

OF THE CAUSE IS THE ONLY BUSINESS-LIKE METHOD TO EMPLOY. The Canadian Council of Agriculture at its annual meeting in Regina last week unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas the Dominion government has so far acceded to our demands re the government ownership and operation of the terminal elevators as to bring down a bill appointing a commission with drastic powers, and whereas it is resolved, that, while acknowledging the forward step, the Canadian Council of Agriculture reiterates its request that provision be made for the necessary funds, for purchase or lease, as nothing short of absolute government ownership and operation will remedy existing evils."

The men who grow the grain will never believe in any system which allows that grain to pass through the hands of the elevator owners. The Western members of parliament who oppose government operation are not only disregarding the unanimous demand of the Western farmers, but are also assisting to put the Dominion government into a position where its reputation in the West will suffer. The Western people look to each Western member to throw aside party domination and to work in the interests of his constituents, and they look to the Dominion government to protect them from further robbery at the terminals.

A BROAD MINDED MAN

F. W. Thompson, general manager of the Ogilvie Milling Co., Montreal, has been studying the reciprocal tariff arrangements more closely recently and has given an interview to the Financial Post in which he opposes reciprocity. In this interview he makes the following statement:

"It has been stated that the object of this treaty is to satisfy a certain section of our Northwest farmers. Anyone familiar with the literature and arguments issued by the Grain Growers' Association, more particularly through the medium of the Grain Growers' Guide, cannot but be impressed with the highly exaggerated and unreasonable statements which they make against all vested interests other than their own, and it is equally true that a very large proportion of the members of this association will not support any such revolutionary legislation."

It is evident that Mr. Thompson is beginning to pay considerable attention to the Grain Growers. It is of course a part of the game of the "interests" with which Mr. Thompson is associated to discredit The Guide and the leading Grain Growers as much as possible. He says that the statements in The Guide are "exaggerated" and "unreasonable." Yet Mr. Thompson opposes reciprocity for the mere purpose of increasing the profits of the Ogilvie Milling Co., and expects people to believe he is entirely unbiased. Everything the Grain Growers do and say is "unreasonable," but everything Mr. Thompson does is the act of a broad-minded Canadian. We would suggest to Mr. Thompson, while he is on the subject, that he explain how his company can haul Winnipeg-made flour for 4,000 miles and sell it in Britain cheaper than in Winnipeg. He might also explain how much more competition reciprocity will bring and that Ogilvies will be compelled to pay nearer the milling value for wheat. We shall be glad to give Mr. Thompson plenty of space in The Guide and hope he will use it. Until he does he should not use other journals to libel The Guide.

One of the features of the farmers' conventions in the three provinces this winter has been the prominent and fair reports of the proceedings in the Western daily papers. The important position to which the farmers' organizations have risen involves added responsibility. The world is now watching and it behooves the leaders to see that business is conducted with the dignity which has characterized it in the past.

CANADIAN COUNCIL ON RECIPROCITY

The reciprocal tariff agreement is coming in for a great deal of criticism all over the world. There is strenuous opposition being made to it in certain portions of Canada. No doubt the wide measure of free trade in the agreement is due to the demands of the farmers on December 16, 1910. The farmers are satisfied with the agreement as far as it goes, and want to see it ratified by parliament. The Canadian Council of Agriculture in Regina last week passed the following resolution:

"That while we regret that the said proposals do not provide for free trade in agricultural implements, nor any material lowering of the customs duties on other commodities, we urge the parliament of Canada to ratify the said agreement at the present session, and further, we would respectfully urge parliament to increase the preference given in our customs tariff to British goods to 50 per cent. of the general tariff during the present session of parliament, a general reduction in customs duties on goods not largely imported from Great Britain, and that agricultural implements be placed on the free list in order to relieve the tax imposed upon consumers by customs duties."

