

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, July 17th, 1912

MUCH GRAIN SPOILING

During the past week the situation in regard to tough and damp grain at Fort William and Port Arthur has grown steadily worse. On July 13 Grain Commissioner Staples, at Winnipeg, stated that there were 1,200,000 bushels of "out of condition" grain in the elevators and on the tracks awaiting treatment and it was pouring in from the West every day more rapidly than it could be handled, so that today there is upwards of one and a half million bushels of grain in danger, and the loss to farmers is steadily mounting upwards. Commissioner Staples frankly stated that the Grain Commission was alarmed at the situation and had promptly concluded an arrangement with the Armour Grain company, of Chicago, by which their portable drier will be brought to Fort William this week and retained until the grain is all treated. The present drying capacity at Fort William, as given by Mr. Staples, is 35,000 bushels per day of 24 hours. The Armour plant has a capacity of 40,000 bushels per day of twenty-four hours for tough grain, while for grain that is badly heated and caked this will be reduced to from 15,000 to 20,000 bushels. The Armour outfit will charge from 3½ to 8 cents per bushel for drying according to the condition of the grain. We note that on July 11th 105 cars of "no grade" grain passed inspection, so that even with the Armour plant at Fort William, the supply of "out of condition" grain far exceeds the capacity of the drying plants. The Grain Commission has acted with commendable promptness in bringing the Armour plant to the rescue, and probably this is the only relief that will be forthcoming. The Grain Growers' Grain company has been investigating the situation and working to relieve conditions at Fort William for the last two weeks. They have found that tough grain can be taken from Fort William to Duluth by boat in bond and that the Duluth driers are not congested. This will relieve the congestion at Fort William and probably save a considerable loss to the farmers. The railways will not give any special rates to Duluth where there is considerable drying capacity. What the loss on "out of condition" grain at Fort William will be cannot be estimated, but it will be enormous, and will probably mean ruin to a considerable number of farmers in the West. Had the reciprocity agreement been in force during the last eight months, there need not have been one bushel of this grain lost. The Western farmers can chalk this huge loss up to the credit of the protected manufacturers, the railways and the banks of Eastern Canada, who spent huge sums of money to keep Western farmers in subjection. If some day in the future these special interests receive harsh treatment at the hand of the outraged farmers they will have no ground for sympathy.

THE SASKATCHEWAN ELECTION

The result in Saskatchewan last Thursday proves conclusively that reciprocity is not dead. It is not even sleeping. Reciprocity is a living, full-blooded and paramount issue in the Prairie Provinces. The men of Saskatchewan, the province that produces probably more wealth per capita than any other Canadian province, have declared again that they will not be the chore boys of the protected manufacturers, bankers and railway magnates. Mr. Haultain says he underestimated the demand for reciprocity. Others have done likewise. Despite the fact that the reciprocity question had really no place in the Saskatchewan election it was the main issue.

There was practically no difference between the Scott and Haultain parties on provincial matters. Had the election been fought on provincial issues without the interference of federal politicians the standing of the parties might have been different. But the Ottawa politicians, both Conservative and Liberal, feel it their duty to dominate the provincial parties. The result is a lowering of political morality and decidedly prejudicial to the welfare of the people. The late government was guilty of this and the present government is going even further. The attempts of Messrs. Rogers and Roche to bribe or coerce the Saskatchewan electors proved a boomerang. We trust that it may prove a lesson to federal politicians to attend to the work for which they are paid.

The result in Saskatchewan was not a party victory in the usual sense. It was a further registration of the demands of the farmers for a wider market in which to dispose of their ever-increasing crops. The forces of Special Privilege cannot long withstand the demand for a square deal on the part of the farmers. Wider markets and lower prices on the necessities of life are of vital importance to the West. This question is one which spells either success or failure to thousands of farmers. No free people will tolerate being bottled up and robbed on both ends of their business for the benefit of a few men who enjoy special privileges. The tariff walls must go down.

