

other and more natural kinds of industry. The ready-made clothing factory, it is well known could always be more satisfactorily conducted on the spot than at a distance from the place where its products are sold. It can confidently be asserted that the actual diminution of people employed in industries would be very small thru the abolition of the woollen tariff.

But the industry on which this vicious circle presses most is naturally agriculture. Land is only part of the raw material of agriculture and it is useless without implements, lumber and other accessories. Implements and machinery now form an enormous part of the raw material of the agricultural industry, and yet their cost to the farmer is enhanced by tariff burdens. The manufacturers in Canada continually make demands that the raw material of their industry should be supplied free, or, if a tariff is necessary to protect some other industry, that there should be a draw-back allowed when the imported commodities are turned into manufactures. Under this theory, is not the farmer entitled to free implements as his raw material or at least to a draw-back on them when he has raised a good crop thru their use? If he has to pay an excessive price for his raw material the effect must be to diminish the volume of the agricultural industry and in the present economic position of the world this is a fatal policy. It would undoubtedly pay a nation at present from a purely economic point of view, apart from considerations of national health and general soundness of civilization to concentrate upon a policy of establishing as large a proportion of its population as possible upon the land. Their efforts directed to that channel would bring to their country greater wealth than if turned in any other direction. Yet here in Canada by our economic policy we take an exactly opposite line and for the sake of fostering a few artificial and unhealthy industries and massing our population in great cities we stifle and harass the industry which must always be the life blood of a really sound community.

GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE

President Wilson recently gave expression to a true and wise remark which, like most sayings that are true and wise, has been said in one form or another many times before. Most of the troubles that arise when two people try to live together, he said, are due not to differences in opinion, but to the determination of one of them to decide what the other wants, or ought to want. In the state, as in the family, many of the worst troubles have arisen from that source; that is to say, from one class, or section, assuming to dictate to another class, or section, what it wants, or, in the opinion of the first-mentioned class or section, ought to want, or ought to recognize as being good for it, just as the journals in Eastern Canada that express the sentiments and promulgate the doctrines of a certain class instruct the people of Western Canada that they should not want, or ask for, or expect, that western railway rates should be on an equitable basis with the rates in the East, or that they should have free entry for their wheat into the United States markets.

This assumption of one class, or section, to decide for another section what it ought to want is, essentially, a negation of the fundamental principle of democracy. Every extension of the franchise in Great Britain, from the Reform Act onwards, has drawn forth dismal and entirely sincere lamentations and predictions of woe, based on the assumption that the people to whom the franchise was being extended were unable to use it wisely. The truth is that the franchise is the greatest educator; it is no less important a truth that the less highly educated classes have as keen wishes as the highly educated, and that the wishes of the

highly educated classes are often as arbitrary and non-reasonable as the wishes of the uneducated. Self-interest and class prejudice are only all too likely to be found operative, directly and indirectly, in any one class as in any other. Hence the necessity of all classes having a say, and having the right to a just and equitable consideration of their wishes and interests in all state action. Hence, in a word, the necessity of democracy.

The fact that in no country has democracy as yet realized the full measure of the hopes expressed by the great men who have been the leaders, in different eras and in different countries, in the work of bringing democracy into operation, constitutes no argument against democracy. Is not precisely the same thing true of Christianity? The best system of government imaginable is, and will always be, a choice between different kinds of imperfections. Democracy has not remedied all the imperfections in human society, but how does its work compare with the work of undemocratic systems of government? That is the test. A democratic system of government is a continuous education. It tends ever more strongly towards the social intelligence which results from a free, sympathetic inter-communication of all the classes of people making up the population of a country.

Government by the people, in this country, as in every country where it is established, will meet the evils it has produced, if the people will but rise to their duty, as in the long run they inevitably will. The evils that exist in democratic countries are not evils which are often serious and deep-seated, but to judge them rightly they must be considered in comparison with the evils resulting from the systems of government in countries where the people do not rule. It is true of all things human that they are not to be condemned by comparison with perfection, but by comparison with other things human that might be put in their place. The cure for the evils of democracy is more democracy. That is the lesson of the whole history of the evolution of the British system of representative institutions of self-government, in Great Britain itself, in the overseas nations of the Empire, and in the United States.

