

WHAT DO THE LIBERAL PARTY STAND FOR REGARDING FREE WHEAT, FREE AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, FREE POTATOES, Etc., Etc.

REDUCE THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

One of the most absorbing questions to the public now is the high cost of living and the majority of people dwell upon especially the high cost of food in this connection.

The Liberal party went out of office in 1911 on an effort to reduce the duties on food through reciprocity with the United States. By the reciprocity agreement Canada was to have free entry into the United States for many food products and these same and other products were to be brought into Canada free from the United States, thus giving the Canadian consumer an opportunity where convenient or better for him to buy imported foods without the additional cost of the duty.

The people of Canada did not see fit to adopt that policy but since that time constant and great increases in the price of food has brought home to them the fact that the cost of food is important to every householder in the country, indeed to everyone who eats, as the boarder and frequenter of restaurants is suffering fully as much as the householder.

FREE FOOD

The Liberal party have on various occasions since 1911 in the House of Commons and outside of it, announced itself in favour of the removal of the duties, on all foods and on various kinds of foods in particular.

On November 26th, 1913, Sir Wilfrid Laurier addressed the Liberal Club Federation of Ontario at Hamilton and announced a policy of free food, free from customs duties. These are the words Sir Wilfrid used at that time :—

"The policy I give you at this moment, the policy I believe every patriot in Canada ought to support, and the policy I believe it to be the duty of the Government to immediately inaugurate, is a policy of absolutely free food — free from customs duties."

This general statement has been followed by specific motions in the House of Commons demanding that certain foods should be placed on the free list.

FREE WHEAT AND WHEAT PRODUCTS

On January 28th, 1914 Dr. Neely, liberal M. P. for Humbolt (Sask.) moved that :—