Even after the agreement is ratified there is nothing to prevent placing agricultural implements on the free list, nor in fact to interfere with lowering the tariff in any way. The British Preference may be increased to fifty per cent. without interfering with United States. The United States tariff law now has a standing offer of free trade in farm implements to any country that will reciprocate. Canada should reciprocate. Now let us watch the members of parliament and see how many of them want to give the producers and consumers relief from the protectionist system. R. L. Borden made the mistake of his political career last Thursday when in the House of Commons he opposed the reciprocal tariff agreement entirely. He certainly will not have the unqualified support of the Western members of the so-called Conservative party in such a course. Mr. Borden, however, practically endorsed the demands of the Ottawa delegation in regard to terminal elevators, chilled meat industry and the Hudson's Bay Railway. On the other hand the government has not yet shown its willingness to grant these three demands but has gone part way towards the farmers' tariff demands. Between the two political machines the common people stand to suffer every time. Nothing more is needed to convince the Western people that they must pledge their candidates at the next election. By organizing and standing firmly for the Ottawa platform of December 16, 1910, the people of the West can send a solid contingent to the House of Commons at the next election who will support their demands.

THE STEEL BOUNTIES

Strenuous efforts are being made by the steel magnates of Nova Scotia to secure a renewal of the huge bounties that have been paid to them during the past fifteen years. The steel magnates have been busy around Ottawa lately and reports are that they have been very familiar with the politicians. When a Canadian industry that has received the millions from the public treasury that have been given to the steel industry, cannot get along without more nursing then it is time for it to die. Surely no government that has refused the demands of the organized farmers will permit the wealthy steel interests to feed from the public treasury any longer. Canadian people cannot afford to pay twice the cost of manufacturing steel merely to be patriotic.

The manufacturers and other tariff beneficiaries say the farmers should tend to farming and leave the tariff alone. How about reversing the advice. If it is good it should work both ways.

DIRECT LEGISLATION

There are few people in Canada today who more fully realize the need of Direct Legislation than the farmers of the Prairie Provinces. They have been studying the subject very carefully for the past two years and it has now become an important plank in the platform of the three farmers' associations. Direct Legislation is also receiving the support of all thinking people in the other walks of Western life. It has come to be generally recognized that the final power in all legislation should forever reside in the people themselves. We will always need our legislatures and they will always have a great work to perform. The work of the legislatures will become more important and more satisfactory when the people have all real power in their own hands. On Tuesday the Direct Legislation League of Manitoba met the premier of that province and requested his government to introduce legislation providing for the Initiative and Referendum. Possibly they will not get what they asked for at the present session, but Premier Roblin has publicly expressed his appreciation of the Initiative and Referendum, and will no doubt give effect to it as soon as the popular demand is sufficiently strong. The only way to make a success of any great reform movement is to educate the people to a sense of the need of that reform. That is being done in the West today, and as each year the work of education is carried on, there can be but one ending—success.

ONLY NATURAL

According to an interview published in the Monetary Times, Mr. Charles R. Hosmer does not like the reciprocity agreement. He says:

"Everyone from the Atlantic to the Pacific is prosperous and contented. There is insufficient labor to carry on the work of the railways and the agricultural sections of the Dominion. Our towns and cities are going ahead by leaps and bounds. The credit of our Dominion, our provinces and our municipalities is, without exception, of the best in the money markets of the world. Why not let well enough alone!"

Who is Mr. Hosmer? President of the Ogilvie Milling Co., director Canadian Pacific Railway, director Bank of Montreal, and director of nearly thirty other vast financial institutions. Certainly he is opposed to any freedom of trade. All the big financial interests are opposed to any system which will take any money out of their pockets and give it to the people.

The Unofficial Organ of the Winnipeg Smart Set has recently been devoting itself to what it is pleased to designate the "Grain Growers' Grouch." In this it supports the organ of the Western retail merchants in telling the farmers to learn more about farming and to keep off of economic questions. The duty of the farmer, according to this new authority, is to produce food for the nation and allow the special privileged classes to do the legislating—for their own benefit. No doubt the readers of this journal, in their palatial Winnipeg homes, enjoy the sentiment, but they will find that the "man who pays" is going to have a say in the way he pays.

Prospects now seem to be that the American congress will ratify the reciprocal tariff and that the consumers of the two neighboring nations will benefit. It is a good step forward towards economic freedom which is demanded by the majority of the people in both countries.

Day by day the feeling is spreading throughout Canada that the payment of tribute to special privileged classes must terminate. The tariff must be brought low and be followed by regulation of public service corporations.