PROTECTIONISTS GETTING BUSY

It will be interesting to our readers to learn that the Anti-Reciprocity League of Canada has been revived. This is a league which was headed by Z. A. Lash, of the C. N. R., and did so much magnificent work for the protectionists during last Federal election. We do not know whether the \$6,300,000 cash gift which the government handed to the Canadian Northern Railway in February was in return for these services or not. At an rate those millions will finance a very fine campaign. If the farmers of Canada had even one million dollars to assist in organization work they would wipe out the tariff wall completely in two years. We presume that if Mr. Lash's efforts continue successful that his railway will get another cash bonus from the Federal treasury. This Anti-Reciprocity League business also probably explains why the Canadian Manufacturers' association takes no part in the campaign for equitable freight rates. It is a case of "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." The railways and manufacturers tap the treasury every time they get the chance, and we must admit that they do it splendidly. It is a sort of "communism of pelf," as Sir Richard Cartwright once described it, and as long as the railways make no complaint about the tariff, the manufacturers cannot very well make any complaint about freight rates. Yet there are farmers in Canada and thousands of them who still believe that they are working for the interest of their wives and families, when they are supporting a protective tariff.

TAXING LAND VALUES

The Canadian Manufacturers' association is becoming interested in the taxation of land values question. In the July number of "Industrial Canada" there are interviews with three Vancouver members of the association as to the actual working of land value taxation in Vancouver. One of the members, R. P. McLennan, of McFeely & Co., Limited, says:—

"The application of the single tax theory

should materially assist in the establishment of manufacturing industries in our city. It appears to be the simplest form of giving a legitimate bonus to any manufacturer wishing to avail himself of the offer. He can secure the cheapest property suitable and erect the most modern and expensive works he desires with the full knowledge that he will not have to pay a farthing on his buildings for taxes. Up to date the citizens of Vancouver appear well satisfied with the effect of the application of the single tax. It has been stated that a man who robs a hen house once is fined once, but the man who builds a hen house is fined once a year. Vancouver has ceased to fine the builder even once, and if one but contemplates the many modern structures of the best type and material in course of erection he cannot but consider her action has been justified beyond expectation."

This manufacturer is beginning to see the point. He realizes that industry should not be taxed, that is, when it is a manufacturing industry. If he would carry it a little further he would find that by wiping out the customs tariff workmen could live far more cheaply and consequently at a lower wage. He would also find that the taxation of land values would loosen the grip of the monopolists on timber limits, mines, and other raw materials and thus make them far cheaper than they are to manufacturers now without doing injury to any person. In fact if all taxes were raised from the value of land as nature intended that they should be, manufacturers in Canada would not only need no protection but would be able to undersell all foreign competitors. In addition they would have an easy conscience due to the knowledge that their prosperity did not depend upon other people's poverty.

FREE TRADE HELPS MANUFACTURERS

It is a well known fact that there is no duty on cream separators coming into Canada. They may be imported from any country in the world and the separator industry is therefore one which meets competition from all directions and has flourished in Canada under free trade conditions. We quote the following from a circular letter sent by the Petrie Manufacturing company, Hamilton, Ont., to their agents, April 20, 1911:—

"There has never been any duty on cream separators coming into Canada. The markets have always been open to the makers of every cream separator and they are nearly all here. In spite of all this opposition the "Magnet" easily leads them all. In 1910 our sales of "Magnets" nearly doubled those of 1909, and the first three months of 1911 run far ahead of the same months in 1910."

This is what one of the leading manufacturers of cream separators has to say about his own industry under free trade conditions. Now, if cream separators need no protection in Canada why do agricultural implements and other industries need protection? We would be glad to have some person explain this mystery.

A STARTLING DISCOVERY

The Winnipeg Telegram sums up the contention of the opponents of reciprocity in the following words:—

"The very best market for the Canadian grain grower lies right at his door in Canada, or can be found in the widening demand within the Empire."

If this doctrine be true then those farmers in the West who have been hauling their grain across the line, and, after paying the duty, have received considerably more than the best Canadian price, are really losers. According to the anti-reciprocity doctrine, the more money that we get for our products