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Farmers' Co-operative Pork Packing plant and proposed that the convention approve a legislative committee to draw up a bill to present to the next session of the provincial legislature. Balfour Union was for a government plant, on the lines offered a few years ago. Sexton Creek Union advocated the U. F. A. forming itself into a company to establish a pork packing plant and cold storage in Lethbridge. With so many resolutions before it at once, the convention was somewhat at sea for a while, the chief fact brought out by a general discussion being that something should be done. Mr. Fream was asked to express an opinion and said he thought the wisest course would be for the convention to instruct the executive to go thoroughly into the matter and prepare a comprehensive scheme and endeavor to secure the co-operation of the government in putting it into force.

W. F. Stevens, Livestock Commissioner of the province, was asked to speak and said the first thing was to get all there was out of the local market. As long as consumption exceeded production prices would be fairly good. When production exceeded consumption, however, outside market for the surplus had to be secured. That condition was very nearly reached during the present winter, and if it had not been for the opening of the market to the South, he had no doubt that the farmers of Alberta would have been forced to sell their hogs at five cents a pound live weight. In some districts at a district from a market, buyers had certainly taken advantage of the farmers and had used various subterfuges to induce them to accept very low prices.

At Red Deer, a co-operative company, managed by Mr. Carswell, had been very successfully marketing the hogs raised in the district and had been securing from a quarter to a half-cent a pound better prices than at other points in the same vicinity. An improvement could be secured along that line, but he did not believe that the livestock industry would ever be placed on a satisfactory basis until stockyards were established which were entirely independent of any railway company or packing company, and with public abattoirs in connection. When, thru increased production or the closing of the American market, it became necessary to export pork to Europe, a packing plant would be necessary and the best scheme he knew of was that proposed four years ago. That system was identical with the Danish system, except in one particular. The difference was that in this scheme the government was to supply the money to establish the plant, whereas in Denmark, the farmers mortgaged their farms and raised the money themselves. The proposal was, that if the farmers would give a reasonable guarantee that they would provide at least fifty thousand hogs a year and would elect officers and directors to undertake the establishment and management of the plant, the government would furnish the money. Eventually it was decided to embody all the resolutions in one and refer the matter to the executive with the intention that the convention was in favor of the establishment of one fair-sized plant.

Our Ottawa Letter

Continued from Page 3

to wheat milling in this country, and they have got a great monopoly. They are well linked up together and are in a position, by reason of a monopoly and the association of the railways, to keep down the price. Thus in two ways the Canadian farmer will benefit by putting wheat on the free list. They will by the competition of the American railways and they will benefit by the fact that the millers will have to come up to the scratch and give them more for their Canadian wheat if they want to grind it in their mills.

"That," said Dr. Neeley, "to use an ordinary expression, is the case in a nutshell. If we accept the olive branch held out in the form of the Wilson tariff, we shall find that there will result a great advantage to the millers of Canada in that they will be given free entry into a large market, not only for the flour that they manufacture, but for the by-products of the wheat which they have to sell."

Government Neglected Farmers

Space will not permit the giving of a complete summary of all the arguments

advanced by the member for Humboldt. As already stated, however, the speech covered the whole ground pretty thoroughly. In closing he said: "The particular fault I have to find with the government at the present moment is this—instead of calling a special session of this Parliament when the Wilson-Underwood tariff came into effect, the first week of October last, they continued their peregrinations over the four quarters of the globe and left our Western Canadian farmers to sell their crops in a restricted market, which meant a loss to them of millions and millions of dollars. Instead of calling Parliament, the time was extended for another couple of months and the farmers received practically no benefit. It is not too late, however, to get this result, so far as future crops are concerned. The situation that existed this year will exist more markedly year after year, as time goes on. In view of all the facts and the desire of the grain growers for the market across the line, I must express my regret that the government has not seen fit to take any notice of this situation in the speech from the Throne and that they did not call a special session of Parliament to deal with the question."

