

the vice-president of the C. P. R., was in Regina last Friday and was present at the farmers' meeting for a few minutes. He did not express the optimism which the C. P. R. officials expressed at Fort William on December 19 when they were certain that all Canadian grain would "proceed to the Canadian seaboard, over Canadian tracks and through Canadian territory." But Mr. Peters did say that the C. P. R. was willing to do anything in its power to meet the needs of the present situation, even if necessary to putting into effect a through rate to Minneapolis and Duluth. He was anxious, however, to have some proof advanced that the grain could find a market to the south if the through rate was given. Just why the C. P. R. should be exercised over markets it is difficult to say. It has never been asked to find markets. All the C. P. R. is asked to do is to provide transportation facilities; the markets will follow. Even if not a bushel goes south the C. P. R. will not suffer by putting a through rate into effect. Even under favorable weather conditions the Canadian railways cannot begin to handle the grain, but now that the cold weather and the snow have come the demoralization is worse than ever. How much grain will the C. P. R. handle north of the lakes when the heavy snows come? If the C. P. R. can provide the cars the terminal elevators will be full before the end of January. Then what will happen? Many reforms are urgently needed in Western Canada, but the paramount need of the hour is to get the grain to market, or at least into a place where the farmer can raise enough money to provide food for his family and meet his bills. In many of the new parts of the prairie provinces where the farmers have less than car lots of grain they cannot ship it even if cars were available and frequently cannot sell it at any price. They need food, fuel and clothing for their families. They haul a load of grain from 10 to 25 miles to the railway and find the elevators full, no cars available and no one to make them an offer for their grain. They can either pile it on the ground or haul it back home. Grain is piled on the ground in thousands of bushels in many places today. The implement companies and the mortgage companies and every other company dealing with the farmers are pushing for payments of their bills. But the money is not there to pay them. Western Canada will get the worst black eye in the letters which immigrants will send to their friends in foreign countries this year that it has ever received. These are some of the conditions prevailing in many portions of the West today and for which the C. P. R. is asked to give the necessary relief.

The western section of the Canadian Council of Agriculture passed the following resolution unanimously:

"Whereas, through the late harvest and abnormal weather conditions that have prevailed in Western Canada this year there is a large quantity of tough wheat of good milling quality as well as a large amount of low grade wheat and coarse grain in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and must in order to realize anything to the farmers enter into consumption or be put into proper condition for storage before warm weather sets in, and

"Whereas, the terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur and Canadian mills have not the capacity to take care of this grain before the warm weather sets in, and

"Whereas, the railway companies through lack of adequate transportation facilities are unable to remove the grain from interior points and from Fort William and Eastern Canada points and seaboard before warm weather sets in.

"Therefore, be it resolved that this council make an appeal to the Dominion government and the governments of the provinces above mentioned to use their utmost influence with the Canadian railways operating in Western Canada—

"First, to immediately put into effect from interior points in the provinces mentioned to Minneapolis and Duluth the same freight rate on bulk grain now prevailing from such points to Fort William, and

"Second, to make the best possible arrangement with the United States railways for the use of their cars for the immediate shipment of grain from interior Western Canada points to Minneapolis and Duluth."

This resolution represents the voice of 40,000 farmers who are identified with the organizations in the three provinces. They have asked the C. P. R. to give relief. Not in cash, nor by giving what will reduce its revenue, but simply by allowing the American railways to take away to the south some of the surplus grain which the Canadian railways cannot handle. It rests with half a dozen men at the head of the Canadian Pacific Railway whether or not the Western people shall continue to suffer as at present.

### AN UNWARRANTED ATTACK

In its issue of December 27 The Winnipeg Telegram made a bitter and unwarranted attack upon R. C. Henders and R. McKenzie, respectively president and secretary of the Manitoba Grain Growers' association. In the course of its article The Telegram says:

"This association contained in its constitution and principles all the elements of a most useful form of co-operative effort. Unfortunately it came under the control of men like R. C. Henders and Roderick McKenzie, steeped in political prejudice and bitten with the craving for personal political preferment. Instead of being an institution for the advancement of the interest of farmers as farmers, where it had a great and legitimate sphere of usefulness, its leadership became an engine for the political advantage of those who operated the machinery.

"So long as the late government appeared impregnable these manipulators were quite willing that the farmers should establish a credit for them in the bank of political fear. But just as soon as the government was in jeopardy, they cashed their cheque, gave the support of the organization to a failing cause, and took a contingent personal reward as their return.

"The same men tried exactly the same game with the provincial government of Manitoba and got precisely the same amount of satisfaction. They have injured, perhaps beyond recovery, the Grain Growers' association, and have not benefitted themselves.

