

is stated to have said that railway charges would very shortly compare favorably with water rates, owing to the cheapening in the cost of hauling by railways, due to continuous improvements. The Minneapolis paper, in referring to this remark made by Mr. Hill, shows that wheat is carried from Chicago to Buffalo by water for 1 cent per bushel, from Buffalo to New York for 2½ cents, and from New York to Liverpool for 3 cents, or a total of 7½ cents per bushel from Chicago to Liverpool. Against this cost Mr. Hill's road charges 22 cents per 100 lbs. for carrying wheat 412 miles, from Langdon to Minneapolis, or more than double the rate charged for the same distance from Minneapolis to Chicago.

What the Minneapolis paper says about freight rates from northern and western interior points in Minnesota and Dakota, will apply to some extent to Manitoba. The quantity of wheat to be handled in Manitoba is not nearly as great as in the states to the south, and this leaves more ground for a higher rate here on the claim of insufficient traffic. It also appears that though the Manitoba roads have a lighter wheat traffic, their rates are considerably lower. Compare, for instance, 22 cents per 100 pounds from Langdon to Minneapolis, by the Great Northern, distance 412 miles, with the 17 cent rate from Winnipeg to Fort William, by the Canadian Pacific Railway, distance 426 miles. Compared with rates south and east of Minneapolis, however, Canadian Pacific Railway rates appear very high. The wheat rate is by far the most important item in the line of freights for the people on each side of the boundary in this region, but it would appear that the farmers of Minnesota and Dakota have much more reason for complaint than those of Manitoba. The Minneapolis paper certainly makes out a strong case against the Great Northern and Northern Pacific in its comparison of rates, and as stated, the remarks apply in a modified sense to the situation in Manitoba. Eventually the northwestern railways on each side of the boundary must reduce their rates to something of a parity with rates charged east and south of Minneapolis, and in view of the present low price of wheat, it would be a happy thing for the farmers if this reduction could be made at once.

## TARIFF LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

The fight between the House and the Senate of the United States over the new tariff bill, has resulted in the capitulation of the House. The bill at first passed by the House was much more liberal than the one now accepted. The amendments made by the Senate were very numerous, and the clauses placing a duty upon coal, iron ore, sugar and barbed wire are particularly obnoxious to the House. It became a question, however, of either accepting the bill as amended by the Senate, or allowing the bill to fall through entirely. The majority in the Senate is very narrow, and a few Senators appeared fully determined to have their own way or defeat the bill. Under this situation the House felt impelled to accept the Senate bill, objectionable as it is, rather than

prolong the unsatisfactory situation arising from the uncertainty regarding tariff legislation. The House certainly acted wisely under the circumstances in accepting the measure as it came from the Senate, objectionable as it is.

The Senate bill was accepted in toto, without amendment on Monday, and as no further changes were agreed to in conference of the two legislative bodies, the bill now only awaits the signature of the President to become law. The House Democrats determined to continue the agitation for tariff reform, and as soon as the general tariff bill as reported from the Senate was adopted, the House proceeded to pass a series of separate bills, placing barbed wire, sugar, coal and iron ore on the free list. These four bills were quickly passed, but it is doubtful if any of them will pass the Senate, judging from the attitude of that body in regard to the Wilson bill.

Wilson declared in the House, on the final debate of the tariff bill, that the sugar trust would reap a profit of \$40,000,000 by reason of the sugar schedule, as fixed by the Senate. If this is even approximately true, it is not surprising that the Senators have been very stubborn in their determination to have their own way about it. If the trust has any such profit in view, it is easy to see how the Senate, with its close majority, could be manipulated to meet the wishes of the trust, and it is therefore not a matter for wonder that there is a belief abroad that the Senate has been bought up by the sugar trust.

The tariff bill as now adopted by both branches of Congress, is not an honorable redemption of the pledges made by the Democratic party in the matter of tariff reform, neither is it likely to prove satisfactory to the people. The House Democrats, however, have undoubtedly done the best they could under the circumstances. The ball of tariff reform, at any rate, has been set rolling, and a larger measure of reform may be looked for in the future. At any rate, it is not to be expected that all the reforms desired could be successfully carried through in this the first attempt at tariff reform in a quarter of a century. The future for tariff reform in the United States is certainly hopeful.

The bill will certainly improve trade intercourse between Canada and the United States. Though not as favorable to trade with this country as it appeared when first introduced, the bill as passed by the Senate is a great improvement on the McKinley tariff so far as Canada is concerned. The wool and free lumber features alone are very important items for Canada. If the House can succeed in its fight for free coal and free iron ore, it will further extend international trade between the two countries.

## THE SUPPLY OF BREADSTUFFS.

The supplies of breadstuffs in the principal countries of Europe, and afloat therefor, at the close of July, as reported by the Liverpool Corn Trade News, show a reduction of 4,560,000 bushels compared with the previous monthly statement. The aggregate decrease in July, 1893, was only 400,000 bushels. The decrease in the quantity afloat was 4,000,000 bushels of which 100,000 bushels was credited

to the continent, and 3,000,000 bushels "for orders"—the quantity for the United Kingdom remaining stationary. The supplies afloat are 2,300,000 bushels less than reported one year ago. The aggregate stocks of breadstuffs in store were reduced only 550,000 bushels during July. Supplies in the United Kingdom were increased 640,000 bushels, and those in Russia enlarged 1,200,000 bushels, while in France there was a reduction of 2,100,000 bushels and in Belgium, Germany and Holland of 300,000 bushels. The aggregate quantity in store is 3,760,000 bushels less than reported one year ago. The total supplies in store and afloat are 6,360,000 bushels less than reported on August 1, 1893.

The supplies of breadstuffs in the United States and Canada at the close of July exhibited an increase of 6,339,603 bushels—at the points reported by the Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin. The increase was chiefly in the central and western states, where farmers delivered wheat freely at the close of harvest. During July, 1893, supplies at the same points decreased 5,270,000 bushels.

The aggregate supplies of wheat in second hands in the United States and Canada increased 6,637,766 bushels. In Canada the supplies were reduced 174,289 bushels, consequently the stocks in the United States were enlarged 6,812,054 bushels. In July, 1893, the stocks of wheat decreased 3,994,842 bushels. The aggregate supplies of flour and wheat in the United States and Canada are equal 2,777,600 bushels larger than on August 1, 1893, and of wheat alone 4,106,221 bushels larger.

The aggregate supplies of breadstuffs in the United States and Canada and in Europe and afloat therefor, on August 1, 1891, were equal to 174,491,630 bushels, against 173,012,000 bushels on July 1, and 178,074,000 bushels on August 1, 1893. Stocks during July were enlarged 1,479,600 bushels, while in July, 1893, they were decreased 5,670,000 bushels.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

As the threshing season is about starting in Manitoba it might not be amiss to point out that the great decline in wages should admit of a reduction in the cost of threshing. Wheat as well as most other commodities are cheaper than in former years, and this is a good reason why threshing should be done at a lower price than formerly, if it is at all possible. The decline in wages should make it possible.

The executive officers of the Calgary, Sprucevale, Springbank and Jumping Pond branches of the Southwestern Irrigation League have petitioned the territorial assembly that legislative provision be made for the creation of municipal bodies to be known as irrigation districts in the districts named. It is requested that such irrigation districts be given power to construct irrigation works within its limits, and operate the same. For such purpose it is requested that irrigation districts be given power to issue bonds or raise money by local taxation. It is proposed that such irrigation districts be declared upon petition of three-fourths of the ratepayers, representing two thirds of the value of the real property in the proposed district.

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