Our system of government by the people in this country is in the hands of the Canadian people themselves. It is for them to make it yield the best results. It is for the people of Western Canada, realizing to the full their duties and their rights as citizens of Canada, to do their part towards the achievement of this great end, by seeing to it that they are truly represented in the Dominion Parliament and in the Provincial Legislatures, and that sincere devotion to principle and to justice for all and special privilege for none is made the criterion of the public life of the nation.

A FALSE APPEAL

We clip the following gem of Protectionist logic from the current issue of *Industrial Canada*, the organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association:

RESTORING GOOD TIMES IN CANADA

It is an extraordinary thing that the people of Canada should try to make money plentiful by sending it out of the country to purchase foreign manufactures. Is this the way to restore good times? During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1914, we bought \$455,322,535 worth of goods from the United States, and \$138,761,568 worth of goods from the United Kingdom.

Manufacturers cannot make goods faster than they are bought. Every Canadian dollar which goes out of the country in search of a foreign product helps to delay the return of good times. If you want to see Canadian factories running full speed ahead once more, buy at home.

If this is the kind of argument on which the manufacturers are depending to sell their goods we are sorry for them. In the first place Industrial Canada must know, as every intelligent schoolboy knows, that the people

of Canada do not send money out of the country when they buy foreign manufactures or the manufactures of the United Kingdom. What a merchant does send out of the country is a piece of paper called a bill of exchange, which in due course is cancelled by a similar piece of paper sent to Canada by some British or foreign purchaser of Canadian goods. Imports eventually are paid for, not with money, but with exports, and if Canada did not import any goods from outside she would have to cease exporting except for the purpose of paying foreign debts and interest upon them. Industrial Canada also, is surely aware of the fact that a very considerable portion of the imports which it so deeply deprecates, were raw materials imported by Canadian manufacturers for use in their factories and without which their industry would in many cases be impossible. Another considerable portion of our imports consists of such things as tea, coffee, cocoa, oranges, bananas and other foods which cannot be produced in Canada. Would Industrial Canada have us do without these things and not only keep our money at home but also stop exporting wheat, cheese, fruit, cattle, agricultural implements, and the other Canadian products which we now ship to every quarter of the globe in return for foreign goods? To cease exporting and to abandon commerce and communication between Canada and the rest of the world, is the logical conclusion of the Protective policy upheld by Industrial Canada.

DIXON IN THE FIELD

Many readers of *The Guide* will be interested to know that F. J. Dixon, who is well known thruout the West as the Organizer of the Manitoba Direct Legislation League, has an excellent chance of being elected to the Manitoba Legislature at the coming election as an Independent Progressive member from Centre Winnipeg. Mr. Dixon's platform includes Direct Legislation, Woman Suffrage, Compulsory Education, Banish the Bar, Taxation of Land Values and Public Ownership of Public Utilities. Mr. Dixon is a member of the Rosser Grain Growers' Association, having a farm in that district, and if he is elected will represent the farmers of the province as well as the working class of the cities.

TEMPERANCE SITUATION IN MANITOBA

The attention of our readers, especially those residing in Manitoba, is directed to a letter appearing on the Mail Bag page of this issue from Rev. Robt. Aylward, field secretary of the Social Service Council of Manitoba, dealing with the temperance situation. A great many people appear to be under the impression that if a referendum is taken on the question of Banishing the Bar in Manitoba, and is decided in the negative, the local option law now on the statute books will be wiped out. This, as Mr. Aylward states, is a mistake. The local option law is part of the Manitoba statutes and can only be removed from the statute books by a repealing act. It is not the policy of any political party in Manitoba to repeal the local option law. The difference between the government and the opposition on local option is that the government considers the present law perfect, while the opposition believe it needs improving in several important particulars. The Liberal platform contains a pledge to amend the local option law and in addition to Banish the Bar, subject to a vote of the people.

This is the annual Exhibition Number of *The Guide*, and in it will be found the announcements of a large number of our advertisers who will be exhibitors at the various fairs. We would ask our readers, when they visit the fairs, to look especially for the exhibits of those who are supporting their own journal by the use of its advertising columns, and, other things being equal, to patronize them in preference to others.

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