

down by a joint committee from the three provinces for the winter months it would be an easy matter for the central officers to provide literature and information upon the subject. This is one feature of the great work that has not been conducted as efficiently as it might be on account of lack of funds and also on account of the rapidly growing interest that is being taken in provincial and national subjects. Now, however, it has been fully demonstrated that farmers are as much interested in every social, moral and economic question which affects the well-being of the country as is any other class. For instance, no class of people in Canada have reason to be more interested in the conservation of natural resources than farmers; the same applies to the transportation question, to the tariff, to the naval question, to the spread of the co-operative principle, to the banking regulations and general financial questions, to education, to general marketing facilities and in fact to every other important question. If a syllabus were prepared and pamphlets distributed to every local association from one to two months in advance preparations could be made for a full consideration of the subject. One or two papers could easily be prepared by local members and a general discussion which would ensue would be most enlightening. These subjects are not found in the school curriculum and yet they are of vital importance to every farmer. The farmers today throughout Canada are thirsting for information upon all these matters and are seeking the opportunity to get it. If the three provinces could work together a great saving in time and money could be effected and in addition each province would have the advantage of the opinions and advice of the others. If a general scheme of study could be prepared for the three provinces the local associations would very soon become the centre of education and of the social life of the community. The ladies are equally interested in these problems with the men, and the younger generation are not barred from attendance. The very nature of the agricultural profession bars the farmers from many of the privileges which city and town dwellers enjoy, but it gives them others in return. If the farmers work together they can bring to themselves upon their farms all the comforts and pleasures necessary to make farm life happy, prosperous and contented. Education is the means, and the only means, which can be employed to bring these blessings. All the common schools of the land have a uniform system of study, and though it is not desirable to have all our people turned out of an educational mill which will kill individuality, yet it is wise beyond question to have a systematic course of study for the accomplishment of the best results.

A REAL INVESTIGATION

The Railway Commission, in dealing with the express companies, has gone to the root of the matter. For the first time in its history the Railway Commission had dug down to fundamentals and performed a work which places all Canada in its debt. Complaints are continually made by the common people against the big corporations, but they are always denied by the corporations and there the matter stands. It is significant, however, that upon practically every occasion when the business of any of the big corporations has been investigated it has proved to be rotten to the core. Chairman Mabee of the Commission has given the investigation of the express companies his personal attention, and the thoroughness with which he performed his duty stamps him as the right man in the right place. If the government of Canada will give him and his commission a free hand to investigate the railways of Canada and other public service corporations, there is reason to believe that he will do it equally thoroughly. Up

until the present time the Railway Commission has never gone down to the root of railway trouble. Now let us hope that it has begun a work that will prove a real benefit to the nation. In the matter of watering stock, the express companies have every other corporation beaten to a stand still. The Canadian Express Company, with a capital stock of \$3,000,000, has assets to the amount of \$212,719. The Dominion Express Company has a capital stock of \$2,000,000, but it represents only \$24,500 in actual cash. These two express companies are respectively side lines of the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railways and are ingenious devices by which the railway companies can gouge huge extra profits out of the public without letting the public become aware of it. Chairman Mabee states that there is no need of separate companies to handle the express business, but that the railways should do it. When the enormous profits of the express companies is considered it is astounding to think of the money that is filched from the pockets of the people annually for the private gain of a small number of individuals. The Board of Railway Commissioners has ordered the express companies to file their new tariff within three months. Let us hope that the Railway Commission will keep on investigating. Every time the lid is lifted a bad mess is uncovered. Let us not shrink from the task, but have our national affairs cleaned up.

The full value of efficient organization is impossible of conception. With the farmers nothing is more essential than that the central offices of each of the great organizations should be maintained upon a scale sufficient to meet the needs of the ever increasing numbers of members and local branches throughout the country. What the government offices are to the country in general that the central offices of the farmers' organizations should be to the farmers—and more. Organization, education and co-operation will bring about wonderful results. Good men must be secured and kept at the head of the organizations, and the farmers can afford, and are willing to pay for, good service. Nothing but the best, is the feeling which permeates the entire ranks of the farmers' organizations throughout Canada.

At the meeting of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association at Perth on January 4 a resolution was unanimously adopted asking for reciprocal free trade with the United States in dairy products. The report of the meeting in a daily paper says that there were hundreds of farmers present. This gives an idea of the feeling on reciprocity amongst the farmers. Free trade will not hurt the farm industry of Canada, and the farmers know it. Two cabinet ministers were present at the farmers' meeting and spoke strongly against reciprocity. Of course they had instructions from Premier Whitney, whose title necessitates that he should be a very strong imperialist, if anyone knows what an imperialist is.

By taking thought and working together with one accord the farmers of the prairies can send to parliament at the next election a strong delegation of M.P.'s who will have the courage and the backbone to stand up for the rights of the Western people. Let us all work together to see that every candidate nominated by both nominal parties shall take a solemn pledge to support the people in parliament. Then it will matter not which party is in power. There are men in this Western country who have the courage to stand up for the right against all odds. We need them in parliament. Some day the members of parliament will be subject to the control of their electors, even during the term of parliament.

Hon. Clifford Sifton, speaking before the Montreal Canadian Club, opposed reciprocity with United States because if reciprocity were successful he said it would lead to political union. Mr. Sifton is one of the very few and rapidly decreasing number who believe in such dreams. Because two nations trade with each other it does not signify they desire union. Those who desire that present unfair conditions should prevail are cudgeling their brains to find bogeys to frighten the people.

"Canada for Canadians" as the Manufacturers have been pleased to shout, while they flapped the flag, is becoming the slogan of the common people. The Manufacturers will have to get back to "Canada for 2,500 Canadians" if they are to be understood. The square deal appeals to every man when properly placed before him. The banner of the square deal has been unfurled by the farmers, and when the fight ends it will be floating over the ruins of special privilege.

The farmers are daily finding out that special interests are seeking to misrepresent them at every turn. Let us be thankful that the special interests have not yet been sufficiently powerful to take away the franchise from the people. After all, it is the votes that count, and the plain people have the votes. If the people will take charge of both parties and nominate men who can be relied upon to really represent them, the special privileged class will be compelled to take a back seat.

Direct Legislation is being discussed continually by the farmers and all other thinking citizens of the West. It is being recognized as the only method by which our legislatures can be made responsive to the people. A campaign for political, social and economic improvement has been undertaken which must eventuate in a tremendous betterment of conditions under which our people live.

One of the strongest factors in preventing war between two nations is the volume of reciprocal trade. Free trade among nations would bring on the end of warfare more rapidly than any other move. If Canada had free trade with United States and England it would be difficult to raise even a little enthusiasm over the Canadian naval policy.

The announcement is made that a deputation of eight Manufacturers from the West will go to Ottawa shortly to present arguments in favor of a protective tariff. It is interesting to note that the Secretary of this delegation is the proprietor of a Western farm journal.

Where is the leader who will champion the cause of the plain people of Canada and lead them out of the wilderness into which they have been betrayed? The farmers need not despair; the man will be found. Keep up the fight for justice, and leaders will come to the front.

Premier Botha, of South Africa, refused a title at New Year's. Can we blame him when he chased titles all over the country a few years ago, and if titles had not been supplanted by brains the termination of the war might have been different.

Sir Wilfrid and R. L. Borden have been out talking to Canadian clubs during the holidays. It is probably a relief to get out and talk about something where no person is on hand to challenge.

We don't hear anything nowadays about the Canadian Manufacturers' Association making the "grass grow in the streets" of Canada. They are too busy defending themselves to shout aloud their boasts.