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The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg

Free Trade in Wool

Recommendations of War Trade Board

By Edward W. Reynolds

Free Trade in wool is the latest request to be placed before the United States War Trade Board by the Canadian War Trade Board, representing the many wool interests in the Dominion. This decision was arrived at after an important conference between the Canadian War Trade Board, the Canadian Wool Growers' Co-operative Company, The Canadian Wool Dealers' Association, the Canadian Wool Pullers' Association, The Canadian Woolen Manufacturers and the Canadian Wool Commission.

The conference was held at the Board's headquarters in Ottawa on Friday, April 19, at the request of the many interests which are seeking redress of their grievances, and the outcome, if it is granted by the American end of the North American wool business, will, or is expected to, satisfy everybody.

No Option on Wool

For many months past, the woolen manufacturers, mill owners, etc., have been interested in having a complete embargo placed on the exportation of Canadian wool from Canada to the United States, on the ground that the Australasian wool growers will object to a further apportionment of Australasian wool for Canada at 15 pence a pound while the Canadian wool growers are getting upwards of 80 cents a pound for their wool in the United States. To combat this, the sheepmen throughout Canada, as has already been described in The Grain Growers' Guide, met in Toronto to form a Dominion-wide organization. When this was formed, the company sent representatives to Ottawa offering the authorities, Canadian wool for war work, at prices as of July first last. So far, the Canadian government has not taken up any option on Canadian wool.

As a result of this trip to Ottawa, and the fact that the Canadian sheepmen are now able to look after their own interests, two other organizations have been formed. The one is the Canadian Wool Dealers' Association, which consists of men who go between the grower and the manufacturer. These men have been practically put out of business in Canada since the Canadian Wool Commission commenced handling all the wool for the British government which practically controls the world's wool supply outside of Canada and South America. Under these circumstances, the dealers have only Canadian wools to handle, and much less of that now that the Canadian Wool Growers' Co-operative Limited was formed. The Pullers' Association has been formed along similar lines to that of the dealers.

Two-day Conference

It was because each of these interests seemed to be pulling a different way that the conference was held. It gave the Canadian War Trade Board a chance to study the situation and find out where it is at. The conference lasted nearly two days and each interest was permitted to explain its own viewpoint. The wool growers declared that it would be suicidal to stop the exportation of Canadian wool to the United States, as it would do the Canadian mills no good—they use very little of the grade grown in Canada, on account of the absence of combing facilities—and it would mean the virtual extinction of the Canadian sheep industry, which is now beginning to come into its own.

Representatives of the manufacturers made it somewhat plain that they did not want Canadian wool, but gave the War Trade Board to understand that the continued exportation of Canadian wool across the border might cause trouble in that the Australians would not want to send their wool to Canada under such circumstances.

Some manufacturers who wanted to make sure of some Canadian wools, wanted to know if the Canadian War Trade Board could make arrangements with the U.S. authorities to have Canadian wools preserve their identity

while in the United States as by so doing the Canadian manufacturers could get them re-exported to Canada. This plan was declared impossible. A thoroughly representative committee was appointed and requested to draw up some suggestions the Canadian War Trade Board might adopt and forward on to the United States War Trade Board.

This committee consisted of Messrs. H. B. Allen and J. D. Wilson, representing the growers; H. B. Andrews and H. J. Carter, representing the wool dealers; W. E. Paton and R. Thomson, representing the wool manufacturers; R. H. Ferris and J. J. Daly, representing the wool pullers, and George Pattinson, representing the Canadian Wool Commission. Mr. R. H. Ferris acted as secretary of the country this year. This will be secretary.

Suggestions Submitted

After some deliberation the committee submitted the following suggestions:—

1. That the Canadian War Trade Board request that the United States War Trade Board continue to allow the free export of Canadian-grown wools, both fleece and pulled, to the United States of America on the basis that free trading is permitted in the same without exercising the government import options.

2. And further, that the Canadian War Trade Board petition the United States War Trade Board to allow unrestricted export to Canada for both military and civilian purposes of spot wools held in the United States of America under guarantee from the importer that the raw material is not re-exported.

3. In order to encourage the import of foreign free wools that the Canadian government remove the embargo at present in effect which prohibits the re-export from Canada to the United States of America of foreign free wool now held, or in future imported into Canada, the export of this to be under license.

4. That the Canadian government in the case of granting clause three will allow on re-export of the wool a rebate of 99 per cent. of the duty which has been paid. This is already being done in the case of wool pulled in Canada from foreign skins.

The committee further suggested that the question of options to purchase by the Canadian manufacturers or Canadian dealers of Canadian-grown wools be postponed for further action or consideration until the Canadian War Trade Board has had some intimation from the American War Trade Board as to their intended action or decision upon questions brought up in this resolution.

Export Trade in Wool

That the export of Canadian wools is now an important feature of the Canadian export business is gained from a knowledge of the fact that upwards of 10,000,000 pounds of Canadian wool is expected to go out of the country this year. This will be worth about \$7,000,000.

Realizing this, members of the Canadian War Trade Board suggested that it would be advisable to continue permission to export wool as a means of helping to reduce Canada's unfavorable trade balance against the United States. This adverse balance amounts to about \$400,000,000 against Canada, and Sir Robert Borden's efforts to create credits in Washington have not so far reached full fruition. In the meantime, the Canadian War Trade Board is doing all it can to stabilize trade, therefore to let \$7,000,000 worth of wool go out of the country when it will not be missed, as the British government is seeing to it that the Canadian mills are kept supplied with all the wool they need, is one way of helping to bring about the desired trade balance. It also incidentally helps the Canadian sheepman to develop his business, and make the sheep industry one of the most important in agricultural Canada.

Scree

"What can I ask the young friend, an expert?" "Several this answer; "but I ably be your ho

"We were said the famous house table boots and made sustained life." "Hush! hush! erred the board's landlady might

"Look here," a newspaper. given here that in the world is "Yes!" said thank the Lord

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He read; "T "Yes," he the right road



"How much eggs, Biddy?" "Forty-fove plied Biddy. "Oh, wiral can't afford to Put thim dow cheaper, an' th

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"Whom do quired the friously. "Nobody," been reading neutral."

"Gladys," stood on the that young n "Why, not only stood th "Yes," sai heard the thi