

they now, by their votes on November 27, have an opportunity of securing its adoption in their own province.

THE PARCEL POST

One of the most welcome pieces of news that has come from Ottawa for a long time is the announcement that the parcel post system will be inaugurated in Canada on January 1 next. Fortunately, the Postmaster General has had the advantage, in arranging the details of the new system, of being able to observe the operation of the parcel post in a country in which conditions in many respects very closely resemble those existing in Canada. The parcel post has for many years been successfully operated in Great Britain and other European countries, but it was recognized that the success of the system in those thickly settled countries was not conclusive evidence that the same results would follow in this continent, where distances are immeasurably greater, and where the population is much more thinly scattered. Our neighbors in the United States, however, established a parcel post service on January 1, 1913, and on every hand the system is proclaimed a magnificent success. In this issue we print an article written by the Postmaster General of the United States, in which many interesting details are given of the workings and results of the parcel post in that country. This article will be of particular interest to the readers of The Guide because it deals largely with the uses to which the parcel post is being put by the farming community. The mail order houses, Mr. Burleson says, are at present making the most use of the new system, but the opportunity is there for the farmers to reap even greater benefits. Farmers, of course, are benefiting from the parcel post in the saving of express charges on their purchases from the cities and also by having their parcels brought right to their door instead of having to fetch them from the express office. The great opportunity which the parcel post offers to the farmer, however, lies in the fact that it provides him with a means of selling his butter, eggs, poultry, fruit, vegetables and other produce which has a high value in proportion to its bulk, direct to the consumer in the town or city. In the United States a twenty-pound parcel can be sent 155 miles for 24 cents, and this is being taken advantage of, though not to as great an extent as it should be, by farmers to supply customers in the city with fresh dairy, farm and garden produce. The regulations by which the Canadian parcel post will be governed have not yet been made public, but it is fully expected that the scheme will, to a large extent, follow that which has proved such a benefit to the people of the United States, and that one of its features will be the bringing together of the producer on the farm and the consumer in the city, to the great advantage of both. The Canadian Postmaster General has acted wisely, no doubt, in waiting until he could observe the working of the parcel post in the United States before putting the system into operation in this country. The scheme, no doubt, has been bitterly opposed by the railway magnates who object to the post office competing with their express companies, and it is earnestly to be hoped that this opposition will not result in such restrictions being placed on the parcel post as to limit its usefulness. Hon. L. P. Pelletier, Postmaster General, has the opportunity to do a great service to the people of Canada, by giving them a real parcel post that will free them from the exactions of the express companies and give them an efficient service at reasonable charges. If he does this people will rise up to call him blessed, and he and the government of which he is a member will be entitled to a great deal of credit.

Col. Sam Hughes, who has just returned from Europe, assures us that the British army is O.K. Now we can get a little sleep nights, perhaps.

CORRUPTION IN MACDONALD ADMITTED

After arresting opposition election workers on trumped-up charges, throwing them into jail without a trial, and finally being forced to let them free; after all the government orators have roared up and down the country that their Macdonald election methods were clean; after declaring that the reciprocity candidate was supported by all kinds of thugs and crooks and that the constituency was being corrupted in his behalf, the government forces last week admitted their guilt, their crookedness and their corruption and the famous Macdonald election has been voided. Macdonald constituency has now no member and there will be another by-election shortly. Everyone who had any knowledge of the Macdonald election knew it was the dirtiest and most corrupt ever held in this country in recent years. Voters were intimidated and voters were bribed by the forces opposed to reciprocity. Like the dictator in Mexico the leaders of the government forces arrested the opposition workers and jailed them to make the government victory more sure. And then, when the election was protested the government forces moved heaven and earth, and even threatened the judges on the bench, to prevent the case coming to trial. The election act has been bungled by both political parties for the very purpose of preventing the punishment of dishonesty in elections and this time it nearly accomplished its purpose. But every honest citizen should be thankful that the truth finally triumphed, or otherwise the public would have gone on thinking, and justly so, that it was another game of bluff between the two old parties. How long must we tolerate such crookedness and such corruption as characterized the elections in Macdonald and in Gimli? Has the public conscience of Manitoba, and the public morality reached such a low ebb that crime can stalk abroad in the land and be winked at? Has the sacred franchise, the only weapon of self-protection guaranteed to every citizen, become only a thing of merchandise to be bought by the highest bidder? Have the people of Manitoba become so meek that a handful of men can force them to stifle their very convictions, to forego all hope of democracy and to acquiesce in a reign of graft and corruption unequalled by Tammany in New York? The people of Manitoba are chiefly to blame for the situation that prevails today, and each citizen should look to himself and his own actions before denouncing too severely politicians and government officials. If the people themselves clean up, the political standards will follow suit.

