

BETTER LAND TAX SYSTEM

When will the day come that sees the Western farmer get a square deal in competition with the land speculator. The difference between them is that both pay the same taxes on their land. Down east they even fine the farmer more heavily. But on the prairie there is the improvements that are exempted. But this is only a start in the right direction. Let us take a concrete example. A speculator buys land ten miles from a railway at \$5 per acre, as he did a few years ago. As time passes the farmers come and settle on the adjoining land and begin to work it. As the farms improve the price of land advances. But the price on the vacant land held by the speculator also advances. If 1,000 acres are held by the speculator and the price advances to \$20 per acre he makes \$15,000. But the farmers' land is worth as much or more. Of course, but the farmers have made their land valuable by their work. Who made the increase in the value of the speculators land? The farmers made the entire increase by improving their own farms. Thus the speculator has farmers working to bring him a profit of \$15,000. But does he give the farmers any benefit from it? None at all. The speculator puts all his profits in his pocket and walks away to live in luxury where he won't have to work. Who is to blame for this? It is the present law and it should be improved so that a portion of the value created by the community should be returned to the community. The only way in which such an improvement will be secured will be through the efforts of the organized farmers. It will require a campaign of education but it will be better for the farmers in the end.

SOME HARD FACTS

While the tariff is the subject of so much discussion it would be well to secure figures that strike close home. Farmers should make out their yearly expense account in one column. Then in another column opposite they could set out the amount of duty on each item of their purchases. If it should be goods of foreign manufacture then the duty went into the Dominion treasury. But if the goods were of Canadian make the amount of the tariff went into the pockets of the protected manufacturers. This system would provide figures that the ablest exponent of protection could not get by. If any farmers care to go to this trouble we shall be glad to publish these figures in THE GUIDE and show other farmers what it means.

WHAT IS THE TROUBLE?

The preparations for an election in Manitoba are going ahead with all speed. Candidates are daily being nominated all over the province. According to the party papers every man nominated is a sure winner. The Winnipeg Free Press assures its readers daily that the Roblin government is composed of a bunch of crooks and that the end of their tether has come. It then goes on to show what a large number of splendid men there are in the Liberal ranks. But the Winnipeg Telegram is there to prove the other side. It sets out to show that the members of the Roblin government are really but little lower than the angels and that the Liberals are too crooked to lie straight in bed. What a fearful mess of stuff to hand out to the people. These two papers devote their time to smashing each other and whitewashing their own parties, but we can't get the exact truth of affairs from either of them. How is the intelligent and patriotic man going to decide between the parties? He can't do it by reading the party organs. The best way to settle the matter is to hold off the election until the elevators have been provided and then the people will not need the assistance of the party organs to decide upon their actions.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

There seems to be considerable anxiety expressed in the United States as to what action Theodore Roosevelt will take when he returns to his own country next month. There is no doubt but that he is far and away the biggest man in the United States, and that the people are not particularly pleased with the man he chose for his successor. The chief question on public minds just now is "who will be the next president?" There is no doubt but that Roosevelt will be elected if he allows himself to become a candidate, but no president of the United States ever held office for more than two terms, and there is an unwritten law that none ever shall do so. If Roosevelt disregards this precedent and becomes president again in 1912, the chances are that he will continue being president as long as he likes. It is in view of this that many people see a great danger. The fear is that they are approaching the road that leads to a form of monarchy. It would, therefore, seem to be a test of Theodore Roosevelt as to whether he loves himself or his country best.

NO WORD YET

We are still wondering what action the Winnipeg Grain Exchange is going to take towards the terminal elevator manipulators, who were found a short time ago breaking the law. The rules and regulations of the Grain Exchange provide that if any member is convicted of any crime in any court, he can be immediately dealt with by the council of the Grain Exchange. But what do we see? The elevator men are still enjoying themselves as though nothing had happened. We understand that W. L. Parish has been appointed to investigate the terminal graft, but what Mr. Parish expects to find out is not known. There has already been an investigation and graft has been proven in large chunks. The situation as it now stands leads us to wonder whether the rules and regulations of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange are a joke or whether the entire membership of the Exchange is afraid of offending the elevator companies that have been working the big graft. Surely this stigma is not to be allowed to rest on all the grain dealers who are members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. Where are those pure ones who were formerly so loud in shouting the virtues of the Exchange.

