

possibility that the United States Congress may withdraw the free wheat offer if it is not accepted by Canada very shortly. The Canadian government will have to shoulder a very serious responsibility if they permit this splendid opportunity to slip by. It is altogether improbable that once the free wheat offer were accepted that it would ever be withdrawn.

According to press dispatches the engineers and firemen on the C.P.R. are protesting to Premier Borden against free wheat. Their argument is that it will not give any increase in the price to the grain growers, but will divert the grain trade of this country to Minneapolis. This is a most extraordinary argument. No sane person will claim that anything short of better prices will divert our grain to the south, provided the southern market were opened. And further, it must be apparent to everyone that the opening of the southern market would be immediately followed by a leveling up of prices. What good reason is there why the bulk of our grain should go south, equally good prices being available in Canada? Our transportation facilities are claimed to be superior to those which supply the Minneapolis market. Our financial equipment for handling the crop is quite adequate to the requirements. Our storage facilities are commonly considered to be superior to those of the States, and our Grain Exchange as a marketing organization is certainly not surpassed by anything south of the line. Our milling facilities are not centralized as those of Minneapolis, but the capacity of Canadian mills is greater and Canadian mills are quite as efficient and the quality of flour is quite as high. Canadian flour would find a big market in the Republic. These facts indicate beyond

dispute that no Canadian interest will suffer from the opening of the southern market. The difference will be that our millers will have to pay the farmers a higher price for their wheat, which they can well afford to do. The arguments advanced by the anti-free wheat interests that our Canadian wheat will lose its identity by going south is one of the very best arguments why the trade will not be diverted to Minneapolis. Liverpool is the big market for our export wheat and Canadian hard wheat has a high reputation on that market. This very fact will ensure Canadian hard wheat going straight thru to Liverpool under Canadian inspection certificates. The difference in price between Minneapolis and Winnipeg has been steadily narrowing, but considering the difference in grades and the higher prices paid for low grade wheat there is still a considerable margin of advantage in the Minneapolis market. Year in and year out the opening of the southern market would give our grain growers several cents a bushel on their wheat and they are entitled to it. By every principle of justice the farmers who produce the wheat should have the first consideration and should be given every possible advantage in marketing. It is quite evident, however, that the Dominion government is listening to the other interests more carefully than to the farmers. As we have pointed out before, there is only one way by which the farmers in the West will ever get a square deal, and that is by making it absolutely certain that no candidate, Grit, Tory or otherwise, can be elected in this country henceforth who is opposed to the interests of the farmers. There are now sufficient seats in the prairie provinces to give the Western farmers a big voice at Ottawa and if they take advantage

of it and elect men who will really represent them and will not be dominated by party leaders in the East they will force square deal legislation.

It is stated that in Toronto the word "tariff" has secured a new pronunciation and is now pronounced "tear-off." We feel that this change of pronunciation is very appropriate because from the Toronto viewpoint the only advantage of the tariff is that it "tears off" a good slice of the Western farmers' earnings and transfers them to the protected interests in the East.

In the death of Sir Charles Tupper last week Canada loses the only remaining member of the Fathers of Confederation. The men who laid the ground work of the Dominion of Canada had a great vision. In those days Canada had more statesmen and fewer politicians than at present. Sir Charles Tupper's name will always be remembered in Canada for his great work in giving free schools to Nova Scotia and for his big part in the development of Confederation. Few men have left so prominent a name in Canadian history.

War contract frauds on a large scale have been uncovered by Commissioner Sir Charles Davidson at Regina, forged shipping bills for imaginary carloads of hay figuring in the evidence. "Jail for the thieves" is the public demand.

The Guide strongly advocates a law compelling every journal to show in its pages regularly the names of the men who own and direct it. This would bring to light a large number of fake patriots and hidden assassins.



THE NEW SHELL GAME

D. A. Thomas, M.P., who recently visited Canada as a representative of David Lloyd George, the British Minister of Munitions, is responsible for the statement that the reason why more orders for munitions of war have not been placed in Canada, is that Canadian manufacturers have demanded higher prices and have made slower deliveries than manufacturers in other countries. Orders were placed by the Dominion Shell Committee, some of whose members received contracts, and the Ottawa Citizen states that this committee made the British Treasury pay \$5.15 for machining work on each shell, when it could have been done profitably at \$1.00 per shell.