

for two years and if at the end of that time the Tariff Commission decided that the industry did not require the bounties they could be removed. In other words, Mr. Cockshutt claimed that as the iron and steel manufacturers had asked for assistance, a couple of million dollars should be handed over to them and then the Tariff Commission should find out whether they needed it or not. The Minister of Finance apparently believes that those who want gifts from the Dominion Treasury should prove the justice of their claim before they get the money, and he is to be congratulated on having withstood the powerful influences which have been brought to bear upon him by the iron and steel magnates. If this policy is held to steadfastly by the Minister of Finance the iron and steel bounties will never be renewed, and if all the beneficiaries of the tariff were required to prove that the protection which they at present enjoy is for the good of the country generally, we should soon see a sweeping reduction of tariffs generally, if not the establishment of absolute free trade.

A CHANCE TO MAKE GOOD

There is a strong probability that the Dominion Parliament will prorogue about the end of this month. Before this happens it would be well if some legislation was passed to bring relief to the West. For instance, the tariff on agricultural implements might be eliminated or reduced. The Western members are all in favor of this. Last year the Conservative members from the West were very strong for lower duties on implements, and during the reciprocity campaign the Liberal members were also insistent upon the same move. By the united action on the part of the Western Liberals and Conservatives this duty could be brought down. There is no need of any report from the Tariff Commission. Everybody knows the tariff on implements is nothing short of legalized robbery. Let us again consider how the Western farmer is plundered when he buys his implements. Here are the prices paid in Winnipeg and Minneapolis:—

Implement.	Minneapolis Price.	Winnipeg Price.
6 ft. binder	\$125.00	\$155.00
8 ft. binder	145.00	175.00
5 ft. mower	43.00	64.00
6 ft. mower	46.00	66.00
10 ft. hay rake	24.00	38.00
12 ft. hay rake	28.00	41.50
70 bushel manure spreader	120.00	
65 bushel manure spreader		162.00 (c.o.d.)
Hay Tedder (2 horse, less trees and yoke)	36.00	54.00
Single Disc Drills		
16 disc, 2 poles, 3 horse hitch	\$ 80.00	\$110.00 (c.o.d.)
22 disc, 2 poles, 4 horse hitch	104.00	138.00 (c.o.d.)
Double Disc Drills		
16 disc, 2 poles, 3 horse hitch	\$ 84.00	\$125.00 (c.o.d.)
20 disc, 2 poles, 4 horse hitch	100.00	148.00 (c.o.d.)
22 disc, 2 poles, 4 horse hitch	108.00	158.00 (c.o.d.)
Grass Seed Attachments		
For 16 run drill	\$ 5.00	\$ 11.00 (c.o.d.)
For 20 run drill	6.00	13.00 (c.o.d.)
For 22 run drill	6.50	14.50 (c.o.d.)
Disc Harrows		
12 discs, 16 in. dia., 3 horse hitch	\$ 23.00	\$ 36.50 (c.o.d.)
14 discs, 16 in. dia., 4 horse hitch	25.00	39.50 (c.o.d.)
16 discs, 16 in. dia., 4 horse hitch	27.00	42.00 (c.o.d.)
Gang plow, 12 in., 3 or 4 horse trees	60.00	82.00 (c.o.d.)
Sulky plow, 16 in., 3 horse trees	40.00	60.00 (c.o.d.)
Steel beam walking plow (14 in.)	12.00	19.00 (c.o.d.)
Engine Gang Plows		
6 furrow, 14 inch	\$438.50	\$540.00
8 furrow, 14 inch	558.50	680.00
10 furrow, 14 inch	700.00	785.00

The Winnipeg prices are all net cash except on binders, mowers and rakes, which are "one October payment." The Minneapolis prices are also net cash except on en-

gine gang plows, which are subject to five per cent. discount for cash with order. The Johnston Harvester Co., which is owned by the Massey-Harris Co., sells binders in Minneapolis at \$5.00 under the Minneapolis price above quoted. Here is another set of figures showing the actual tariff toll on the other farm machinery:—

	Winnipeg Price.	Actual Duty.
Separator	\$ 675.50	\$ 98.46
Feeder	207.20	31.36
Windstacker	243.51	41.49
Weighter	85.50	12.97
75 h.p. traction engine	2,377.00	339.30
60 h.p. portable engine	1,222.00	170.04
12 bbl. engine tender on wheels	131.00	27.55
Automobile	2,215.00	405.40

Now, with these figures before him, any farmer can get some idea of the load he is carrying. The Western members of Parliament, by working together, can relieve this situation. On their export business all the implement manufacturers are on a free trade basis, and as a result they sell for export considerably under the home prices.

