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WHAT THE WEST WILL PAY

By the decision of the Federal Government to legislate the Crow's Nest Pass agreement into a "scrap of paper," except the schedules on grain and flour, the West, after winning its case before the courts, and before Parliament last session, is forced into a position where it has to fight the battle all over again, and in doing so much old straw will be rethatched, and old arguments revamped.

We do not purpose going over the old ground again, for the reason that our readers are familiar with the issue, and because some different kind of pressure than newspaper controversy will have to be brought to bear on Ottawa if the West is ever to get justice in the matter of transportation charges.

Because the East has water transportation with which the railways have to compete, freight rates have always been, and are now, lower than those charged in the West. The West has not this water competition, and, therefore, freight rate concessions over certain specified commodities were purchased by the Crow's Nest Agreement of 1897, made by the Laurier Government. But even these rates were, and are higher, than those prevailing in the East by a considerable margin. If, therefore, equalisation of rates is the great desideratum for the salvation of Canada and the railroads—as the Dominion Government and the Railway Commission insist—it can be attained by leaving the Crow's Nest Pass rates in operation.

But these rates are to be slaughtered. That is the purpose of the legislation now before Parliament. Once this is enacted the Railway Commission will joyfully abolish the Crow's Nest Pass rates and re-establish the rates which, by a usurpation of its powers, it ordered back last October for a brief period.

The Crow's Nest Pass rates are themselves higher than the Eastern rates; the Western rates which will succeed the Crow's Nest Pass rates will be higher by from 50 to 100 per cent, according to figures published by the Manitoba Free Press. The following table shows the percentage of increase in the rates now paid that will follow immediately upon Parliament's butchery of the Crow's Nest Pass agreement—these

being rates per 100 lbs. in carloads from Toronto to Winnipeg and the West:

On cordage and binder twine; heavy hardware (including bar, band, Canada plates, galvanized sheet, pipe, pipe-fittings, nails, spikes, horseshoes); wire, paper, building and roofing; window glass, paints and oils; woodenware:

To—	Crow's Nest Rates.	Intended Rates.	p.c. Inc.
Winnipeg	\$ 0.74	\$1.14	54.0
Portage la Prairie	.084½	1.22	44.4
Brandon	.91	1.32	44.4
Regina	1.11½	1.55	39.0
Swift Current	1.20½	1.71	41.9
Saskatoon	1.36	1.68	23.5
Lethbridge	1.35	1.92	42.2
Medicine Hat	1.30½	1.83	40.2
Red Deer	1.57½	2.03	28.9
Calgary	1.39½	2.00	43.4
Edmonton	1.66½	2.00	20.1

On Agricultural Implements

To—			
Winnipeg	\$ 0.68½	\$0.82½	20.4
Portage la Prairie	0.74½	0.88½	18.8
Brandon	0.80	0.97½	21.9
Regina	0.97	1.28	32.0
Swift Current	1.06½	1.42½	33.8
Saskatoon	1.16½	1.39½	19.7
Lethbridge	1.21	1.62½	34.0
Medicine Hat	1.15½	1.54½	33.8
Red Deer	1.41	1.69½	20.2
Calgary	1.25½	1.66½	32.7
Edmonton	1.48	1.66½	12.5

On Household Furniture

To—			
Winnipeg	\$0.89½	\$1.38½	55.6
Portage la Prairie	1.00½	1.47½	43.8
Brandon	1.08	1.58½	46.8
Regina	1.27½	1.85½	45.6
Swift Current	1.37½	2.01½	46.5
Saskatoon	1.54½	1.98½	28.5
Lethbridge	1.53½	2.25½	46.9
Medicine Hat	1.47½	2.16½	46.8
Red Deer	1.78	2.37½	33.4
Calgary	1.58	2.34½	48.4
Edmonton	1.88	2.34½	24.7

On Fresh Fruits

To—			
Winnipeg	\$0.83½	\$1.29½	55.1
Portage la Prairie	0.96½	1.48½	53.9
Brandon	1.04	1.60	53.6
Regina	1.27½	1.95½	53.3
Swift Current	1.38	2.11	52.9
Saskatoon	1.54	2.08½	35.4
Lethbridge	1.54	2.35	52.6
Medicine Hat	1.47½	2.25½	52.9
Red Deer	1.78	2.62	47.2
Calgary	1.58½	2.41½	52.4
Edmonton	1.88½	2.41½	28.0

On Green Apples

To—			
Winnipeg	\$0.55	\$0.85	54.5
Portage la Prairie	0.63	0.97	54.0
Brandon	0.67½	1.04	54.1
Regina	0.83	1.27	53.0
Swift Current	0.89½	1.37	53.1
Saskatoon	1.01	1.34½	33.2
Lethbridge	1.00	1.52½	52.5
Medicine Hat	0.97	1.48	52.6
Red Deer	1.17	1.65	41.0
Calgary	1.03½	1.58	52.7
Edmonton	1.23½	1.58	27.9

On Coal Oil

To—			
Winnipeg	\$0.65½	\$1.01	54.2
Portage la Prairie	0.75	1.15	53.3
Brandon	0.81	1.24	53.1
Regina	0.99	1.51	52.5
Swift Current	1.07	1.63	52.3
Saskatoon	1.21	1.61	33.1
Lethbridge	1.20	1.82½	52.1
Medicine Hat	1.16	1.82½	52.1
Medicine Hat	1.16	1.76½	60.8
Red Deer	1.40	2.08	45.0
Calgary	1.24	1.88½	52.0
Edmonton	1.43	1.88½	27.4

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