

Clerks are then hired to parcel this rubbish and put the initials of some member upon it, and it is dumped into the mail. No complaint is ever made, because both parties engage in this graft. Thousands upon thousands of dollars are taken out of the public revenue each year by this illegitimate method. Nothing is ever noticed in the daily papers about it, because it is supposed to be legitimate graft for every politician. Some years ago one of the members of parliament used to frank his washing home and back again to save money, and no doubt some of them do it yet. The government should be asked to give a return showing how much this abuse of the franking privilege costs the country, and it should be stopped. The members of Parliament get \$2,500 a year and a free pass over all the railways in Canada. This is not a bit too much if they attend to their duty. In fact, if every member attended to his duty strictly, \$5,000 a year would not be a bit too much to pay him. They should also be given a certain amount of clerical assistance, but their petty grafts should be stopped. They are merely temporary directors of the great business firm of Canada & Co., and as such should be well paid for their services, and not be allowed, nor be subject to, any unfair discrimination. The member of parliament is too often made the mark of petty graft in his own constituency. He is elected an honorary member of the baseball, football and hockey leagues, and of many other organizations, and is expected to put up from \$5 to \$25 for every one of these institutions on the pain of becoming unpopular. This is certainly not fair. If the people levy tribute upon their member in this way they cannot blame him for recouping himself when he has the opportunity. The member of parliament is entrusted with important duties and should be a man of integrity and business ability who would truly represent the people of his constituency.

REGISTERING VOTERS

For years past the provincial government in Manitoba has compiled the voters lists upon which the Dominion elections were held. This year, through a technicality, the Dominion government has the power and has prepared the lists. When the Conservative government made the lists the Liberal newspapers always charged corruption, wholesale graft and plugging of the lists. Now the situation is reversed, and the Conservative newspapers claim that the Liberal officials are plugging the lists and disfranchising Conservative voters. We do not pretend to know what is right, but we judge from appearances that the party making the lists secures every advantage possible. If any of their opponents names can be kept off the voters' lists there is a certain gain even before the election day. But above all, the situation in Winnipeg and Brandon indicates that no political party should have power to make the election lists. They should be prepared in some way that would prevent the manipulations of political party heelers, and the disfranchisement of any qualified elector. The making of election lists and the holding of elections throughout Canada has always been characterized by wholesale frauds, and the preaching of election purity on the part of either party is a farce. The franchise is one of man's greatest privileges, and he should not be deprived of it through political manipulation.

We want reciprocity first, and then the rest of that protective wall, that takes money out of the pockets of the people and puts it into the pockets of Privilege, must come down.

Well, five weeks and the election will be over. The politicians will be able to release the bonds upon their conscience.

MR. BORDEN AND THE TARIFF

Mr. R. L. Borden, leader of the Opposition, started upon his campaign last week, and before leaving Ottawa he issued a formal and exhaustive manifesto to the Canadian people in which he discussed the reciprocity agreement very fully and pointed out all his numerous reasons for opposing the pact. The manifesto is too lengthy to publish in this issue, but the conclusion contains the following pledge:

"The Conservative party gives its pledge to carry out the following policy if returned to power:

"A thorough reorganization of the method by which public expenditure is supervised. Increase in what is known as ordinary controllable expenditure from \$21,500,000 in 1896 to nearly \$74,000,000 in 1911 is proof of extravagance beyond any possible defence.

"Granting of the natural resources to the prairie provinces.

"Construction of the Hudson Bay Railway and its operation by an independent commission.

"Control and operation by the state of terminal elevators.

"Necessary encouragement for establishing and carrying on the chilled meat industry.

"Establishment of a permanent tariff commission.

"Granting of substantial assistance toward the improvement of our public highways.

"The extension of free rural mail districts.

"Extension of civil service reform.

"Granting of liberal assistance to the provinces for purposes of supplementing and extending the work of agricultural education, and for the improvement of agriculture."

