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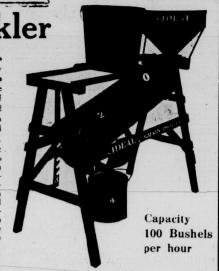
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The Brett Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Winnipeg

Reducing Cost of Living Continued from Page 35

clubbed together to purchase fence posts, wood and wire; the latter, however, did not pass thru the hands of the Association, and I cannot give details. On the flour we received from 20 cents to 40 cents a bag reduction on local prices, on bran and shorts the saving was 10 cents on 100 pounds, and on rolled oats 30 cents per 40 pounds, giving us a saving of \$255 on the car load. On sugar we saved \$1.80 per 100 pounds, or \$868, and on apples \$1 to \$1.45 a barrel,

We have adopted a policy of allowing non-members to participate in our cooperative purchases, thinking that we may eventually get them to join, and in most cases we are successful. Our purchases have all been made either on sight draft or thirty days' time, with the exception of the sugar, for which the president and the secretary gave a check for the full amount. We endeavor to have the members pay for their purchases on the arrival of the car, and in most cases this is done.

Altogether our purchases cost us in the neighborhood of \$6800, and if we had bought in the ordinary way we should have paid \$8.200, so we had a total saving of about \$1.400.

When our first car of sugar was on the way the price dropped from \$6.75 per cwt. to \$5.35, and the merchants tried their hardest to leave it on our hands, and in some cases undersold us. Our members were loval to the Association, however, and when the second car came in no such tricks were tried, althothe price dropped considerably

ED. BROWN.

Secretary

Other reports will appear next week

Our Ottawa Letter Continued from Page 4

reduction of duties might not bring about the results expected. Twenty-five years ago there were in Canada not less than thirty plow companies. As the result of a reduction in duty, which then stood at thirty-five per cent. only the strong ones were able to continue in business. It might be, he said, that the abolition of the duty now proposed would result in the still further elimination of these industries. Mr. Borden continued, "If there were absolute freedom of trade between the two countries (Canada and the United States) it might be possible that the people of this country would be delivered into the hands of an international trust in agricultural implements. They might not find themselves very much better off in the end than they are now. I have never seen or heard any reason which would lead me to the conclusion that if there were absolute free trade between the two countries, the great trust established in the United States would be any more merciful or considerate of the people of Canada than they have been of the interests of the people of the United States. So far as trusts and combines among our own manufacturers are concerned, we have legisla-

tive powers in this country which ought to be capable of dealing with any evils that have arisen or might arise, but so far as international combines are concerned, there might be more difficulty in dealing with that question under conditions of free trade than there otherwise would be. I do not propose to embark, at this stage, upon an argument of the question either one way or the other, but to reserve the consideration of the whole question, so far as the government is concerned, until the proposals of the government with regard to the tariff, if any are to be announced, shall be placed before the House by the Minister of Finance in his budget speech."

Competing With the World

The main contention of Mr. Knowles in support of his proposal for the abolition of the duty was that the makers of implements are now in a position to compete with the world in all markets and do not require protection any longer. He said that when the tariff was revised in 1894 our exports of agricultural implements amounted to \$466, 479. The tariff on agricultural imple ments was next revised in 1906 when our exports amounted to \$2,499,104. Our exports in the last fiscal year were \$6,152,559. Since the great reduction was made in 1894 when the tariff on implements was cut from thirty-five per cent, to the Mackenzie government figure of twenty per cent., our exports have grown more than thirteen times. Our exports last year when the duty was seventeen and a half per cent. were thirteen times as much as they were when the duty was thirty-five per cent in 1894. Our exports of other manufactured goods during that time have not grown to anything like that extent. They have grown only five and a half times. Our exports of all manufactured goods in 1894 amounted to \$7,692. 755 and in 1913 to \$43,708,000. They had grown five and a half times, as against thirteen times in the case of agricul tural implements,

Hon. Arthur Meighen said that the conversion of Liberal members to free agricultural implements was one of the most striking things in their history. He congratulated Dr. Clarke on the disciples around him, who appear to be multiplying rapidly. Mr. Meighen said that in the whole course of fifteen years the Liberals had succeeded only in shaving two and a half per cent. off these duties. They had never shaved a cent off until they had been in power for eleven years. It was the Conserva tive party in 1894 which had made the

big cut on agricultural implements.
"I think the people of Canada," he said in conclusion, "would believe that they can look forward with more confidence and with more certainty, to what will be done in tariff matters by a government whose principles they know, rather than by a hand of politicians, composed partly of long distance free traders, and partly of mushroom protectionists."

Speeches in support of the motion were made by practically all of the western opposition members and repre sentatives of Ontario. Quebec and the Maritime Provinces