

census is taken next year it will be found that there will be probably 60 members representing the West. Even though the voting power of the West may be less than that of the East, yet the Eastern interests will hesitate before they will impose burdens upon the West through the force of their voting power. It is only a matter of years and not many years either, when the voting power of the West will be very nearly equal to that of the East. If the Eastern interests continue to burden the West as they are now doing, they will create a division of interest which is certainly not desirable and which might be reciprocated when opportunity offers. There is no need to present the case in this form but it is well that it should be recognized, for all the members of the Dominion government are fully seized of the needs of the West and of the determination of the Western farmers to secure a square deal. They will watch the Western interests then more closely than they would at the present time. Every effort should be made by the three provincial associations in the West to send a good delegation to Ottawa in October to meet the government and demand "square deal" legislation at the coming session of parliament. It will cost the Western farmers something to make this presentation at Ottawa, but if their case is not worth the expense then it is not worth fighting for.

THE METHOD TO PURSUE

At the present time there are twenty-seven members in the House of Commons in the three Prairie Provinces. If those members really represent the views of the people, and most of them do, then they are all in favor of government ownership and operation of the Hudson Bay Railway and its terminals. Those twenty-seven members represent more than a million people. The desire of these people is to have the Hudson's Bay Railway become a live factor in regulating the freight rates throughout the West. They realize that unless the railroad is kept in the hands of the government it cannot perform this function, as the power of the railway commission is not sufficient to regulate freight rates, nor apparently can any legislation effect the desired results. The only hope is through real competition. More than a million people want the Hudson's Bay Railway built and operated by the government. On the other hand, Mackenzie & Mann are anxious to get hold of the Hudson's Bay Railway. These two grasping individuals who have built up their tremendous enterprises by both provincial and federal bounties, stop at nothing. They are not quitters. When they want anything they go after it and generally get it. Our people at Ottawa are supposed to protect the interests of the people and be a government of the people, for the people and by the people. At the present time one million people stand on one side while Mackenzie & Mann stand opposed to them, each of them demanding that the Hudson's Bay Railroad be operated for their benefit. The decision lies with the Dominion government. Have these two railway manipulators more influence with the Dominion government than have all the people of the three Prairie Provinces?

If the Hudson's Bay Railway is to be handed over and become a part of the system of the Canadian Northern, then it will be of very little use to Western Canada. The only way by which the farmers of the West can secure a square deal is to take determined action and present their case before the government at Ottawa this fall. A monster delegation is the right course.

The good name of the government of Canada and its reputation is suffering by the system of manipulation in the terminal elevators. The government certificates of weight and grade which should carry a guarantee to the world are proven to be useless under the present system.

TERMINAL ELEVATOR LEGISLATION

Sir Wilfrid Laurier told the farmers in Saskatchewan, that though he was opposed to the principle of government ownership, yet if there was no other way to protect the farmers at the terminal elevators he would favor government ownership of these elevators. We believe that this promise on the part of the premier is a hopeful one for the West. The Department of Trade and Commerce has used every effort during the past few years to supervise and inspect the terminal elevators in the interest of the farmers, but has signally failed. Everything that can be done in the way of legislation has proved futile against the tricks of the elevator manipulators. The reputation of the Dominion government and of Canada itself is at stake in the operation of the terminal elevators. The Canadian wheat goes out to the markets of the world, bearing upon it the grade and guarantee of the Canadian government. But the guarantee has proven to be unreliable and useless. Surely nothing that could be conceived, should arouse our Ottawa government to a sense of its duty than a knowledge of what has transpired at the terminal elevators. If the government is determined to make the matter right once and for all, it can be done in no other way than through government ownership and operation. Some critics say that it will require an investment of \$10,000,000. Whether this is or is not a correct figure, it carries no weight. If the Dominion government can afford to give \$14,000,000 in cash as a free gift to a handful of iron and steel manufacturers in the East, it surely can afford to guarantee at least \$10,000,000 in any investment to protect 200,000 farmers in the West. Particularly when that investment will pay a good rate of interest.

