

constitute the price and the means, if any, whereby reduction may be effected. This inquiry should embrace a study of cost of manufacture, the effect of the tariff, the cost of transportation, distribution and collection and all other matters which enter into the question.

Here again Liberalism has given an indication that its eyes are open to conditions that affect the interests of our farmers. Little by little the cost of farm machinery of all classes has been on the increase throughout Western Canada until today people are beginning to wonder what the end will be. There can be no doubt this has become a most serious problem—one that should and must be inquired into from top to bottom. The people want to know the facts and the remedy. The removal of the tariff would doubtless help a great deal but the present tariff, high though it be, cannot be the only cause of high prices. The Liberal party demands that the most thorough investigation be made into this question in order that a practical remedy may be found to relieve existing conditions.

BRANCH RAILWAYS

The construction of branch railways through all settlements urgently in need of transportation facilities. While realizing that the war has unavoidably delayed the building of branch lines, still the solution of this problem is so vital to thousands of our farming population that we believe if the railways required cannot be secured when peace is declared by the aid of bond guarantees, or other assistance, the province itself should undertake the construction of these lines.

In many parts of our province and by some thousands of our people the urgent need for railway facilities is most keenly felt. Unfortunately the great war during the past two or three years has put an end to railway construction throughout the whole prairie regions of Western Canada. In recent months owing to the demand for steel for railways on the battle-fields of Europe the Canadian Government and our railway companies have actually had to remove steel from existing tracks for shipment to France. Until the war is over there is little hope of any marked improvement in railroad building. But while this is so, the Government must be prepared to act immediately when peace is declared. It was the recognition of this fact that caused the Liberal Convention at Moose Jaw to declare in favour of Government construction of necessary lines if the railway companies are not prepared to proceed promptly with this work.

ROADS

A continuation of the policy of provincial assistance in the construction of main roads leading to market towns, the programme of work to be submitted to local councils for approval and the work itself to be undertaken by municipalities in all cases where they have the necessary organization and equipment to do the work efficiently and economically.