

which would insist that all Western traffic must pass thru Eastern cities no matter what the cost to the West, is going on with the job in accordance with its pledges. In the estimates now before Parliament \$3,000,000 is provided for the work, which is quite sufficient for this year. The East may as well understand that the West believes in the Hudson Bay route and will brook no interference with the scheme.

U.S. FARMERS OPPOSE FREE WHEAT

At a meeting of the delegates of the Farmers' Grain Dealers' Association at Minneapolis two weeks ago the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas this convention is composed of grain growers of the State of Minnesota, and we believe in protecting our industries and interests;

"Be it resolved that we go on record as favoring the repeal of the reciprocal provision in the Underwood Tariff Bill, which will permit importation of Canadian wheat free in competition with our grain, which is produced on more expensive lands and upon which we must pay correspondingly high rates of interest to maintain."

It is evident that the grain growers of the Western States fully appreciate that they are getting higher prices on the Minneapolis market than the Canadian grain growers are getting on the Winnipeg market. In this matter the opinion of the grain growers of Western Canada and the grain growers of the Western States are entirely in accord, but in the opinion of a number of politicians at Ottawa the farmers of Western Canada and the Western States do not know what they are talking about. It now seems probable that the free wheat offer may be withdrawn by the United States congress and the Canadian farmers will lose the opportunity of the benefit of the American market. If this happens the Western farmers have only to thank those gentlemen who play party politics in Canada for the benefit of the monied interests.

FREE TRADE LEAGUE

Those farmers in Western Canada who have been heavily taxed by the Protective Tariff for many years past, will welcome the tidings that a Free Trade League has been organized to carry on effective propaganda work for the abolition of the Protective Tariff. Last week in The Guide was published a report of the contributions to the League which is wide in its scope and is intended eventually to cover all Canada. The Manitoba Grain Growers' Convention, at Brandon, last month endorsed by resolution the idea of carrying on active propaganda work and the organization of a Free Trade League will afford excellent opportunity for this effort. The Annual Convention of the United Farmers of Alberta at Calgary three weeks ago endorsed the organization of a Free Trade League, and the organized farmers of that province will undoubtedly be glad to assist in its work. The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association has more than once declared for Free Trade and its convention was held in Saskatoon last month at which the delegates received the report of the Free Trade League with the greatest enthusiasm. It must be remembered that the work of the Free Trade League will depend upon the voluntary support both in labor and in money which it will receive from the farmers and the consumers in this country. It should be the aim to start out immediately for a campaign fund of not less than \$10,000. With this amount of money it will be possible to open a permanent office in charge of a paid secretary, to publish free trade literature of all kinds and also to place organizers in the field in all three provinces. For several years past there has been a growing feeling among the farmers of the West that some definite political action was necessary in order to have their views clearly and firmly expressed in Parliament. The danger of such a proposition has been pointed out clearly in The Guide. In the past every farmers' organization that has taken political action, almost

without exception, has been destroyed as a result. The organization of the Free Trade League, however, will form a safe outlet for the activities of those who want more definite action. If the Free Trade League develops a big membership and strong financial support it will be quite within the possibilities of the League to take political action if it is deemed necessary in future, and such action could not in any way endanger the great farmers' organization that has been built up in this country. Another advantage of the Free Trade League is that it will unite free traders in the cities and towns with those in the country, and enable them to present a united front against the forces of protection. All those who would like to see the Free Trade campaign carried on vigorously should become members of the Free Trade League and contribute as freely as possible to the \$10,000 campaign fund that the League is endeavoring to raise.

Alex. Morrison, M.P. for Macdonald, Man., broke his long silence in the House of Commons by participating in the free wheat debate. He advocated that there should be an investigation to see whether it was true that The Grain Growers' Grain Company was paying Canadian farmers less for their grain than the American farmers received and were obtaining more for it in Liverpool than was paid for American grain. If Mr. Morrison cannot produce anything better than this after several years silence it does not speak very highly of him as a representative of the Western farmers. If he had any knowledge of the grain trade he would know that The Grain Growers' Grain Company meets keener competition than any other grain company in Canada and with the volume of the grain handled by the Grain Company market manipulation is not possible. Mr. Morrison is a better representative of the "Toronto viewpoint" than he is of the Manitoba grain growers.



DISPELLING THE GREAT ILLUSION