

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, August 7th, 1912

UP TO THE RAILWAY MAGNATES

At Calgary on July 26 the Railway Commission served notice on the railway companies that the discrimination against the West in the question of freight rates was proven, and the railways would have until October 1 to justify such discrimination. In the past the railway magnates have staved off enquiry by noise, bluster and misrepresentation. They must "produce the goods" this time.

A FAIR DEMAND

A dollar's worth for a dollar. This is the irreducible minimum of the Western demand. Sixty cents' worth for a dollar is a bargain that no two parties will make unless one party employs force or enjoys special privileges. The Western people must invest a share of their money in the fight against the tariff barons in order to save the rest of their property from confiscation. Let "A dollar's worth for a dollar" be the demand and let the fight proceed.

IF ?

If by paying \$1.33 for a dollar's worth of cement a man becomes prosperous;

If by paying \$170 for a \$140 binder a man grows more loyal;

If by paying \$1.35 for a dollar woollen shirt a man becomes a true Canadian;

If by paying \$1.66 for a dollar's worth of express service a man really attains riches;

If by paying \$2.00 for a dollar's worth of telegraph service the service becomes cheaper;

If by paying \$1.75 for a dollar's worth of freight service a farmer helps his country;

If by paying ten per cent. interest on six per cent. money a farmer is increasing his power to help his family;

If by paying \$7.50 for seven dollars' worth of coal, the coal gives out more heat;

If by paying 6 cents for 4 cents' worth of sugar the sugar becomes sweeter;

If by paying \$1.25 for a dollar cotton jacket the jacket becomes warmer;

If by paying \$1.25 for a dollar's worth of canned goods a man becomes healthier;

If by paying \$2.70 for a pair of two dollar shoes the shoes wear longer;

If by paying \$110 for an eighty dollar drill the seeds grow better;

If by paying \$19 for a twelve dollar plow the furrows are any straighter;

If by paying \$38 for a twenty-four dollar hay rake the hay is raked cleaner;

If by paying \$1.35 for a dollar hat the brain develops faster;

If by getting 90 cents for a dollar's worth of wheat a farmer feels happier;

If by getting 45 cents for 75 cents' worth of barley a farmer is richer;

If by paying \$2,500 for a \$1,900 automobile the car goes faster;

If by paying \$680 for a \$558 engine gang plow the sod turns better;

Then Western farmers should be the most prosperous, most contented, happiest, most loyal, warmest, strongest, healthiest, sweetest and brainiest men in the world.

One of the great arguments in favor of a protective tariff is that it "makes work." A statistician has discovered that 75,000 honest American citizens gain a livelihood by protecting the people against burglary. There-

fore if all burglars should become honest these 75,000 would be "thrown out of employment." Moral: Burglary should not be discouraged.