This attack by the Telegram is aimed solely to create dissension in the ranks of the association. If there is anything in the charge against Messrs. Henders and McKenzie it must be levelled at the entire association. These two officers do not by any means control the association, and in their public actions have merely carried out the instructions of the association in annual convention, and of the board of directors between conventions. The association comprises farmers of both Conservative and Liberal leanings and is entirely free from partizan influence. The Liberals and Conservatives laid aside all party feeling and joined together in presenting their demands to both Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Borden on their Western tours. The association pressed its claims for redress at Ottawa when the Liberal government was in power and will find it necessary to do the same thing now with the Conservative government in power. Whatever action the officers take will be under instructions from the association. In supporting reciprocity the leaders of the association as well as the rank and file worked in the best interests of the West as present conditions prove conclusively. They supported a principle only and endorsed no party. The Telegram by its attack is attempting to sow seeds of discord in the ranks of the most important public body in Manitoba. The Grain Growers' association is working for the benefit of the farming population generally and is the only organization through which the farmers can protect themselves. The association in annual convention has full power to deal with its officers. If the Telegram is anxious to help improve conditions in Manitoba it will not follow up its attempt to inject party politics into the ranks of the association. If the Telegram continues its attack it must take the responsibility of a deliberate attempt to destroy the greatest power for democracy in the West.

### MASSEY-HARRIS AND THE TARIFF

Our correspondent, signing himself "Old Liberal," makes out what appears to be a very good defense of the Massey-Harris company in fighting for the retention of the present tariff on farm implements. He makes a number of good points but overlooks a num-

ber of others which have a most important bearing on the subject. The information contained in his letter has the ear-marks of the Massey-Harris company and, we presume, may be regarded practically as the attitude of that company towards the implement tariff. No doubt the Massey-Harris company does pay duty on some things but let us note the following provisions in the present Customs Tariff Act:

Section 503: Planks, boards, clapboards, laths, plain pickets, and other timber or lumber of wood, not further manufactured than sawn or split, whether creosoted, vulcanized, or treated by any other process or not. Free.

Section 504: Planks, boards and any other lumber of wood, sawn, split or cut, and dressed on one side only, but not further manufactured. Free.

Section 1,002: Rolled iron, rolled steel and pig iron; when used in the manufacture of mowing machines, reapers, harvesters, binders and attachments for binders, subject to a drawback of 99 per cent. of the duty paid.

Thus the Massey-Harris people get their wood and iron into Canada without paying duty. In addition to this there have been a number of rulings made by the government and the customs officials during recent years which do not appear in the Tariff Act, but which reduce the duty on a large number of articles. No doubt the Massey-Harris company have taken full advantage of this convenient method of tariff making, as they are ably represented in Parliament. Does it not seem strange that such a large number of things necessary to the Canadian manufacturer can be bought more cheaply in the United States which we have always been led to believe is a "trust burdened" country, and from whose trusts we should be protected? Does it not seem as though the very best efforts of the trust barons of the great "trust burdened" republic have been completely eclipsed by our own Canadian beneficiaries of Special Privilege. If what our correspondent says is true would not the American trusts be more merciful to the Canadian people under free trade, than are our own patriotic mergers that operate under the shelter of our protective tariff. The present Canadian tariff has practically been made by the Canadian Manufacturers' association and the Massey-Harris company have looked well after their own particular wants. In fact the Canadian manufacturers have gone so far that they have overstepped and have no doubt in some cases injured themselves. Certainly the organized farmers of Canada would not make the slightest objection to having the raw material placed on the free list. But even with conditions as they are the Massey-Harris company and the Cockshutt Plow company could stand free trade in implements. It might reduce their revenue somewhat but it would increase the revenue of the farmers out of whom they have made a good thing in years gone by. As for the Massey-Harris company paying higher interest to the banks than they are charging the farmers on over due payments we must be pardoned if we do not believe it. The Massey-Harris people sell their implements at prices which are calculated upon deferred payments by farmers and overdue payments are charged up at good high rates of interest. If the Massey-Harris company wish a complete investigation of this matter let them offer to open up their books for investigation. We can find farmers who will do likewise and then we will see who has the right end of the argument. As to freight rates no one can defend them in the light of the annual reports of the companies. They are piling up fabulous profits upon stock which is largely "water" despite the fact that in some cases the people made them a free gift of their road. If the contention of our correspondent is correct there will never be any implement factories in Western Canada because they could never stand the competition of the Eastern Canadian factories. With all the world anxious to buy our Western wheat and to sell us manufactured goods in return are we always to be kept in a corral for the benefit of a handful of tariff made barons in Canada. We doubt it.

The grain raised in the country has been a present trade, produced in the state included in the list of the wheat to the spent in the his di as pos tem of Pro give t with it thro which miller much instit adian elevat the st.