DIRECT LEGISLATION TRIUMPHS

On February 19, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down a momentous decision when it held that the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, as in operation in the State of Oregon, was not within its jurisdiction and therefore quite constitutional. Our readers will remember that the people of Oregon were the first to secure the Initiative, Referendum and Recall in a form to be really effective. In that state eight per cent. of the people by petition may initiate a law, and five per cent. of the people may demand and secure a Referendum upon a law passed by the legislature. As soon as the people got this power they put the Recall upon the statute books of the province by the Initiative. This made Oregon a democracy where the people really ruled. One of the things they decided upon was that the corporations should pay taxes and they proceeded to collect such taxes. The individual states are powerless in the matter of the tariff and the special privileges handed out by Congress. But when it comes to the collection of taxes the state had power, and when the people controlled the state they began to use their power. Special Privilege has in the past relied upon the Supreme Court of the United States to keep the people in subjection. The Supreme Court was therefore appealed to to declare Direct Legislation contrary to the great American Constitution. But the Supreme Court sees the signs of the times, and decided that the issue was "governmental and political" and therefore beyond its jurisdiction. Evidently the Supreme Court watches the election returns and realizes that the American people have stood all they intend to, and therefore bowed to the advance of progress. Direct Legislation is now spreading all over the United States with wonderful speed. Even Roosevelt and Wilson have declared in favor of it in federal affairs. We need this great reform in Canada also. Our legislatures and our federal parliament are not representative of the people. They are placing upon our statute books laws decidedly unfair to the common people and for the benefit of a favored few. When we have the Initiative, Referendum and Recall in Canada we will command more respect from our politicians. Of course, all our politicians are opposed to it. They take a high moral stand and declare that it is contrary to the principles of the British constitution. They should not forget that the House of Lords has been the dominant factor in the British constitution for hundreds of years. But when the House of Lords stood in the pathway of progress it had to bow to the storm. We do not expect any reforms to emanate from our politicians. They never do. Reforms come from the common people. Reforms are coming in Canada today entirely from the common people. As soon as popular opinion in favor of Direct Legislation is

strong enough our politicians will jump in and take the credit for it all. No one objects to this. Let the credit go where it will. What the people want is a chance to use the tools of democracy. All that is necessary is to keep up the educational work and victory is sure.

THE BURDEN OF TAXATION

There seems to be general rejoicing over the fact that the federal government has a surplus of \$39,000,000 this year. A big surplus at Ottawa has always been taken as a cause for congratulation. It is common knowledge that the public business of Canada is as a rule conducted in the most expensive and least efficient manner. This will be true so long as the blind party and "spoils" system prevails. And yet even after all the bills have been paid there is a surplus of \$39,000,000. This is the amount of money that has been taxed out of the people of Canada over and above what was needed. Of course, it was raised by indirect means, chiefly through the tariff. Were direct taxation in force in Canada the people would keep a more careful check upon expenditures and extravagance would not be so general. The surplus this year means more than \$5 for every man, woman and child in Canada. The total amount raised by the tariff was over \$73,000,000 and yet more than twice this amount went into private pockets by means of the protective system. And still the tariff goes higher and our protected barons are asking permission to take a heavier tribute from the people. After all probably the people deserve it because of their blind devotion to party and their disregard of public interests. But times are changing and public opinion is becoming informed. Privilege is today on the defensive and we must keep it there.

Ex-Mayor Gill, of Seattle, who was recalled some months ago owing to his connection with the gambling dens and other nefarious resorts which were allowed to flourish under his administration, made another attempt to capture the mayor's chair at the municipal elections held a few days ago. At the primaries he had a majority of 10,000 votes over his nearest competitor, and his election seemed certain, but the women voters of Seattle campaigned against him and he was again defeated. The successful candidate, Cotterill, was an advocate of the single tax, prohibition, and municipal ownership, but the single tax and municipal ownership proposals were defeated by several thousand votes. Direct Legislation being in force in Seattle, the electors of that city were able to defeat an objectionable candidate for the mayoralty without adopting all the policies advocated by his opponent.

Every farmer should exercise the utmost care in the selection of his seed this spring. There is an immense quantity of grain in the West this year that will not germinate well but has a good appearance. Farmers should be careful to see that their grain is all tested before sowing and thus start right. The federal and provincial governments are conducting the tests without charge.

Mr. Borden's promise to take over the terminal elevators looks as though it would work out about the same as Sir Wilfrid Laurier's promise in 1896 to inaugurate a tariff for revenue only.

Only so long as land is cheap in the Prairie Provinces will Special Privilege be able to levy its unparalleled toll. As land advances in value the full weight of the burden will be felt. Then will come the revolt.

Democracy is making headway though we may not realize it clearly. Men are thinking as they have never thought before. Soon they will be doing as they have never done before—demanding a square deal.