SOUTH AFRICAN FARMERS IN DANGER

News to hand from South Africa indicates that the protectionist recommendations of the Commerce and Industries Commission have been shelved by the government for the present year. The South African Manufacturers' association is carrying on a vigorous protectionist campaign with the aim of educating the farmers to the benefits of the protective tariff. In South Africa today the farmers control the situation, and the real influence of the manufacturers is not great. A protective tariff on wheat would undoubtedly benefit the South African farmers to a certain extent until such time as the importation of wheat is discontinued and South Africa becomes a wheat exporting country. This can only be a matter of a few years under the present vigorous agricultural development in that country. But even under present conditions the advantage accruing from the protection on wheat would be more than offset by the increase in prices on all manufactured goods, should a general protective tariff be imposed. If the farmers of South Africa will but take warning from the bitter experience of the farmers of Western Canada they will never depart from free trade. We notice by the South African News that W. J. Laite, Secretary of the South African Manufacturers' association, sailed early in June to make an extended tour of Australia, Canada and the United States, for the purpose of ascertaining tariff conditions and information as to the working of permanent tariff boards. The announcement states that Mr. Laite will visit Quebec, Montreal and Toronto. We have no doubt whatever if Mr. Laite visits only these three cities he will take back to South Africa with him a glowing account of the benefits of a protective tariff. He will meet our own tariff barons who have grown rich under the protective system and they will tell him that the protective tariff has been a powerful agency in building up "a well rounded Dominion." He will meet also the leading railway magnates and bankers who are tied up with protective system and who will paint its beauties in vivid colors. None of them will tell him how rural Ontario is being depopulated by the heavy burdens that are placed upon the farmers. Nor will they tell him of the watered stock that has been injected into the most protected industries. We hope that some good truthful protectionist politician will tell Mr. Laite how the protected manufacturers contribute to the campaign funds of both the political parties to keep up the tariff. In the olden days of the National Policy of High Protection in Canada the protected manufacturers were called together in a hotel in Toronto and contributed their thousands of dollars to the campaign fund of the protectionist party. The same thing has been going on in a more subtle form in Canada for the last twenty-five years, and is one of the most demoralizing influences in our national life. We hope that Mr. Laite will be told of the splendid protectionist campaign of last September headed by a Canadian Northern Railway magnate, and how the government handed over a straight cash gift of \$6,300,000 to the Canadian Northern Railway at the last session of Parliament. And then we would like to see Mr. Laite come to Western Canada and see what a splendid thing the protective tariff is for the grain growers. He would find that the Canadian Grain Growers on account of the protective

tariff are charged \$30 more for their binders than the same binder costs the American farmer just across the line in the Western States. On mowers the difference is \$20, hay rakes \$14, manure spreaders \$42, hay tedders \$18, single disc drills \$30, disc harrows \$13.50, eight-furrow engine gang plows \$122, small threshing machines \$100, 75-horse power traction engines \$350, and automobiles \$400. This difference is due to the protective tariff. Mr. Laite might then compare the prices which the Canadian farmer gets for his grain with the prices paid to the American farmer just across the line, and he will find that the American farmer gets from 2 to 15 cents per bushel more for his wheat, from 30 to 45 cents per bushel more for his barley, from 20 to 50 cents per bushel more for his flax and from 5 to 15 cents per bushel more for his oats. These grain prices in Canada and the United States should indicate to the South African farmers that protection on wheat will be of no use to them as soon as they become a grain exporting people. Then Mr. Laite might make some further investigations, and he will find that the freight rates in Western Canada are from 50 to 150 per cent. higher than across the line in the United States, and are just as much higher than the rates on the same lines in Eastern Canada. He will find that the telegraph tolls in Western Canada are from 50 to 200 per cent. higher than in Eastern Canada, and that express rates in Western Canada are 66 per cent. higher than in Eastern Canada. He will also find that the banks and the mortgage companies charge from 2 to 5 per cent. higher interest in the West than in the East. The whole system of extortion practiced upon the people of Western Canada has its roots in the protective system. The Western Canadian farmer is compelled to buy in a tariff enhanced protected market and to sell in the world's markets under open competition. If Mr. Laite takes home the same kind of report which our Canadian protectionists would bring to Canada under similar circumstances it will be most misleading. We would urge our South African farmer friends to send two or three of their numbers to investigate actual conditions in Western Canada before they commit themselves in favor of a protective tariff which is rightly regarded as the greatest curse that rests upon Canada. Free trade is the greatest friend of the farmer, and it cannot be a long time until Canada adopts such a policy in the interests of its people generally.

AN ULTIMATUM FROM PRIVILEGE

The editor of the Toronto News is now touring the West and delivering the ultimatum of the Special Interests to the "agitators" of the West. Mr. Willison's position as editor of the chief protectionist organ of Canada makes his utterances significant. We hear a great deal of talk about the East and the West coming to a better understanding. We in the West do not believe that the common people of the East like to be plundered any better than ourselves. The trouble is that the Eastern people are nearer to the home of the barons of privilege and hence it is easier to make them believe that without protection the factories would all be closed and the cities and towns would become desolate. Mr. Willison comes West advertised to explain how this very desirable harmony which the protectionists prate about can be secured. We have heard that both the East and West must compromise and that each must make concessions. Now from Mr. Willison, as seen in his address in another column, we learn what these concessions are to