

## THE TAX ON TOP OF THE PRICE!



**BORDEN (FAMILY GROCER):** Quite true, Madam, you've paid the top price for the provisions, but you're not quite through yet. This fat gentleman is authorized by the government to collect an additional price. Pay it, and stop your talk about the 'high cost of living'!

### FREE WHEAT AND FREE FOOD.

**I**F the Canadian miller ships flour to Great Britain he ships to a free trade market. In that market he must be prepared to compete with the world both as regards the quality of his product and as regards its price.

That he does sell large quantities of flour in Great Britain every year is proof of his ability to compete with the millers of any and every other country. It is proof, too, that he sells his product at a profit in the United Kingdom, for the Canadian miller is neither a philanthropist nor a fool.

The exports of Canadian flour to the United Kingdom during the twelve months ending with November amounted to \$11,773,493. The total flour exports amounted to \$20,136,938. Canadian millers, then, can manufacture their flour and ship it thousands of miles to free trade Great Britain and compete there with other millers with a profit to themselves.

Recent returns show that the top grade Canadian flour was sold in London for \$4.18 per barrel. Another grade brought \$4.06. Bakers' flour was sold for \$3.60.

At the very same time, according to press market reports, \$5.00 was charged for the top grade Canadian flour in Winnipeg; \$5.10 in Montreal; and \$6.50 in Halifax. The flour which brought \$4.06 in London, England, could not be bought for less than \$4.80 in Winnipeg, and \$4.90 in Montreal. Bakers' flour was sold for \$3.60 in London, Eng., but in Canada the price exacted for it was \$4 and \$4.10.

How is it that the Canadian miller can ship his flour thousands of miles by rail and water to a distant market and sell it there for much less than the price demanded of the Canadian consumer in the "home market"?

Here is the explanation: In Canada a Protective tariff bars out the flour made in foreign countries. The miller takes advantage of this fact to compel the consumer to pay him not only a profit but a profit plus the duty against foreign flour. In Britain, where free trade throws open the market to the millers of all the world, the Canadian mill must sell its product at a fair and reasonable figure. That tells the story; that shows the way in which a tariff policy

which is supposed to "protect" Canadian industry is used to extort from the Canadian people exorbitant prices for a commodity which all must buy. This helps to explain why the Cost of Living is higher in Canada where food commodities are produced than in Great Britain whither the same commodities, before being purchased must be carried thousands of miles by land and sea.

Experience in the British market and in the Orient has shown the ability of Canadian millers to compete with profit against the flour manufacturers of the world. Experience has shown that the Canadian millers are able to sell their product at prices far below those which they charge in Canada and still make money on the business, yet Mr. Borden and his colleagues along with their supporters in Parliament, refuse to give to Canadian consumers, at a time when every householder is feeling the high cost of living, relief which would work no injury to Canadian industry and would very materially benefit every family in the Dominion.

The opportunity to assist the Canadian farmer by giving to him without loss to a single individual in Canada a wider market for his wheat, and at the same time to help the Canadian consumer by removing an artificial barrier which brings no revenue to the state and only serves to further monopoly and extortion with respect to the greatest of all the necessities of life exists in a standing offer of the United States to abolish all duties on wheat and flour, on condition of Canada doing the same. That this should be made a National policy was the essence of the amendment proposed by Dr. Neely in the debate on the address. This amendment was supported by every Liberal and one Conservative in Parliament. It was defeated by the vote of the Prime Minister, his colleagues and followers, with the one exception mentioned.

Neither the interest of the farmers or consumers is of much avail where special interests control an administration. If there was ever doubt of this control, the vote on the "free wheat" amendment should be sufficient to remove it. Monopoly has the ear of the government and the people may cry in vain for relief.