

tion for members of the House of Commons. At present the members of the three Western Provincial Legislatures get \$1,500 per year and are only called upon to attend the sessions for from five to six weeks. The members of the House of Commons get \$2,500 per year and are required to attend the House for about six months in the year. The members for Quebec and Ontario, or the majority of them, can go home for the week-end and keep in touch with their business. The members from the Maritime Provinces, however, and also the members from the Prairie Provinces and B.C., are not so fortunate. They must remain away from their business practically all the time the House is in session, and also remain away from their families or meet the extra expense of maintaining one household in Ottawa and another at their own home.

The payment of a member of Parliament should be sufficient to make him independent of outside sources of revenue, because if he is financed from the party campaign fund he naturally must stand in line when the party whip cracks. Would it not be better to pay our members a larger salary so that they may be independent of corporation funds and not also be forced to spend whatever private means they have accumulated to meet their ordinary living expenses. If the salaries were sufficient we would not then be forced to select men of means to represent us at Ottawa, but could send men with the right viewpoint regardless of their personal wealth. At the present time each member of the House of Commons receives a free annual pass over all railways in Canada, but when he wishes to take his family to Ottawa with him that is regarded as a luxury, and he is forced to pay their railway fare, or, as is too frequently the case, accept a pass from the railway company. Railway companies do not give passes unless they expect favors in return. These are all matters of vital importance to the Grain Growers because they all affect the purity of our political life. We must realize there is such a thing as wise economy and also unwise economy.

A LIBRARY OF INFORMATION

Each reader of The Guide who is interested in the work of the organized farmers and in the cause of democracy generally should preserve every copy of The Guide. We are now paging the paper consecutively from beginning to end of each calendar year, and publishing a complete index for the year in the last issue. Then, by binding the 52 issues together, the reader has a volume of great value, and which contains a vast amount of information that cannot be secured elsewhere. By referring to the index any subject dealt with in The Guide can be turned to at once. For those who want to inform themselves on the subjects in which the grain growers are interested a volume of The Guide for 1913 is indispensable. The year 1913 is the first that has been indexed and we hope our readers have kept it. The present year will also be indexed, so be sure to keep it.

HARMONIZE AND CONSOLIDATE

The Manitoba Grain Growers took a forward step at the Convention when they passed the following resolution:

Whereas: This Convention of Grain Growers and the farmers it represents, have a clear recollection of the disabilities they labored under previous to the creation of the Farmers' Organizations in Western Canada and have a clear realization of the benefits brought about as a result of their various organizations, and

Whereas: Through the creation of several farmers' trading organizations in Western Canada, under separate and different managements, the way may possibly be opened for the development of rivalries and jealousies, the tendency of which would be to create misunderstanding and strife among the ranks of the grain growers when cohesion and solidarity should exist, and

Whereas: If from any causes whatever, such

rivalry and jealousy should arise, it would not only largely undo the work that has been accomplished in the past, but would destroy in a very great degree the effectiveness of the Grain Growers' Associations in the future, and

Whereas: It is not only in their own interest, but, as well, in the interest of the best development of Canada that the Grain Growers of the three Prairie Provinces should further consolidate and unify their forces, independent of any political control or affiliation;

Therefore, Be it resolved that this Convention, representing the organized Grain Growers of Manitoba, hereby express in the strongest manner possible its conviction that steps should at once be taken to increase the efficiency and to insure the continued and harmonious working together of the associations and organizations known as the United Farmers of Alberta, the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company and the Grain Growers' Grain Company, and, to the achievement of this purpose, urge:

1st. That a Federated Board, composed of two representatives from each of these various bodies, meet at least three times a year at such point or points as may be mutually agreed upon, and that the expense connected therewith be arranged in such a manner as the said Board may decide.

2nd. That the business of the said Board should be to develop and foster the spirit of unity of purpose in the various activities of the organized farmers along social, legislative and economic lines, and particularly the idea of intelligent co-operation among all western farmers toward the end of lowering the cost of the necessities of life they require and getting the cheapest and most direct road to the consumer for what they produce.