LET THE WOMEN VOTE

Among all the questions to be voted on by The Guide readers on December 3, few are of more live interest or are being discussed in more countries than the granting or refusing women the right to vote. England and the United States are face to face with the problem, and in both countries the woman's movement has progressed much further than in Canada. In Britain half of the cabinet have declared themselves in favor of the reform, and Lloyd George recently predicted that the full suffrage would shortly be extended to women. Ten of the American states have given the ballot to women, so that there are now nearly two million women voters in the United States, compared with 1,307,528 Canadian voters at our last general election. With this huge woman electorate the question cannot be kept out of national politics much longer. Canadian women have been slow in agitating for their rights, but the growing public interest in the cause and the support of many influential bodies is making woman suffrage a matter of increasing concern to politicians. The organized farmers have from the very first been

staunch champions of woman suffrage. As the fellow-partners with the women in the arduous work of making homes on the prairies, Western farmers have perhaps had better opportunities of proving the devotion, the heroism, and the resourcefulness of their wives, mothers and sisters. Our laws say: "The women may be well qualified to make a home, raise and train a family, but they are incapable of casting a ballot." The stock arguments which were formerly used against extending the franchise to women have been utterly disproved by experience. Very few now contend that it is unwomanly to cast a vote. As for the favorite argument of the anti-suffragists "woman's place is in the home," the women have captured that weapon for their own cause. Just because the home interests are paramount, just because the welfare of the family should be the State's highest aim and supreme concern, women claim the right to safeguard their children and loved ones, not only when they are within the four walls of their home, but wherever they are. The men who have up to the present controlled business and politics have allowed such giant evils as child sweating, white slavery and the liquor traffic, not only to exist, but to flourish in our midst, a menace to the whole community, particularly to the young. Are the wives and mothers to sit down and calmly fold their hands, watching, without protest, this ceaseless human sacrifice? Government, whether rural units or of the whole nation, is simply housekeeping on a larger scale, and we are very much astray if women need men to teach them either economy or efficiency. When women vote we look for the sweeping away of many social wrongs, for higher standards in politics and business, for less graft and more humane legislation. The Guide is showing its belief in the capacity of the women to form judgments on public questions by giving them a special ballot in the Referendum, covering exactly the same questions as the men's ballot. We hope every man and woman will be prepared to use their ballots, not only in the matter of woman suffrage, but on the ten other questions as well.

MANUFACTURING UNDER FREE TRADE

A valuable contribution to the Free Trade or Protection controversy will be found on page 18 of this issue, where we publish an article from a Toronto correspondent describing the cream separator factory of the Massey-Harris Company. Sir Lyman Melvin Jones, the president of the Massey-Harris Company, stated publicly at Regina a few weeks ago that if the duties were removed from agricultural implements his patriotic firm would abandon its Canadian factories and move across into Uncle Sam's country. The Massey-Harris Company, nevertheless, is manufacturing cream separators, on which there is no duty, at its Toronto factory, and, judging from the fact that the company is constantly enlarging its facilities for manufacturing, and its output of these machines, it is evident that the business is producing a profit. The Massey-Harris Company, moreover, is not the only concern that is manufacturing cream separators in this country. The De Laval Company has recently erected a new and enlarged plant for the same purpose, and they, as well as other companies, find that it pays to manufacture in Canada even without tariff protection. The strongest evidence that Canadian manufacturers need no protection is found in the fact that Massey-Harris cream separators, as well as other implements, are being manufactured in Toronto and shipped thousands of miles across the sea to Great Britain, to South Africa and to Australia, and are sold in competition with the goods produced in those countries. If the Canadian manufacturer can compete with the British manufacturer in the British market, after paying freight, he surely need not fear competition in this country with the freight in his favor.

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