

the same and cost the same, namely, \$1.50 and weighed 4 lbs. That is 37c. per lb., or \$740.00 per ton.

I am informed that the C.P.R. buys all the steel they need at less than \$29.00 per ton. In fact the figures I have, quote the C.P.R. price for steel at \$28.33 per ton. What a difference—the farmers pay 23 times as much for cast iron as the C.P.R. does for steel.

I would like to see all our sub-associations take this matter up. Just if the farmers will weigh all their repairs for binders, seeders, etc., and send in the weight and price to "The Guide". Then when our executive goes to the Government for redress and places the position of the farmer re tariff reforms, before the Government, they can produce figures and facts to show how we, the western farmers, are being robbed on every purchase we make for repairs to our machinery.

In this way we should also give assistance to the inquiry being made by the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' into the cost of production of farm machinery.

I also think it is time for the Grain Growers to take the stand not to support any Government candidate, be he Grit or Tory, who will not support the resolutions adopted by the Annual Convention of the Grain Growers' of the three Provinces. For my own part, I shall not support any candidate who will not pledge himself to support us, the Grain Growers.

Yours truly,
(Signed) JOSIAH BENNETT.

Austin, Man.

FREE IMPLEMENTS

To The Editor:—I see by your paper that the Grain Growers' Association of Glenella have taught their sister associations a very valuable lesson. At their last meeting they passed a resolution asking the government to put agricultural implements on the free list. In other words, to take the taxes off them. They sent this resolution to the Hon. W. S. Fielding, finance minister, but they should also have forwarded a copy of it to Glen Campbell, M.P., their representative, in order to let him know their heart's desire in this respect. If all the grain growers associations will meet, discuss the matter of free implements pro and con, and then pass resolutions accordingly and forward them to their M. P.'s and finance minister respectively there is no doubt but that at next session of Parliament that concession will be granted. The Toronto Star has been publishing several articles showing that implements coming to Canada from the United States free of duty will enormously benefit our farmers and will not hurt Canadian manufacturers. It points out that our Canadian manufacturers compete with the United States manufacturers in the markets of the world, and, if they can do that, then why can they not do the very same thing at home? And, if farmers can get implements on the free list then, in a similar way they can get sugar and other things on the free list. Sir John A. Macdonald had sugar on the free list in his day, so why can't we have it now? It would mean 30 pounds to the dollar instead of 15 as now. Would not that be the same as raising the price of the farmer's pork and wheat? It may be that government ownership of elevators is not practical, but putting implements and sugar on the free list is practical and easy and all it needs behind it is "the demand for it."

Grain growers can add to the interest of their meetings and increase their membership by announcing beforehand that resolutions relating to certain matters be brought before them at the conclusion of the regular routine of business, and that five minutes will be given to each member to stand up and speak to the motion. In this way the grain growers will stimulate thought, and will create and mould public opinion, for without public opinion nothing can succeed, but with public opinion anything is easy and possible.

Neepawa Press.

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A BANK PRESIDENT'S VIEWS

To the Editor,

Grain Growers' Guide.

Reading the address of the President of the Bank of Commerce last year and again at this year's annual meeting, I am struck with the great interest he takes in the farmers of the three great prairie provinces. At the last annual meeting January 12th, he says "There are many avenues of economy and profit open to the Western farmer which because of the ease with which he acquires wealth he neglects. This is unfortunate for the country as a whole and some day it may be unfortunate for him. He neglects his fall plowing and consequently his seeding is too late, neither does he use good seed or destroy noxious weeds with sufficient vigor."

Now Mr. B. E. Walker's statements are utterly false, entirely without foundation. The Western farmer does not acquire wealth with the ease with which he would have the public believe. The Western farmers are a busy industrious class of people and while they were minding their own business such men as he were busy weaving nets to entrap them, and to-day I am sorry to say they are effectually caught in the meshes—slaves to the combines. One of the worst is the monopoly created for the handling of their grain—a monopoly that Mr. B. E. Walker (with the rest of the Canadian Bankers' Association) has been instrumental in forming. They have to pay from 50 to 100 per cent. too much for everything they need. These prices are exacted by the combines made possible under the high protective tariff that Laurier before he came into power declared to be grievous and burdensome—degrading the moral life of the nation. But although many years have passed since then, the protective tariff is as high or higher now than it has ever been. To say that wealth comes rolling in with "such ease" let me invite Mr. B. E. Walker to one days drive in any part of the Northwest Provinces, so that he will be able to see the conditions as they are and judge accordingly.

Why do we see in this fair land (where land is cheap comparatively) so often what is termed as the prairie shack, where everything has to be done in one room and