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operations for money, but I must say that they are under extraordinary temptations to do so, and if they always resist those temptations they must be far above the ordinary man in virtue. I have seen many a consultation inside a hospital group and many outside of it, and I have had occasion to compare the utter freedom from pecuniary bias that obtains among the physicians in a free hospital with the desperate efforts of privately paid consultants to make up their minds uninfluenced by considerations of profit. In my mind there is no possible doubt that the patient in a free hospital gets a sounder, cooler, better balanced judgment on the question, 'Is operation now necessary or unnecessary,' than he does under the conditions of private practice outside hospitals.'' George Bernard Shaw says that the subjection of men of average honesty to conditions that will grievously tempt them to be dishonest is neither fair to the physician nor safe for the patient.

Many people do not like to be told they have nothing the matter with them and it is not to the physician's interest to tell them so. Other patients have the doctor habit and such are not easily discouraged. To tell such people to forget about doctors isn't easy when it means dollars and cents and that does not mean the medical profession are any more unmoral than any other class.

November 1, 1916

means dollars and cents and that does not mean the medical profession are any more unmoral than any other class. Druggists also play into the hands of some doctors and arrange their medicines so that the patient cannot take them without paying the physician a visit and a fee. In other words the interests of the doctor and the patient are diametrically opposed to one another inof the doctor and the patient are diametrically opposed to one another instead of being parallel. With a salaried hospital physician the position is reversed. It is to his interests to get people well and keep them so.

In England and Germany the system of state siekness insurance is most valuable but it can be vastly improved on. Examination still rests on the diagnosis of the individual doctor instead of on organized groups of physical states.

on. Examination still rests on the diagnosis of the individual doctor instead of on organized groups of physicians, in hospitals. Physicians ought to be encouraged to educate their patients on the prevention of disease, they ought to become teachers as well as doctors. Today our system of private hospitals does excellent work but they also are subjected to many criticisms, some of which are doubtless justified. Under a co-operative or municipal system, where the interests of the patient were the paramount question and where the regulation would be different, many of these objections could be removed. Western Canada has nothing to lose and everything to gain in the conservation of its citizenship by the establishment of a system of municipal hospitals. The cost is small and the returns great. The day is coming when much of the money now paid to sick benefit insurance companies will find its way to the support of just such a system, and the country will be richer for it.

The Mail Bag

THE TIME IS RIPE

THE TIME IS RIPE

Editor, Guide:—Once again from various parts of the Western provinces the old demand is arising, a demand that Western Canada should, thru our own Western men, make itself heard in the Dominion House at Ottawa. Never in my experience of Western Canada has the time been so opportune as it is today for the West to take independent political action. Both the old parties are at the present time under suspicion, both of them are doing their best to live down charges of maladministration both in our local House and at Ottawa. All we lack is the nerve to go ahead and victory is bound to be ours, but in my opinion the present is the appointed time. Twelve months from now may be too late. The old party machines at the present time are not running just as smoothly as of yore. It is up to Western Canada to take advantage of this condition of affairs among the hirelings of special privilege who have, ever since confederation, served their masters only too well and will continue to do so if the West does not grasp the present opportunity to cast them aside and place our own tried men in their places. The reason I am advocating immediate action is because there is a real danger in delay. Already some of the Eastern members, shrewd men who

can read the writing on the wall, are advocating a third party, cradled in Eastern Canada. Now, I am not a prophet, neither am I the son of a prophet, but it seems to me that the men back of this movement are working along the line that one of our well known Saskatchewan politicians consistently advocates and acts on, viz., "If any movement arises among the people that you can't control, get out and lead it." Right there lies our great danger. If we producers of the West de not take the initial steps the professional politicians will keat us to it and instead of having two parties owing allegiance to Eastern Canada to contend with we shall have three.

In the above remarks I am not necessarily advocating a "Third Party." Personally I am perfectly agreeable to

In the above remarks I am not necessarily advocating a "Third Party." Personally I am perfectly agreeable to support either a "Third Party" or a Nonpartizan League. I do not care which the majority of the people wish for, but I sincerely hope that in the near future some concrete action will be taken. If we let the present opportunity slip by I am afraid the producers of the West will live to rue their short-sightedness in not taking advantage of the present splendid opportunity to wrest the political control of Western Canada away from the present corrupt, partizan machine. the present corrupt, partizan machine.
Hoping to see in The Guide other peoples' ideas of this question

W. H. LILWALL.
Wilkie, Sask., Oct. 18.

LIBERALS AND THE TARIFF

Editor, Guide:—You offer \$5.00 cash for the one who can tell what the Liberal party intend to do with the tariff if returned to office. Well, sir, I am just looking for easy money like that. 1st—You say you don't think the leaders of that party know themselves and that is true. Why? Because they know there is a great army of organized farmers in the West. Also the bugle call is sounding, and recruits are signing up in many other places against graft, corruption and and recruits are signing up in many other places against graft, corruption and partyism, so they see it is necessary in their business to wait till the last moment before committing themselves to any promise, then after the election is over and they are safe in office they will forget their pre-election pledges as quick as possible and the people te d — like it was in 1896. It won't be necessary to wait until after the election to send me that V, Mr. Editor. She is mine, send her along.

A. J. FORSYTH

A. J. FORSYTH.
Burriss, Ont., Oct. 4, 1916.

AN ERROR CORRECTED

AN ERROR CORRECTED

Editor, Guide:—My attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in a recent issue of The Grain Growers' Guide to the effect that in view of the fact that the Canadian Liberal Monthly is soliciting advertisements, it should be placed on an equal footing with the other periodicals and magazines which are compelled to pay postage, instead of being allowed to go thru the mail under the franking privilege. I beg to state that this statement is absolutely misleading and is not in accordance with the facts. The Liberal Monthly is sent each month to our list of subscribers the same as any other newspaper or publication and in no case have these copies gone to our subscribers under the members' frank. The post office department here at Ottawa will confirm this. I would be glad if you would give this letter publication any false impression in regard to the Liberal Monthly.

C. M. GODDARD,
Secretary.
Note—We regret the error, which was

Note—We regret the error, which was due to oversight, and we gladly publish the correction.—Editor.

APPROVES OF ARTICLE

Editor, Guide:—I wish to thank you for printing that article, "Manufacturing and Farming," by W. C. Good, Paris, Ontario. That is the best explanation "why people leave the farm" that I have seen. I have often wished for statistics such as is given in your issue of October 11. Don't let that subject rest at that, Hammer it in. I wish every farmer in Canada would study it carefully. It should be discussed at our annual convention at Brandon. Wishing you every success.

W. F. FITCH.

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