

it is to traffic in them for private gain. The deplorable lack of conscientious concern regarding this matter has done more than anything else to encourage the corrupters of public morals in frustrating the will of the people and enriching themselves at the public expense. Huge donations by seekers after government favors are never made without the expectation of being repaid. The political history in Canada brims with evidence that in the main those expectations have been amply realized. May we soon reach the stage where public opinion will condemn the public man whom it has discovered to have been implicated in the administration of huge campaign funds, even though he has not betrayed his public trust for his private benefit.

TARIFF AND POLITICS

The American government is to make another experiment in taking the tariff out of politics. President Taft inaugurated such an experiment in the creation of a non-partisan tariff board. With the advent of the Democratic party to power, however, this board was discontinued. The tariff was made a party issue and a government measure introduced many changes. Now, however, another tariff commission has been provided for and the members selected. For chairman, President Wilson has chosen Professor Taussig of Harvard, one of the leading economists of the United States. The personnel includes men of almost all shades of political opinion, and there is reason to believe that a good commission has been selected, one which will bring to the consideration of tariff matters an expert knowledge which is not usually apparent in acrimonious partisan considerations of the subject. But to what extent the tariff will, by the appointment of this board, cease to be a political issue, is conjectural. The fact that parties have not been able to settle

tariff matters satisfactorily has not been because the tariff is not a legitimate subject for political discussion, but because of the inefficiency of party government as an organ of democracy. The manner in which tariff matters are settled is of vital interest to the people and because of this they will always feel that it is a matter that should be dealt with by their chosen representatives whom they hold responsible, rather than by commissions over whom they exercise but indirect control. Democratic government has fallen far short of its possibilities when matters of such vital importance to the people have to be delegated to commissions.

HORTICULTURE ON THE PRAIRIES

The old fashioned prairie farm which grew nothing but wheat, not even potatoes for the farmer's dinner-table, is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. It has been found that the fertile soil and long summer days of Western Canada make possible the growing of a large variety of garden vegetables and small fruits. Even tree fruits are being produced by some with encouraging success. In the case of a great many of these necessities of every well ordered table no work was required in developing varieties suitable to the rigors of the Western climate. Old and well-known varieties grew vigorously and yielded abundantly from the start. It was merely a question of showing the farmer that it was to his own personal advantage to take the time and trouble to plant a good garden. In other cases it was necessary to conduct experiments and make selections in order to discover suitable varieties. With some kinds of fruits a great deal of constructive plant breeding and selection had to be accomplished in order to develop varieties of sufficient hardiness. The work that has been done in this connection is quite as creditable

as that which has been done in the development of new varieties of cereals for the comparatively dry climate and short season of the West. For settlers the West must depend largely on people who have been raised in fruit growing districts and to whom a garden and orchard yielding an assortment of vegetables and fruits is an integral part of their ideal of a farm home. Many such people have been prevented from immigrating because they have conjured up in their minds a vision of the prairie home as situated on a barren plain, destitute of every semblance of environment in which the fruit and vegetable garden occupy an important place. We now know that such conjurings of the imagination are unjustified. To the few enthusiastic men who have led the way in the development of the West along horticultural lines, is due as much gratitude as to any class of pioneers that have settled on the prairie.

At the conference recently held in Washington between the big men of England, France, United States and Canada, it was significant to note that the only titled individuals were from Canada, Sir Thomas White and Sir George Foster. The big men of other countries do not think as much of titles as we do here. This ought to be a tip to some of our own holders of tin pot adornments.

Professor Zavitz of the Ontario Agricultural College is authority for the statement that more of Ontario's agricultural land is being put under grass each year. What a commentary on the home market argument of the protectionists! There is evidence to show, however, that the Ontario farmer is beginning to see that denuded countrysides are the direct result of a policy by which country dwellers are robbed of their hard won earnings. The home market argument is losing force in consequence.



HIS LAST CARD