

The Brain Growers' Guide

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THE C.P.R. STOCKYARDS

The Guide has devoted considerable attention recently to the stockyard facilities of the C.P.R. in the city of Winnipeg. An article published in the last issue shows the disgraceful condition now existing. The C.P.R. stockyards are not only inadequate to accommodate the heavy shipments from the West, but apparently the Company makes little effort to give satisfaction to livestock shippers. Cattle are side-tracked and left in the cars without food or water for long periods. If there is an active humane society in Winnipeg it should find plenty of scope for its work. Small shippers continually claim that special privileges are given to the big abattoir concern of Gordon, Ironsides & Fares. Shipments that come in for the abattoir concern are never kept on side-tracks, but are immediately given a place in the yards, no matter how much small shippers may suffer by so doing. The action of the C.P.R. in allowing their stockyards to be conducted as they are all tends to drive the live stock trade of the West into the hands of a monopoly. The C.P.R. entered into an arrangement with the city of Winnipeg many years ago to maintain adequate stockyards in the city, and received exemption from taxes on all their city property on that undertaking. The C.P.R. also signed a forfeit bond of \$200,000 in case it should not fulfil its undertaking. The city certainly should annul that agreement and demand payment of the bond. Shippers also declare that they are unable to get hay at reasonable prices from the C.P.R. Last year there passed through the stockyards 169,458 cattle, 128,073 pigs and 24,221 sheep. The charges for weighing are five cents a head for cattle and three cents a head for sheep. A total revenue from this source of \$14,041.72. Profits on the hay which the Company provides is also very large. In the letter from the claims agent published in last issue is a clear indication that the C.P.R. takes no responsibility for cattle in the stockyards. Surely it is time the C.P.R. was brought to terms. That great corporation has milked Canada, particularly Western Canada, for the last thirty years to the extent of hundreds of millions of dollars, and in return, have adopted a "Public be damned" attitude. If there were decent stockyards in Winnipeg where every shipper would get a square deal and special privileges given to none it would be a great boon to the livestock industry of the West. It is time the city of Winnipeg, the Manitoba government and the Dominion government took hold of this matter and provided relief from the extortion now practised on the livestock shippers as well as on the cruelty practised on the dumb brutes that are compelled to go without food and water to satisfy the greed of the railway company and the abattoirs. Heretofore the small shippers have been afraid to speak, but now conditions have become so bad that they feel that nothing worse can happen to them, and in desperation are appealing for relief. Surely the manhood of Western Canada is of a calibre that will not tolerate such high-handed and autocratic treatment as is being given to livestock shippers. Herein lies the explanation of the decay of the livestock industry in the West.

During the past few days the C.P.R. is making considerable addition to their yards, but not enough. Is there any hope that the small shippers will get a square deal in the future?

THE UNITED STATES ELECTIONS

On November 8 the people of United States passed their opinion upon the legislators who enacted the Payne-Aldrich tariff and thus poured more millions into the trust coffers. The result is that the Republican party was thrown out of power in the lower house and the power of the plutocratic senate was greatly weakened. The Republican party has been dominated by political bosses who had selfish ends to serve and who were working for the benefit of the big interests. But there were a number of big men who refused to bow to this oligarchy and worship at the shrine of special privilege. These tribunes of the people began to preach truth and the people appreciated it. The American people are day by day awakening to a realization of their servile condition. They are beginning to see through the talk of patriotism and party loyalty that has fooled them so long. They have delivered a stern rebuke to President Taft and warned him against a continuation of his present methods. Popular opinion in United States has carried little weight for a number of years past because the people believed more in party than in principle. Now they are standing for principle. When the people of United States have another two years for thought and have an opportunity to complete the good work they have begun, a new era will dawn in the republic. The result of the election was a body blow to Theodore Roosevelt in his attempt to become a political boss. His self-assumed leadership was not favored. He was turned down by his fellow-Republicans who liked much of what he said but resented his actions. Roosevelt's star is on the wane and his aspirations for the presidency in 1912 do not seem likely to receive popular favor. The Republican journals consider the New York election to be a blow between the eyes for Roosevelt. They consider that he has had his day and now should mind his own business.

The result in United States, a trust-ruled and tariff-robbed country, carries a moral. Special privilege may for a time tramp rough shod over a people and may fatten through the exploitation of the common people, but sooner or later the day of reckoning comes and the people assert their rights. The principles which have been bestowed upon certain classes in United States are enough to astound any human being when the truth is told. It has been only through hiding the truth that the people have been kept in subjection for so long a time. The uprising in United States has been due to similar conditions, though further advanced, as obtain in Canada. Certain capitalists got control of the governmental machinery and by that means enacted laws which rendered the consuming public their bond servants. The result was so profitable that it was carried to excess and brought on a peaceable revolution. It matters not under what name the government of United States is called so long as there are patriotic statesmen at the head of it. There is a very strong free trade movement in the republic, and public opinion is rapidly being educated in that direction. There is also a growing tendency to avoid interference with natural laws. The spirit of progress is abroad on the North American continent, and he exercises bad judgment who stands in its pathway.

RECIPROCITY NEGOTIATIONS

The agents of United States government have been conferring with Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance, and Mr. Paterson, Minister of Customs, during the past week. Nothing has been given out to the public as a result of this conference, but it is announced that everything is satisfactory and that further negotiations will be taken up in Washington with President Taft personally in January. A great deal of stress is being laid upon the necessity of having a square deal with United States and having the American tariff against Canada reduced. This sounds very well when considered in general terms, but if the United States wants to keep the high tariff and rob its people, is this any excuse why Canada should do likewise? If United States can manufacture certain things more cheaply than Canada, our people should benefit thereby. The farmers of Canada have repeatedly said that they do not want any protection on natural products. They have also said that they do not want any protection on manufactured goods. Then why should not the tariff be reduced, regardless of what United States may do? The people of United States have shown in a very tangible way during the past week that they are entirely dissatisfied with the protective tariff that builds up huge trusts and enhances prices of everything they buy. Let the people of the United States work out their own problem and let the people of Canada work out theirs. If we take off the duty on manufactured goods it will reduce the price in Canada to the extent of the tariff. The price in United States will remain high and the U.S. manufacturers will sell their produce in Canada cheaper than they do in the United States. Wherein will that hurt the Canadian farmers? Of course the protected manufacturer in Canada will complain because he is not allowed to rob the Canadian people as the United States trusts rob the American people. But it scarcely seems reasonable that because one country permits a system of robbery that Canada should do the same. The Canadian manufacturers under protective tariff ship their goods to England and sell cheaper than in Canada. Canada buys more per capita from United States than she sells to them. But Canada wouldn't buy unless it was to her advantage to do so, so where is the harm? Let us have freer trade with United States, but the Canadian people should not be fooled by any protectionist argument and continue the system of tariff robbery, simply because the American people are also in bondage.

AVOIDING THE ISSUE

It is interesting to note how busy the Toronto Globe and the Winnipeg Free Press have been lately in drawing the "red herring" of "senate reform" across the trail of tariff revision. Of course we all know that the Senate needs reforming, and needs it very badly, in fact the Senate should be taken apart and completely done over before it is going to be of any particular use as a part of the legislative machinery of the Dominion of Canada. But the good old rule of "One thing at a time and that done well," is the one that should be followed just now, and although efforts being made towards reforming the Senate are most commendable, yet we would suggest to these two great journals that if they would devote all their energy at the present time to the tariff question, they would find it far more