

FARMERS' RIGHTS

Coming the Farmer's Way

Since the idea of a deputation of farmers to Ottawa was first brought out and now that the deputation has been carried through to a successful issue there has been some speculation as to the position of the Leader of the Opposition on the questions raised. Mr. R. L. Borden's position on these matters may be gathered from the following remarks made by him in the House, on Monday, November

21st, and which are taken from Hansard of that date:

"The west presses certain claims, and is entitled to have these claims considered by this government. It presses for the construction of the Hudson Bay railway. As I understand it, both parties in this country have committed themselves to the construction of this railway. But the west asks for something more. It asks that the construction of railways should be by the government and that the operation of it should be such as to ensure absolute thorough control of rates, effective competition and no monopoly, and that demand on the part of the west seems to me eminently reasonable."

The west asks also the redress of grievances in the operation of the terminal elevators. They declare that the farmers of the west are shamelessly robbed through these elevators that sometimes 10 per cent. of No. 1 wheat goes in and 90 per cent. goes out, and so on all along the line. They declare that this condition of affairs has existed to the knowledge of the government for many years and without redress. And I say that the government of this country ought to be responsible for knowing whether that condition of affairs does exist or not. If that condition of affairs does exist, it ought to be brought to an end without a moment's delay, and this parliament can devote itself to no better object than to bring to an end so disgraceful a state of things as that which is alleged by these western farmers to exist. And I say further that, if ownership by the state and operation by an independent com-

mission is the only remedy, then that remedy should be supplied.

But the farmers of the west say something more. They say there ought to be lower duties on agricultural implements, that they are paying higher prices for implements than are paid in the United States and higher prices for Canadian implements than these implements are sold for abroad. I say the government is derelict in its duty in not having brought down to parliament direct and positive information on this subject, and I say that if the claims that are made are true there ought to be a remedy. And I want to know from the government whether they believe them to be true or not. If they say that they do not know, I ask why they have not taken means to know; if they say that these claims are not true, I ask upon what evidence they base that assertion and what they propose to do in the premises.

Enlarging Our Market

(Toronto Star)

The opening up of the American market to Canadian farmers would do much to free them from the domination of railways, owners of elevators, and other middlemen. The Premier says that there will be greater difficulty in dealing with manufacturers. But the Government will make no mistake if it works for as large a manufactured list as possible. And if sufficient relief cannot be obtained in this way, something more may be done by increasing the British preference, as the western and Ontario farmers suggest.

The Farmers at Ottawa

(Berwick, N.S., Register)

One of the greatest events in the history of Canada was the visit of the Farmers' Delegation to Ottawa. The idea of the delegation originated in the west and the larger number of delegates were from the prairie region. They asked for nothing, however, that would be antagonistic to the interests of farmers in any part of Canada, and for nothing to which they, under present conditions, are not entitled.

To appreciate the full importance of these demands it must be remembered that the farmers of the west are at the mercy of a monopolizing force which controls the railways, the elevators, the banks, and, to an extent, the land. Every article that enters the country or is exported therefrom, every transaction, almost must pay toll to this combine. The farmers look upon the construction of the Hudson's Bay Railway and its operation by government as the first step in the way of their emancipation.

Issue Must be Faced

(London Advertiser)

The farmers' representatives will be disappointed if they expected off-hand pledges from the Premier in the several matters of grave importance which they pressed on the Government. All of them require the most searching examination. There can be no evasion on the part of the Government; the question will have to be faced before the next election. The western farmers will know before many months what tariff reductions the Government is prepared to make to secure favors in the American market. It will know before the end of the present Parliament what the Government will do with the Hudson Bay Railway and the terminal elevators. The Government will have to bear the responsibility for its policies. Will the Opposition face the issue as frankly?

Beef Raising in Canada

Beef raising from east to west in Canada is covered fully in a publication recently issued from the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, entitled "Beef Raising in Canada." Attractively bound, printed on paper of fine quality, the copy illustrated throughout and containing as it does much useful information with reference to the breeding, feeding and marketing of beef cattle, this bulletin is such a one as any farmer will treasure highly and after reading it will keep it as a valuable text for reference purposes.

Articles in the bulletin, other than those dealing with general subjects pertaining to the beef bullock, deal with the modern breeds of beef cattle. These are by well known authorities. Illustrations showing approved types of animals of various beef breeds make this feature of much interest and value. Types of barns, plans of stables and systems of ventilation as depicted and described in the bulletin will fill a long felt want on the part of the farmers of Canada, who for years have been athirst for just such information.

To J. B. Spencer, B.S.A., belongs the credit of having compiled this bulletin. Mr. Spencer is getting out the bulletin "Sheep Husbandry in Canada," "The Report of the Swine Commission," and now this work on "Beef Raising in Canada," has set a new standard of excellence in Government publications for free distribution amongst farmers. Our farmers appreciate good things and it is certain that they take to this class of publication. This latest bulletin, as here reviewed, may be had on application to the Live Stock Branch of the Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

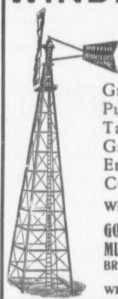
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