreement still remains as a standing offer on the American Statute Books the demand for its acceptance by Canada will grow greater year by year. The railways and the elevator companies may be satisfied, but the farmers will hardly care to have their grain dumped into the lakes as an unwilling sacrifice upon the altar of the Protective Tariff. It will be as easy to reverse the Niagara Falls as to quiet the Western demand for tariff reduction.

### BRITISH FRANCHISE REFORM

The government bill to extend the franchise in Great Britain is now before the House of Commons. The chief provisions are as follows:—

No qualification is needed except residence or occupation.

Plural voting is abolished.

Penalty for voting in more than one constituency—a fine of \$1,000 or one year's imprisonment.

Abolition of revision courts and revising barristers. The work to be done by county courts, town clerks and county council clerks.

Anyone over 21 years of age can demand to be put on the register after six months' residence in the same constituency.

Qualification to vote in respect to the place vacated to remain for six months while the voter qualifies for the place he arrives at.

Representation of universities in parliament abolished.

Peers to be allowed the parliamentary vote, but the right to vote not to confer the right to sit in the House of Commons.

This new bill, if it becomes law, will provide for complete manhood suffrage and will enfranchise about 2,500,000 men over 21 years of age who are not now entitled to vote. The abolition of plural voting will remove a powerful weapon from the hands of the privileged classes. Wealthy people have been voting in several constituencies for years. When the new law comes into force the franchise in Great Britain will rest on the same basis as in Canada. But the reactionaries in Britain are condemning this new extension of the franchise as something diabolical. The same howl went up from Special Privilege when the Reform Bill of 1832 was passed and half a million electors gained the right to vote. In 1867 the Reform Bill of that year enfranchised more than one million people and the Reform Act of 1884 nearly one and three-quarter millions. There are less than eight million electors in Great Britain today. When all the people of Britain are entitled to vote reform legislation will be easier to carry than today. Britain is travelling along the pathway towards democracy faster than any other nation.

### MONEY TALKS TOO MUCH

There is no doubt but that the people of Canada are in favor of tariff reduction on a large number of highly protected articles and free trade in a great many that have outgrown all need of protection. It is also an undoubted fact that the people of Canada are in favor of reciprocity with the United States. This may seem an odd statement in view of the verdict of the people in September last. But as we have pointed out before it was only by making reciprocity a party question that it was defeated. But the popular majority against reciprocity was not nearly so great as the standing of the parties in Parliament would indicate. It is well known that "good party men" will vote for anything in the name of their party. Much credit is due to those who are sufficiently broad-minded to view national questions from the standpoint of public benefit. From today onward the only hope of the protected interests is to keep the people divided on the tariff question. To that end the money of the beneficiaries of the tariff will be spent to keep the people in support of the "grand old parties." The monied interests, including the protected manufacturers, railway magnates and bankers have had very little trouble in getting what they want from both parties in Canada in the past. It is the interests with money at their command that secure the attention of the political parties. If it were not for the indignation of the people the tariff would be increased to meet the secret demands of the manufacturers. But for the demand of the people the railway commission would not now be investigating Western freight rates. The only hope of getting justice from the politicians is by keeping them in touch with the people at home. There will never be an end to the corrupting influences of the manufacturers, railways and banks as long as these few men are allowed to hold the monopolies they now have. The banks must be brought down to a place where they will be of greater service to the public, the railways must eventually be owned and operated by the public and the tariff must be wiped out. Just as long as these big monied interests realize that they can make more money by corrupt means they will continue their present course. The fact that the men at the head of these interests are leaders in our social life and the heaviest contributors to religious and charitable institutions should not blind the public to their actions, direct or indirect, in lowering our political standards. Just as Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have solved the railway question so will Canada solve it in

the future. In every civilized nation today there is a popular revolt against protective tariffs and but for party worship and the influence of money freedom of trade would grow more rapidly. Canada today is largely ruled by the manufacturers, railways and banks. The revolt in the West is the most serious challenge of their supremacy they have faced in a generation. The rule of money must be displaced and the rule of the people substituted.

We receive a very large number of letters for publication in our correspondence columns. Our space is of course greatly limited. On an average we cannot publish more than ten per cent. of the letters received without enlarging our paper to great proportions, which would mean much an additional expense that we could not stand. Practically all of these letters are splendid contributions and worthy of publication. Under the circumstances, however, we can only exercise our best judgment and select from those contributed a certain portion dealing with various subjects discussed. We doubt if any other journal in Western Canada receives so many letters for publication, and it is a source of regret that we cannot use them all. We can only ask our correspondents, however, to sympathize with us and accept our assurance that we will do our best to give them all an equal opportunity. All things being considered we give a preference to short letters.

The annual report of the Home Bank of Canada will be read with much satisfaction by Western Grain Growers. It is this bank through which the Grain Growers' Grain company does its business and in which a large number of Western farmers are shareholders. The report shows a good growth. The financing of a business of the magnitude of the Grain Growers' Grain company requires a large credit during the shipping season. The connection between the company and the bank has been mutually advantageous. The expansion of the company has naturally been more rapid than that of the bank and this should furnish a good argument in favor of the sale of a large amount of bank stock in the West this year following a good harvest.

Last week the Canadian daily papers devoted a great deal of space to the slugging match between a negro and a white man in New Mexico, for the championship of the world. It was an exhibition of brutality equal to Roman gladiatorial combats or Spanish bull fights. Prize fighting is one of the most brutalizing institutions today in existence. The daily newspapers by giving such space to these combats are making heroes out of ordinary thugs and encouraging the coming generations to practice the "manly art" of pounding each other to pulp for the entertainment of what claims to be a Christian people. In Canada we do not permit such exhibitions. Why should Canadian newspapers devote so much space to them and our theatres exhibit them in moving pictures?

Premier Borden and his ministers have been accorded a magnificent reception by the British people. This is quite natural. Mr. Borden represents the premier overseas nation of the Empire and is capable of performing the function of his high office with distinction even at the court of St. James. These are times when the air is full of war and navy talk and Premier Borden will face a difficult question which we hope may be solved satisfactorily.

In justice to the Canadian Manufacturers' association we think it only fair to state that no blame is attachable to them for the hot dry weather we have had.

One thousand attended the of the Bri recently a operative Great Bri presented the total t in 1911 at an increas more than ing to \$6, 600,000. 1,526, with capital bei further st 1911-12 th under the Committee thirty-six session; th (viz., 18,3 For the s Story" the to enable They had left, thus s much app local prop The co- Dawn," b the countr instance b both adult popular ha asked sev similar ch by young fore, decid had taken In conn for the tr tional C last sessio apprentice 224 studer for the tr inaugurate been 4,086 classes, an successful

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