3rd. That our executive officers be asked to bring this resolution before the conventions of the sister associations, and the meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, soon to be held, and invite their co-operation and also of the various trading bodies mentioned above.

4th. That our Executive be hereby instructed to report at the next annual convention of this association as to the progress made toward the attainment of the purpose above set out.

This resolution grew out of a reference in the president's annual address. A committee was appointed to consider it, and the resolution was the result. As the resolution is self-explanatory it requires no elaboration. It is a subject which has been in the minds of many for a year past. It was also the subject of favorable expression by the managers of each of the three grain companies at the annual meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Company. In the interests of the farmers of Canada this subject comes up naturally for consideration.

CANADIAN TITLES

In the distribution of New Year honors only a very few titles have been bestowed upon Canadians. This should be gratifying to the Canadian people generally. We extend our congratulations to Premier Borden, that, with the distribution of these titles in his own hands he has taken none for himself and given none to any member of the cabinet. No good result can be secured, either nationally or imperially, by the bestowal of empty titles upon Canadians. These titles mean nothing; they are not bestowed because of merit, and they tend to create false relations between man and man. These titles tend to create false ideas of aristocracy, and in the past in Canada they have usually been bestowed upon men who have succeeded in accumulating millions of other people's money, or upon politicians, as part of the spoils of office. Even in Great Britain titles are recognized as belonging to a past civilization. Premier Asquith, who has distributed hundreds of titles, as well as Mr. Balfour, who formerly distributed them, do not regard them as of worth, since they have not accepted them personally, nor have they often bestowed them upon their colleagues. There is a widespread feeling in Great Britain that the House of Lords, which is the House of Titles,

should be reformed, and one of the reforms is to be the abolition of the hereditary principle. When these facts are considered it seems the height of folly to allow empty and meaningless titles to be bestowed upon citizens of Canada, which is a principle absolutely foreign to the spirit of our democratic form of government.

A WONDERFUL NERVE

Sir William Mackenzie, according to press dispatches, made a statement in Ottawa last week that "The West is about as well treated as any country I know." He did not elaborate his statement in any way, but he was discussing at the time the likelihood of the Railway Commission ordering a reduction in freight rates. Considering the amount of money that Sir William and his railway have been able to get from the Public Treasury, and also considering the miserable service given on his Western lines, we make bold to remark that Sir William's statement is as good an exhibition of supreme nerve as we have come across in a long, long time.

It is stated that Mackenzie and Mann are keen after \$25,000,000 as a cash subsidy at the present session of Parliament. In the past two years they have had \$22,000,000 in cash from the Public Treasury and are always whining for more. If this money must be spent, why not let us spend it upon our own property instead of for the creation of multimillionaires, who assume such an attitude towards the public as is expressed by Sir William Mackenzie?

There will be general approval of the resolution passed at the Brandon convention commending the C.P.R. for the satisfactory manner in which it handled the grain last fall. There is probably not another railway system in the world that could have taken care of such a volume of grain in the same time and given it as careful handling. The Grain Growers have acquired the habit of plain speaking in regard to the shortcomings of railways, but it has always been a part of their policy to give credit where credit is due. For obvious reasons the C.N.R. was not mentioned in the resolution.

We often wonder how one of those farmers who fought Reciprocity two years ago on the "patriotic" standpoint, squares his conscience when he ships his cattle to Chicago and gets two cents a pound more from the "crafty Yankees" than he could get from the "home market." It surely ought to be a lesson to them not to be caught again by any such "bune."

If more of our public business were done in public, instead of by the subterranean method, it would be better for the public morals. There is no reason for so much secrecy in the transaction of the public business of an honorable people by an honorable executive.

If the government does not sit upon the warlike tendencies of the militant Col. Hughes he will shortly have each of us carrying a rifle about our work as did the pioneers of the Western States when the Indians were dangerous.

Some statesmen's ideas of peace preparation are of armaments so huge and expensive as to bankrupt the nation supporting them. A very few years at the present rate will see the bankruptcy of some of the European nations.

It largely rests with the organized farmers of Canada to say whether this country is to be a democracy or whether it is to be controlled by a very small number of financial interests.