Dr. Neeley's motion was as follows: "The House regrets that in the gracious speech with which Your Royal Highness has met Parliament, the said speech gives no indication of any intention on the part of your advisors to take any steps to secure free access to the markets of the United States for the wheat and wheat products of Canada, by removing the duty on wheat and wheat products coming into Canada from the United States."

Molloy Represents Farmers

Probably the plainest bit of talk indulged in during the debate came from Dr. Molloy, of Provencher, who said: "My reason for voting for free wheat is that the farmers as a body demand it, and as I represent a farming community, it is my duty to vote with the people I represent. The position of the government is entirely different. They are afraid to grant free wheat, and they are afraid to oppose it, but they must do one or the other. If they turn to the right they will get punched; if they turn to the left they will get punched, but they cannot get away from it. The talk about this not being the proper time and this not being the proper way to do it will not be accepted by the ordinary farmers like myself." A little later on, touching on the question of mixed farming, he said: "I know dozens, yes, hundreds of farmers in Provencher, and Lisgar, and Macdonald who would gladly go into mixed farming if they had the money. It is all very well to tell people what they ought to do, but I notice that the advice is generally given by those who toast their shins at coal fires paid for by the government."

Cruise Shows Real Needs

Robert Cruise, of Dauphin, was just about as plain spoken.

"Another question that members on the government side talked a great deal about," he said, "is the education of the farmers. I do not know how that appeals to other farmers, but I know how it appeals to me. I have been a practical farmer in Manitoba for twenty years and I do not need any education to enable me to raise more beef and more pork, and more wheat than I do. Give me the market and I will raise the goods. The honorable gentlemen are on the wrong track; they are trying to educate the wrong people. It is not the farmers who need to be educated, but the manufacturers. Educate the millers and manufacturers so that they will be able to compete with their rivals on the other side of the line. I am quite satisfied that the farmers would be quite willing to have the Minister of Agriculture appropriate money to educate the manufacturers to be men; to get off the farmer's back and to compete with the American manufacturers."

Speeches in support of the amendment were made by Hon. Frank Oliver, Hon. William Buchanan, Dr. Warnock, Thomas MacNutt, James Douglas and George McCraney. Dr. Michael Clarke had previously advocated free wheat when he spoke on the Laurier amendment. J. J. Turriff, W. E. Knowles and William Martin, of Regina, were absent for the debate. W. H. White, of Victoria, Alberta, and Dr. Cash, of Yorkton, did not speak, but with the other opposition



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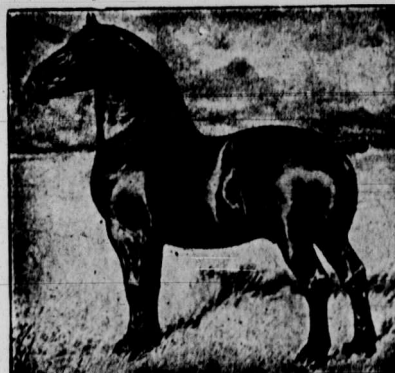
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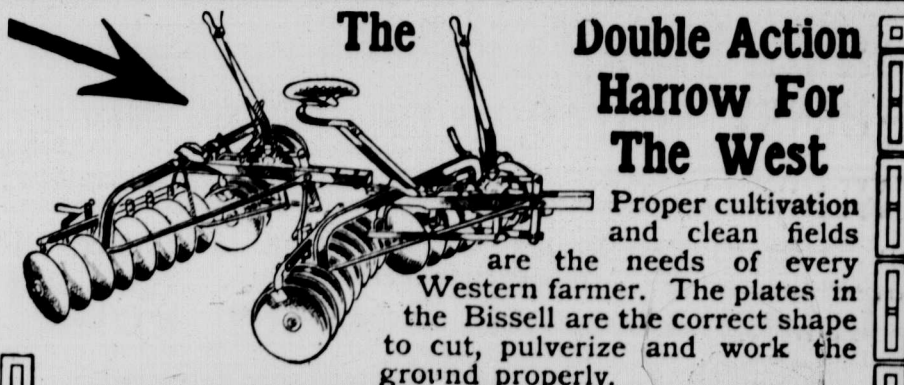
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