EMBARGO MAY BE LIFTED

Reports from England indicate that the British government may be influenced by the high prices of meat to remove the embargo on Canadian cattle. The disease which was the original cause of the embargo has long ceased to be a reason. The present embargo does not allow live Canadian cattle to be kept in England. They must be slaughtered within ten days of arrival. No doubt the removal of the embargo will place the live cattle export from Canada upon a safer and more remunerative basis. But it will not solve the problem for Canada. What is needed is a system whereby a chilled meat export trade will be developed with the old country. The live stock export trade is always attended by heavy losses and shrinkages which would be overcome by shipping chilled meat by means of a proper refrigerator service. If the Dominion government is anxious to do the right thing for the farmers of the West, they should at once adopt the recommendations so often made in favor of a federal government owned and operated chilled meat industry.

U. S. TARIFF SCHEME

A strong agitation is afoot in the United States to have the tariff dealt with entirely outside of party politics. A great many representative business men are holding a meeting in Washington this week to urge congress to appoint a commission of experts to deal with the tariff. Under the last tariff

revision a permanent tariff board was created, and now it is reported that this board is merely aimed to save the scalps of the Republican candidates during the congressional election this fall. It looks very much as though the farmers in the United States were flim-flammed and buncoed on the tariff question the same as the farmers of Canada. Of course it will always be so until the farmers are properly organized.

The death of Goldwin Smith removes one of the most prominent figures in the world of literature and independent thought. During his long residence in Canada, he afforded an example to the public men by the broad-minded manner in which he dealt with every subject that came to his hand. Goldwin Smith was a hard working journalist up till less than a year ago. This is a record which is probably unequalled, to see a man retain his faculties and literary activity so far beyond the four score term. Contributions from Goldwin Smith's pen were eagerly sought by journals in every part of the English speaking world, and there was not a subject of national importance with which the "Sage of The Grange" was not prepared to deal. He endeared himself to farmers throughout Canada by the assistance he rendered to them in their organization to secure their rights. Some years ago when he advocated annexation to the United States he found opposition and criticism, but no one accused Goldwin Smith of any ulterior motive. Probably the strongest feature of Goldwin Smith's character was that he dared to do and say what he believed to be right. Such men (as prominent as Goldwin Smith) are very rare. He has had a remarkable career, and has known the leading men of thought throughout the world for the past fifty years. He has contributed greatly to the world of letters, and his work will live after him. It is unfortunate that there are not more Goldwin Smiths in the world.

The rush of Americans into Western Canada continues at an ever-increasing rate. They are welcome. Every effort is being made to keep them at home by maligning Canada. But the letters sent home by happy and contented settlers in the Canadian west who have come from the States, are factors which cannot be offset. We have the goods in the west and the American farmers are as shrewd as any class of people in the world. They know a good thing when they see it and are getting hold of it as fast as possible. The boundary line is only imaginary and they see no difference in living under the Union Jack.

The rumor has it that there is to be a big change in the management in the affairs of the Hudson's Bay Company. Cable advices from England say that William MacKenzie will be one of the new directors, and that J. P. Morgan will also have a hand in it. It will seem something like sacrilege to the old timers of the West if the hands of the modern money kings are allowed to be placed upon the oldest corporation in Canada.

The Saskatchewan Elevator Commission is going to take evidence at Winnipeg. It would be an interesting thing to have the terminal manipulators called as witnesses to explain how their work was accomplished.

We remember in the dim past that there was a live stock commission appointed by the Manitoba government nearly three months ago. What has become of it?

"How We Made Millions out of the Farmers," is the imposing title of the new book which we understand is not to be written by the Elevator Combine.

"Canada for 2,500 Canadians" is the slogan of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.