Mr. Borden's platform is sound and statesmanlike, except in one particular. That exception is the trade question. Of course, Mr. Borden has explained his attitude upon reciprocity, but the people of Canada would be glad to know his fiscal policy. He does not touch this matter except to favor a permanent tariff commission. But even if a tariff commission of this nature should be appointed the government in power would be compelled to frame the tariff policy. No tariff commission could do more than investigate and report. It could not possibly be expected to frame a fiscal policy not in accord with the views of the government. Suppose such a tariff board were appointed, and after studying the subject became absolute free traders at a time when a protectionist government was in power. Would the government immediately become free traders? No tariff commission can possibly advocate any policy not in harmony with the views of the government. If such were to happen, either the government or the commission would have to resign. We have made it clear that the government must make the tariff policy and not the commission. The point then is, what does Mr. Borden propose shall be the future tariff policy of Canada? He does not mention it. Yet this is the greatest of all Canadian questions. He makes no mention of lower tariff nor of revision. The people of Canada want to judge fairly upon Mr. Borden's manifesto. When the tariff is the question being discussed in every town and hamlet in all Canada, and the leader of a party says nothing about it, what is the natural conclusion. It must mean that Mr. Borden favors high protection. Several of his supporters in the West have said that this was not so, but that the tariff would be reduced. There is nothing the people of the West want to hear so much as a statement to this effect from the leader of the Opposition. Any such statement from an ordinary member of Parliament is useless, because practically every single one of them would vote that black was white if his party leaders told him to do so. We hope to hear from Mr. Borden that he is opposed to the system which builds up mergers, trusts and combines and hampers progress in every direction.

We have a number of applications for domestic servants. There are a few others to be placed. Fill out the application in this issue and send it in.

THE HOME MARKET

Upon his return from the coronation Hon. R. P. Roblin, who witnessed the great pageant as Manitoba's representative, gave out at Montreal, on August 13, the following statement upon the reciprocity pact:

"The passage in Canada of the reciprocity pact could be nothing less than a calamity for the farmer of Manitoba, as it would entirely destroy for him the best home market in Canada, that in the vicinity of Winnipeg."

Premier Roblin does not consider the fact that after the pact has been ratified that Winnipeg will still be here, and that its population will increase very rapidly. The cheap and fertile land of the province will also still remain, and the people will eat as much as formerly. This will be the home market, but of course early vegetables from the South will come into the city freely before there are any in Manitoba. This is a boon to the consumers, and cannot possibly affect the Manitoba farmers. In season the Manitoba vegetable farmer can face all comers. On the other hand the farmers want the wider markets to the south of them for their huge surplus. They will still have the home market right at their door, just as good as ever it was, and be able to take advantage of the markets to the south as well. It is impossible for us to see any calamity in the passage of the reciprocity agreement. If so it is the kind of calamity that will mean prosperity and progress to the Canadian people.

Farmers must remember that if they wish to have real representatives in Parliament they must assist in paying the legitimate expenses of the campaign. Every farmer who is really in favor of an independent candidate should prove it by putting his hand in his pocket and putting a ten into the expense fund.

There's nothing left to be said upon reciprocity, but the politicians keep on repeating their favorite arguments. If each politician had a phonograph and shouted his address into it once he could then sit at home in the shade and have a boy take his speech through the country, and grind it out to spell-bound audiences.

The great labor upheaval which is convulsing Britain at present shows that the same troubles are prevalent throughout the world. There is much in the argument for compulsory arbitration. Something must be done to prevent such loss of life, suffering and hardship if civilization is to continue to advance.

Every man considers himself an independent voter, and even the strongest party man in the country imagines that he makes up his own mind upon national issues. Of course, his decision is always the same as that of his party, and is not made until the party pronouncement, but that does not alter the case.

A contract to build 185 miles of the Hudson Bay Railway, from the Pas Mission, on the Saskatchewan river, northward, has been let to J. D. McArthur, Winnipeg. The price is in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000. Let us hope that the rest of it will be built inside of twenty years.

Don't forget that The Guide will be sent to any address for 25 cents till the end of this year. This is a splendid opportunity for our friends to assist us in increasing the circulation.

We wish to correct the statement in last week's Guide that it was grain inspectors who were arrested and imprisoned for stealing. It was samplers, and not inspectors.

"Will I ever see Ottawa again?" is the thought uppermost in the minds of politicians today.

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