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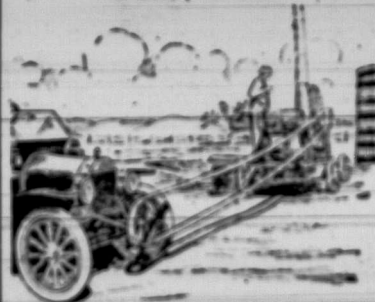
V. P. Ste- agriculture, ertain wool ed to a the sheep to the re- tion wool sment, the lberts had marketing four cents

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a pound less than did the ranchers of Montana, immediately on the other side of the International boundary, although the quality of the wool and breeding of animals in both cases were identical. As soon as the duty was removed, Canadian wool growers received exactly the same price as was obtained by the wool growers of Montana. From this experience the wool growers of Alberta drew the conclusion that the discrimination that formerly existed was due to tariff and the absence of competition. This conclusion became a settled conviction two years ago when the Ontario wool buyers dropped the price of Western wool five cents per pound immediately after the embargo on wool was declared by the Federal government and raised it the same amount as soon as the embargo was removed. For these reasons the Western wool growers oppose any movement that may tend to place them again at the mercy of the wool buyers from Eastern Canada. They emphatically object to having restrictions placed on the marketing of their product while the sale of the resultant product is unrestricted. "I have not come across any Albertan who prefers to sell his wool across the line. It is a question of dollars and cents with the Albertan wool grower, and he does not care a rap where the man hails from who buys his product. If the American wool buyer has an advantage over the Eastern Canadian it is probably due to the fact that owing to his larger western experience he understands western men and wool a little better than does the average buyer from the east. He understands the conditions and the kind of wool that is grown on the range and can talk more intelligently about the various difficulties with which the western men have to deal."

Manufacturers Given Every Chance
These then are the summarized arguments of the men on both sides of this important wool question. If the Australasian wool supply is cut off it is said Canadian factories will close down, and important war supplies will be lost to the military forces. If an embargo is placed on the exportation of Canadian wool it is feared by the sheep men that a big reduction in wool prices will synchronize with the enforcement of the embargo and the Western sheep growing industry destroyed. The manufacturers claim that until the Western, in fact all the Canadian sheep growers begin to develop a grade of wool that can be used with profit in the Dominion, they will not pay the prices sought by the wool growers, and the whole situation is surely a war-time riddle-in wool.

One commendable effort has been made by Livestock Commissioner H. S. Arkell, of the Federal Department of Agriculture, to bring the two factions together. On the consent of the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa a Dominion Government Wool Warehouse was opened on Simcoe street, Toronto, where Western wool was shipped for inspection by Canadian buyers. The Eastern buyers were circularized by Mr. Arkell, but few, if any, replies were received. The wool was sold by tender at unusually high prices to Canadian buyers, but it is known that these buyers acted for United States concerns. In this effort the Western sheep men claim that they endeavored to get in touch with the Eastern buyers, notwithstanding the fact that they could have sold their wool before shipping it from their ranches.

Soon the whole world will be crying for wool. It will be a demand that will not cease when peace is declared. Now is the time to develop a big primary wool market in Canada, but differences that could be eliminated are standing in the way. Not an embargo, but a commandeered wool clip in the interest of both sides would solve the situation. The growers should be encouraged to grow grades of wool that would be acceptable to the users, and the users should be encouraged to adopt the complete process of handling wool from the fleeces to the finished product. At present there is too much dependence on the British woollen mills. If there were more combing and worsted mills in Canada there would be more industrial independence in Canada, and outside influences which keep the wool eliminated.—EDWD. W. REYNOLDS.

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