

profitable. The business would then be on a safe and permanent footing, and the ratepayers' money, instead of spoon-feeding misfit industries, might be devoted to proper municipal purposes.

LAND VALUES TAXATION ENDORSED

Easterners who think that human wisdom and political intelligence decreases in direct ratio as distance beyond the Great Lakes increases will rub their eyes in wonder when they read that at a convention of the mayors and publicity commissioners of Western cities, held in Winnipeg during the past week, a resolution in favor of taxing land values was passed without a dissenting vote. Here is the resolution:—

"That this convention views with satisfaction the legislative efforts of the provinces of Western Canada to remove all taxes on improvements and have in lieu therefor one tax on land values."

The significance of this unanimous vote appears when one remembers that every city of importance from Fort William and Port Arthur on the east to Calgary and Edmonton on the west sent delegates to this municipal congress. Not a voice was raised in defence of the method of taxation with which most towns and cities are still burdened. Vancouver and Edmonton have done even better than endorsing the improved plan of raising civic revenue—they are already putting it into actual practice, and with very satisfactory results. It may therefore be claimed that the West presents a united front in favor of this reform. More and more the people are becoming convinced of the folly of discouraging thrift and industry by heavy taxes on every building or other improvement, while encouraging the holding of idle land by taxing it little or nothing. The man who holds and keeps out of use land which the community needs, who will neither use it himself nor let anyone else use it except on extravagant terms fixed by his imagination of its value when the working citizens have built up a great city—who is he that the people should virtually bonus him by paying practically all the necessary community taxes for him year after year? Perhaps it is because the growing towns and cities of Western Canada can see more clearly than older communities just how great an obstacle the real estate speculator is, and how our present assessment system encourages him to block progress by holding large blocks of land out of use, and driving those of moderate means far out of town in order to find a little plot of ground not too highly priced—perhaps it is because these things are commonplace sights in all our cities that the movement for a radical reform finds such strong support throughout the entire West. It is indeed gratifying to find our people abreast of the times on this great world problem. And this is not the only question on which the West is leading the way.

TITLES THEN AND NOW

In the days of chivalry when kings possessed great power in Britain they bestowed titles upon their favorites and upon warriors. In those days knighthood meant something. It was a mark of royal favor and gave the possessor considerable privileges. The conferring of the title was a wonderful ceremony, described by one historian as follows:

"The process of inauguration was commenced in the evening by the placing of the candidate under the care of two 'esquires of honor, grave and well seen in courtship and nurture and also in the feats of chivalry, who were to be governors in all things relating to him.' Under their direction, to begin with, a barber shaved him and cut his hair. He was then conducted by them to his appointed chamber, where a bath was prepared hung within and without with linen and colored with rich cloths, into which after they had undressed him he entered. While he was in the bath two 'ancient and grave knights' attended him 'to inform, instruct and counsel him touching the order and feats of chivalry,' and when they had fulfilled their mission they poured some of the water of the bath over his shoulders, signing

the left shoulder with the cross, and retired. He was then taken from the bath and put into a plain bed without hangings, in which he remained until his body was dry, when the two esquires put on him a white shirt and over that 'a robe of russet with long sleeves having a hood thereto like unto that of an hermit.' Then the 'two ancient and grave knights' returned and led him to the chapel, the esquires going before them 'sporting and dancing' with 'the minstrels making melody.' And when they had been served with wines and spices they went away leaving only the candidate, the esquires, 'the priest, the chandler and the watch,' who kept the vigil of arms until sunrise, the candidate passing the night 'bestowing himself in orisons and prayers.' At daybreak he confessed to the priest, heard matins, and communicated in the mass, offering a taper and a piece of money stuck in it as near the lighted end as possible, the first to the honor of God' and the second 'to the honor of the person that makes him a knight.' Afterwards he was taken back to his chamber, and remained in bed until the knights, esquires and minstrels went to him and aroused him. The knights then dressed him in distinctive garments and they then mounted their horses and rode to the hall where the candidate was to receive knighthood; his future squire was to ride before him bareheaded bearing his sword by the point in its scabbard with his spurs hanging from its hilt. And when everything was prepared the prince or subject who was to knight him came into the hall and the candidate's sword and spurs having been presented to him, he delivered the right spur to the 'most noble and gentle' knight present and directed him to fasten it on the candidate's right heel, which he kneeling on one knee and putting the candidate's right foot on his knee accordingly did, signing the candidate's knee with the cross, and in like manner by another 'noble and gentle' knight the left spur was fastened to his left heel. And then he who was to create the knight took the sword and girded him with it, and, then embracing him he lifted his right hand and smote him on the neck or shoulder, saying: 'Be thou a good knight,' and kissed him. When this was done they all went to the chapel with much music, and the new knight laying his hand on the altar, promised to support and defend the church, and ungirding his sword offered it on the altar. And as he came out of the chapel the master cook awaited him at the door and claimed his spurs as his fee, and said: 'If you do anything contrary to the order of chivalry (which God forbid) I shall hack the spurs from your heels.'"

