

power from 1896 to 1911 and did nothing for the farmers, but took splendid care of all the special interests. For the past four years the Conservatives have been in power and they have followed the same policy as the Liberals, and have gone further in donations to the railway corporations and in increases in the protective tariff. There is not the slightest ground for hoping or believing that either party will voluntarily do any better in future than in the past. So far as the farmers are concerned it makes no difference to them which party wins at the next elections. There are a considerable number of farmers in the West who vote Grit or Tory regularly, and who believe that everything their party does is just right. Judging by our correspondence there are a number of both of these classes who are readers of The Guide, and they protest vigorously when we point out the shortcomings of their own pet party. The farmers have it very largely in their own hands to improve conditions by electing men independent of both parties, who will stand up for the farmers' rights in the House of Commons. Out of the forty-three constituencies in the Prairie Provinces the farmers have a majority vote in at least thirty-seven. If they go out on election day and split their votes between two parties special privilege will win every time, because Special Privilege controls both parties. If, on the other hand, they nominate independent men, who will stand up at all times for the rights of the farmers, and after they nominate them go down into their pockets and provide sufficient money and devote sufficient time to elect them, they will bring about a mighty change in conditions in Canada. The average farmer is plundered to the

extent of at least \$200 a year by laws made at the dictation of, and for the benefit of, the privileged interests. The remedy for this situation can only come from one source, and that is from the farmers themselves; it can only come in one way, and that is by the farmers voting together instead of against each other. It is all very well to pass resolutions and send memorials to the Government, and as long as the farmers do that and nothing else, both political parties will love the farmers as they do now; but they will never give them anything approaching a square deal. The time for resolutions and memorials is past. In 1910 five hundred farmers from Western Canada went to Ottawa, and demanded square deal legislation. It cost them probably close to \$50,000 to send the delegation to Ottawa, and they didn't get 15 cents' worth of helpful legislation in return for it. Now, if the farmers are willing to forget that they have ever been Grit or Tory, and are willing to dig up another \$50,000, or more, to carry on the campaign for the election of independent candidates, they will get results, and good results. A Free Trade candidate should be nominated by the farmers in every rural or semi-rural constituency, and nominated as soon as possible. As soon as he is nominated every farmer should work for him until election day, and let the official Grit and Tory candidates take care of themselves.

TYPICAL CANADIAN POLITICS

T. R. Ferguson, commissioner appointed by orders of Hon. Robt. Rogers, to make secret investigations to aid the Tory machine in the next election, third or fourth-rate lawyer. Salary

\$15,000 and all living and other expenses paid.

Sir Robert Borden, prime minister of Canada, one of Canada's foremost lawyers, the leading citizen of the land. Salary \$14,500. Pays his own expenses.

This is a fair sample of political standards in Canada.

Farmers must realize that resolutions and delegations are not enough to force the Big Interests off their backs. It is going to cost the farmers a lot of money and a hard fight before they obtain their economic freedom.

The best men and women of the world usually came from the farm—but not from farms where the milk, butter, cheese, eggs, poultry and bacon were purchased instead of produced.

In Terre Haute, Indiana, 116 men, 89 of whom pleaded guilty, have been sentenced for election frauds. The Mayor of the city received the heaviest punishment, six years imprisonment and a fine of \$2,000. The Indiana law would be worth copying in Canada. Here we have the corruption but not the sentences.

There are too many farmers who are Independents between election, but are always found in the party booth on election day.

An election this summer will be the waste of \$1,000,000 that should be used to buy boots and hospital supplies for our soldiers.

If the farmers of Canada really want lower taxes and a square deal they can get it. But they will never get it so long as they vote for the two old parties.



HOW NOT TO DO IT

Independent men are wanted in Parliament, but it is of no use to nominate Independent candidates unless the farmers intend to support them right up to the polling booth.