CRITICISM FROM WITHIN

The Winnipeg Free Press has published the explanation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's attitude in telling the farmers of the West that the present tariff is all right. The Free Press says:—"All political leaders are to some extent opportunists—their public policy is the sum of their personal inclinations as effected by the pressure of interests and opinion brought to bear upon them. The Dominion government's habitat is in the country of the protectionists and the result of the constant silent pressure can be seen in part in our tariff which to put it mildly has a 'protectionist tinge.' This is how the Free Press sizes up Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Dominion government on the tariff question and expresses its pleasure in seeing the manner in which the Western farmers have put it up to Sir Wilfrid on the tariff. Thus the Free Press which is the warmest supporter of the Dominion government in this country admits the contention of the Western farmers namely, that it is the protected manufacturers of the East who form the tariff policy of the Dominion government. The Free Press also says that Sir Wilfrid is an opportunist. In view of this, the Western farmers should thoroughly convince Sir Wilfrid that his "opportunity" has arrived to form a tariff that is in some degree fair to farmers and not altogether in the interest of special privilege.

First car of new wheat at Winnipeg, July 30th, graded No. 1 Northern and sold to Lake of the Woods Milling Company, \$1.01 per bushel. First car new spring wheat was received at Minneapolis the same day. It came from Hastings, Minn., graded No. 1 Northern, tested 60 pounds to the bushel, and was bought by the Washburn, Crosby Company for \$1.15 per bushel. Minnesota farmers got 14c. per bushel more than the Manitoba farmers. The Washburn Crosby Company had to pay 14 cents a bushel more for their raw material than the Lake of the Woods Milling Company, yet they have to sell their surplus product in the same market. No wonder our milling companies are getting wealthy.

Some of the vagaries of the Speculative Wheat Markets.—While Spot No. 1 Northern wheat at Minneapolis is 23½c. lower than at Chicago, September wheat is 10½c. higher.

Spot No. 1 Northern at Winnipeg has advanced 24½c. since the low point, May 31st.

Minneapolis mills last week ground approximately 1,239,000 bushels of wheat.

In the Minneapolis market No. 1 Durum is sold at 7¼c. less than No. 1 Northern. At Duluth the difference is 6¾c.

Wheat Options Closed August 13.

New York, Sept. \$1.09¾; Dec. \$1.12½. Chicago, Sept. \$1.03½; Dec. \$1.06½. Minneapolis, Sept. \$1.12½; Dec. \$1.13½. Duluth, Sept. \$1.15½; Dec. \$1.15½. Winnipeg, Oct. \$1.06½; Dec. \$1.04.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has intimated that the co-operative bill that was killed in committee during the last session of the House, will be passed during the session this winter. Of course there will be strenuous opposition made to its passage by the Retail Merchants' association but this should not deter the farmers of the East and of the West. The government will have no objection to passing the bill if the demand for it is strong enough. The case has been presented to Sir Wilfrid very strongly during his Western tour, and it would be a wise act to have a large petition sent to Ottawa this fall in support of the bill. It would cost practically nothing but would be of immense value to have 50,000 names of Western farmers attached to a petition and sent to Ottawa. Surely it would off-set any representation that could be made by the retail merchants' association.

Over in England, the political parties are becoming greatly interested in the lower tariff demonstrations of the Western farmers. The Ottawa correspondent for the London Times, says there is no significance to be attached to the attitude of the Western farmers. This is another attempt to secure political advantage through misrepresentation of the facts. When will the time come when the newspapers will present the truth to their readers? Accompanying Sir Wilfrid are a large number of newspaper reporters, mostly of Eastern Canadian papers, representing both political parties. The reports which these newspaper men send to their journals, vary considerably, and are colored for political advantage. This is not the fault of the reporters because they have to obey orders and give what their papers demand or lose their positions.

Attempts are being made in certain quarters to prove that the demonstration of the Western farmers, is a political one, but these attempts will be futile. Laurier and Borden, the leaders of the two great parties, stand for a protective tariff, and were Mr. Borden with Sir Wilfrid at the present time, he would realize that his tariff policy is no more popular in the West than is Sir Wilfrid's. The only difference is that Mr. Borden has no opportunity to make his policy effective, and for that reason the farmers are devoting their attention to the leader of the administration.

Our politicians say protection is good and prove it by our prosperity. Might as well say the same of our criminals and advocate more criminals. The truth is that Canada's prosperity is in spite of the protection and not because of it.

The tariff views of Western farmers as presented to Sir Wilfrid are stirring old England considerably. Both political parties are interested and are watching Canada most attentively.

Co-operative legislation is one of the greatest needs to the farming communities of Canada. The Dominion government should see that such legislation is passed.

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