Today knighthood means nothing and the ceremony of conferring it occupies about two minutes. The ceremony connected with the conferring of the title was laughed out of existence. The titles themselves will next succumb to ridicule. They mean nothing, convey no honor, carry no privileges and are a relic of the times when the common people existed merely to supply the wants of their titled superiors. Titles today convey no mark of royal favor. The King has nothing to do with the distribution of titles except on the advice of his government. Canada will be the better if no more titles are granted to Canadians.

ONE SIDED PROGRESS

During the past twenty years the world has witnessed phenomenal changes and developments in practically every branch of human activity. Invention and scientific research have achieved results which have been of untold benefit to the human race. In inventions we have seen thousands of remarkable labor saving devices brought into popular use. The productive power of man has been increased enormously. It is estimated that one man today has the productive power of four men of one hundred years ago. The discovery of electricity and its control have altered the relationship between individuals and nations and has advanced civilization amazingly. The development of international credit has accompanied the growth of international trade and by bringing nations nearer to each other has engendered feelings of mutual good will. To enumerate the other remarkable changes of the past twenty years would be impossible. They are within the memory of the present generation. Generous encouragement has been given to research and invention, because the benefits accruing to mankind have been without question. In this great advance in civilization more has been done to forward

the course of international peace than during any other similar period, yet we are not satisfied. Everyone is looking ahead to greater advances within the next ten years. Strange to relate that despite our advances along these lines economically we are still pursuing a system that is fundamentally barbarous. Our methods of taxation and tariff in Canada today, and in fact in many other countries are worthy of the Dark Ages. The protective system is the greatest barrier to international peace. It is the greatest handicap to general prosperity and it breeds corruption and immorality in the nation which supports it. The only reason that the protective system still exists is because the monied classes in all countries support it for their own selfish purpose. Henry George maintains that if the law of gravitation were objectionable to the monied interests of the world that law today would not be generally recognized. The same might be said in regard to the advance in science and invention. How long are the common people going to permit themselves to be fooled and divided by the beneficiaries of Special Privilege? Are we to remain in the Dark Ages continually?

During the last three weeks there has appeared very generally in the country papers throughout the West a series of articles knocking the sample market system. It is written from the railway point of view and is evidently part of the railway campaign against the sample market. It points out that the power of the railways to handle the crop will be reduced by 25 per cent. in the event of a sample market system being established. We trust that the farmers of the West will not take this railway argument seriously. We fancy that even the establishment of a sample market will not prevent each of the railways declaring a dividend of at least 10 per cent., and in addition place another ten per cent. to reserve, and boost the price of their stock on the market. What we need in this country is a reciprocal demurrage law, then the railways will spend some of the money they have gouged out of the public in providing proper transportation facilities.

Because of a line published in a recent issue of The Guide reflecting on the action of the late Federal Government in dissipating our natural resources, one of our subscribers in Alberta orders his subscription cancelled. He says he is a Liberal and will not stand for this, but in a postscript he adds: "Otherwise the paper is all right." We would suggest that if the subscriber himself is "all right" except for two small threads in his coat he must be a fairly decent sort of a fellow after all. Every little while a good party man, either Grit or Tory, bobs up and writes us a hot letter because we have reflected in some way upon the idol of his worship. The sooner people get it into their heads that both parties are playing a game, that their chief desire is to hold office and that they care mighty little for the interest of the people then we may hope for some reforms.

The new Manitoba government telephone commission has announced the revised scale of rates. City business phones go up to \$60 and residential to \$30 per year. Rural ten-party phones are increased to \$40 per year. The rates are effective from July 1. These rates have been approved by the Public Utilities Commissioner and are no doubt final. The increase in rural rates is greater than in the cities.

We notice that an increasing number of manufacturers are becoming colonels, captains and other officers in the militia. This is a very serious matter, because if we had a war and all these bold fellows rushed away to make targets for the enemy our "infant industries" would suffer.

I am glad to
of welcoming
to this, the six
Company. It
steady interest
of the shareholder
in the Company
the work of the
as briefly as po
matters of impo

In many res
pleted has been
in our experie
had been a try
This one has b
not need to sa
last year's cro
difficult cops
has ever pro
almost every p
Provinces, it w
a crop largely
you have the

The grain was
starting to mar
it was tough,
of thousands of
when the snow
had to stand ov
matters worse
could not comm
move the crop
as quickly as

Traffic becam
gested, cars of
got lost for we
months, and fr
ly weeks pass
we could get t
turns of car
they had bee
loaded. Cars
scarce and
were being pu
the country t
their liability
merchants, bar
machine com
and there wa
naturally stron
satisfaction o
part of the s
who could n
their grain sold
season we r
thousands of
against bills of
sent to us t
various country
In nine cases
ten these draft
so large we co
pay them un
grain was in
for, owing to
certainty of g
a car that in an
ary year could
a draft of six
last season oft
of even half th
car of wheat t
quality very n
his draft was no
ous vigorous k
had no way to
to refuse to pa
it down, for it
currence to rec
grade wheat fr
until we had th
did not know
against which
Even with the
frequently gav
cars than they
grain was se
grading, comp
getting grain
facilities over d
to voice a con
bank managers
pass drafts up
knew could n
inspection of
would not pa
ditions, said al
us). All this
office enormou
to say the we
amount of gra
that of the se
conditions the
badly congeste