

Borden at Saskatoon

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Thirty-two branches of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association were represented in the delegation which waited upon R. L. Borden, leader of the Conservative party, at Saskatoon, on Monday, July 3. The spokesmen of the delegation were very frank in their statement of the grievances under which the farming community is suffering, and the interview was almost as memorable a one as that which the Grain Growers had with Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the same city last summer.

Mr. John Evans, of Nutana, presided, and introduced the speakers, first calling upon Mr. M. Cameron, president of the Floral branch.

The Grain Growers' Case

Mr. Cameron said in presenting the case of the Grain Growers to Mr. Borden:

"In common with the citizens of Saskatoon, the farmers of the county, extend to you a very hearty welcome to the West. Many of us regard you with affection. We all admire you as a man of honor and a gentleman. I have been deputed by the farmers of the district to speak on 'Reciprocity,' and to respectfully ask you to withdraw your opposition to the agreement now before parliament, but before I begin, let me assure you, sir, that we have not come to teach you 'How to lead a party,' nor are we 'blacksmith-shop politicians, chronic grumblers, or public agitators.' We simply come as citizens of this Dominion, who have a perfect right to discuss the affairs of state.

"Of all the evils that afflict the just the high protective tariff of this country easily comes first. Reciprocity is a tariff reform, therefore we heartily endorse it. Reciprocity with the United States gives us a market of ninety millions of people to whom we will in a very short time be supplying the daily bread. You may think this is a wild statement. Some of the wisest and cleverest men in the United States and Canada have repeatedly said so, including J. J. Hill and Hon. F. W. G. Haultain. Other nations would barter their political souls for such a market.

Objections Weak

"Most of the objections to reciprocity are frivolous and childish. Indeed some of the objections are an insult to our intelligence. For instance, it is said that because we want a reduction in the tariff and larger competitive markets we are disloyal, and it may lead to annexation with the United States. I cannot conceive where the connection comes in. What has reciprocity to do with annexation or loyalty? It is like the man who said, in speaking of religious denominations, that he liked Yarmouth blenters, but he hated Plymouth brethren. The forefathers of many of us here in the West, bled and died for the Empire. It is nothing short of insolence to be accused of disloyalty for seeking relief from the exactions—or daylight robbery, if you like—of the descendant of the 'Family Compact.' We can be loyal without being paid for it, and when we go to see the king we pay our own expenses.

British Preference

"The farmers are in favor of a very large reduction in the British preference, even to the vanishing point. We send our farm produce to them under a free tariff, and for any of their manufactures they send us, we or they are fined heavily to protect infants thirty years old. It is said that reciprocity with the United States will kill Chamberlain's fiscal policy. To that we say 'Hear, hear!' The British electors have said the same on three successive occasions, (no more Indian corn for me). We do not desire an advantage for our produce that would be wrung from our brothers and sisters in the Old Country, and solely for the benefit of the class that neither toil nor spin. The principle opposition outside of parliament is diligently manufactured by the politically favored combines. The Canadian Century magazine, edited by an ex-employee of the Manufacturers' association, writes leading articles against reciprocity, and 400 weekly papers are paid for reproducing

The Grain Growers' Guide

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THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNCOLORED NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF THOUGHT AND ACTION and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continually be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the wisest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

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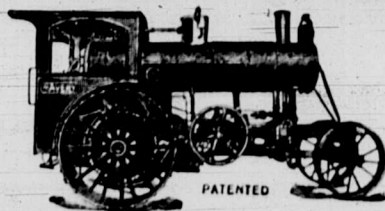
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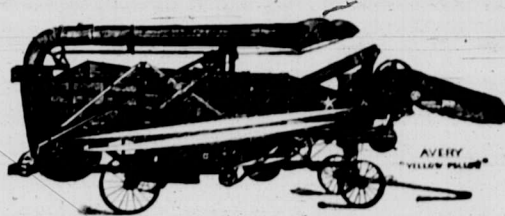
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