

and as a result, to quote our correspondent's figures, 97 per cent. of the Canadian clip has been sold to American buyers. If the manufacturers will not pay the market price for the wool clip, the producers have a perfect right to sell to men who will pay it. The argument that Canadian wool is not good enough for the Canadian manufacturers leaks like a sieve. If it is good enough for the American manufacturers, it is good enough for Canadians. The unanimity of action on the part of the manufacturers in boycotting Canadian wool is a strong indication of concerted action. It is evident that they are working for some measure by the government to deliver the Canadian wool clip into their hands for whatever they want to pay for it. Not content with a tariff of 42½ per cent. on their manufactured product, they want to keep the price of the raw material down below its competitive value. They will then get the Canadian people both coming and going.

The suggestion that the wool clip be commandeered is open to the same objection as placing it under an embargo. The result would be to place the wool remaining in Canada into the hands of the manufacturers at less than the competitive price. The same policy would likely be followed each year for the duration of the war. If any purpose of national economy or war efficiency were to be served by commandeering the clip, the growers would not object, but they will strongly object to being still further bled for the benefit of the protected Canadian textile industry. There is no reason under the sun why Canadian manufacturers cannot compete with American manufacturers in the prices they pay for their raw material. If the Canadian clip were commandeered at a price below the competitive price, without some action to correspondingly reduce the price of the output of eastern woolen mills, the result would be to still further enrich a coterie of capitalists without

giving any corresponding advantages either to producers or consumers.

APPLES FROM UNITED STATES

No one on the prairie provinces can soon forget the imposition last year of an additional import duty of 50 cents a barrel on apples, which made the tariff 90 cents per barrel. Westerners were to be forced to eat Canadian apples at any cost. The ruthless real estate exploitation in British Columbia were to be made good by the people of the prairies. But this year an unusual condition faces prairie consumers. Canadian growers cannot supply nearly enough apples. British Columbia authorities place the crop of that province at slightly less than in 1916. Ontario has perhaps the worst crop in its history, the quantity is negligible and the quality is very poor. The chief of the fruit branch of the Ontario department of agriculture says Ontario will have no apples to sell and will be forced to import a large quantity. Properly distributed, Ontario could consume easily, in addition to her own crop, practically all Nova Scotia will export. Nova Scotia apples must come west as there is a complete embargo on export to Great Britain. The prairies will receive part of Nova Scotia's crop, however, and Ontario may have to go short, though the high freight rate gives Ontario the preference for Nova Scotia apples.

In 1916 the apples consumed in the prairie provinces came from the following places:—

British Columbia	1,081 cars
Ontario	647 cars
United States	615 cars
Nova Scotia	63 cars
Total	2,406 cars

There are three boxes in a barrel, and approximately 550 boxes to a car. We imported 647 cars from United States last year.

If Western Canada eats as many apples this season as last, and Ontario consumes her usual amount, the prairies must import about 1,250 cars, or half the total consumption, and must pay approximately \$205,000 duty on these. The food controller is trying to encourage the use of perishable foods, thereby conserving all possible staple foods for export to Europe. The apple duty imposed last year is operating against national and allied interests. It ought to be abolished. It tends to discourage in a most emphatic manner the consumption of fresh food products in Western Canada at a time when we most import half or more of our apples and when there should be real co-operation between United States and Canada in food distribution. The kind of co-operation being practiced between Washington and Ottawa in handling the grain crop should proceed voluntarily from Ottawa in the distribution of the apples necessary for prairie consumption.

The new fixed price for wheat is only a price. It has nothing to do with the machinery of marketing. That remains exactly the same as before and farmers may sell to their local elevator companies, store or load over the platform. The Board of Grain Supervisors buys no grain, the regular grain marketing service will do it all.

Public opinion on many national questions is in a rather chaotic condition at present. There is one thing, however, on which it is practically unanimous. It will not tolerate the re-entry of Sir Clifford Sifton into national politics.

Eastern financial papers say the Canadian packers feel uneasy on account of the curtailment of exports to Great Britain. One might have expected it would have been their consciences that made them uneasy.

