

memorials were not the utterances of either R. C. Henders, R. McKenzie, nor of The Grain Growers' Guide. They were the unanimous opinion of 10,000 members of the Manitoba Grain Growers' association, both Conservatives and Liberals, as voiced by their own elected delegates, to the number of about 200, at a private meeting held in Brandon prior to, but on the same day, as the meeting at which they were presented to Mr. Borden.

Thus the Telegram's attack cannot fall elsewhere than upon the whole association. And this is what the Telegram intended by its attack upon the leading officers.

This is not the first time the Telegram has published foundationless falsehoods in regard to individuals. We can recall when the Telegram was compelled to retract and apologize to save itself from the process of the law. The same thing may happen again.

In regard to The Guide and the leading men in all three Western associations supporting reciprocity, we merely point out that Mr. Borden asked that the election be regarded as a referendum upon the question. Party lines in the West were broken and the people asked for what would have saved them at least \$15,000,000 in the prices of their grain this season. We have no apologies to make for supporting reciprocity. It was the best single piece of legislation for the benefit of the people on the Western farms that has been before the country in twenty years. The Guide supported only the principle and endorsed no government at any time.

Now, on the agricultural implement tariff, if any journal has done more than The Guide to expose this iniquity, let the Telegram name it. They are not by any means the heaviest duties levied, but they are inexcusable. Not so very long ago the Telegram was loud in its demand for the abolition of the duty on implements. Why is it silent now? Are the corporations putting on the pressure? If the Telegram can show The Guide how to get the duty taken off farm implements, we will be grateful for the information. The Telegram concludes its article by saying that "the farmers' movement is all right. The Telegram hopes that it will prosper and develop." This is pure hypocrisy. The Telegram is doing all in its power to betray the farmers' movement into the hands of the corporations, trusts and mergers. No one objects to legitimate criticism. But the Telegram is conducting a despicable, lying campaign with only one aim in view, namely, to destroy the farmers' organization. With the organization once broken, the farmers would be at the mercy of the corporations which are now being brought to time. Surely the farmers of Manitoba, Conservative and Liberal, have a right to expect something better from a metropolitan journal that claims to be respectable.

TARIFF BEAUTIES

Day by day the loss which must be sustained by the Western farmers because of the defeat of reciprocity becomes more apparent. The present blockade would not have occurred with reciprocity in force, and there would have been a sample market established. But the visible loss is enormous. For instance, on December 30, 3 Northern wheat was worth 85¼ in Winnipeg and 103½ in Minneapolis, a spread of 18¼ cents per bushel. On the same day 3 barley was worth 58 in Winnipeg, but in Minneapolis it would have been worth \$1.20, a spread of 62 cents. Now, if a Minnesota and a Manitoba farmer each went out to buy an eight-foot binder from the Massey-Harris company (or the Johnston Harvester company in the United States) let us see what it would cost them. In the States the Johnston is "independent," and sells at \$5 under the "trust." The Massey-Harris eight-foot binder in Winnipeg is \$175; in Minneapolis \$140. When the Manitoba farmer buys one of these binders, it costs him 205 bushels of

3 Northern wheat, but the Minnesota farmer could buy the same implement for only 135 bushels of the same wheat. If the Manitoba farmer wanted to pay for his binder with No. 3 barley, it would cost him 301 bushels, while his Minnesota friend would need only 116 bushels, or a little more than one-third of the cost to the Manitoba farmer. This most amazing condition of affairs is not due in any way to industry, nor lack of industry on the part of our farmers—nor to Nature. It is due entirely to the tariff which the Protected Interests have succeeded in rearing around the farmers to "build up a well rounded Dominion." If the protected manufacturers of Canada had to endure such restrictions they would excite the sympathy of everyone by their wailings, but the farmers are supposed to be "patriotic," and, if possible, make themselves believe they are getting rich under Protection.

THE GRAIN BLOCKADE

There are more than 7,000 cars needed at 133 shipping points in the Prairie Provinces, and this will not represent more than a fraction of the total needs of the country today. A study of the information supplied by our readers in this issue shows just how serious the situation is becoming. With the thermometer running from 20 to 45 below zero for the past two weeks, with no chance to raise money on grain or at the bank, it can be imagined that there is suffering in many parts of the country. The C.P.R. is reported to be curtailing its shipments east from Fort William in order to provide relief in the country and prevent all possible grain from going to Duluth or Minneapolis. On January 23 the new rate on flax and barley will go into effect to Minneapolis and Duluth, but it is still far above the Fort William rate. Prospects are for a through rate to Minneapolis and Duluth on wheat and oats towards the end of February, on C.P.R., C.N.R. and Soo lines only. What will happen to all the tough wheat in Saskatchewan that must be conditioned before warm weather? And what will happen to the farmers who have only this tough wheat as a result of their year's work?

WHAT INVESTIGATION MEANS

In view of the fact that it is reported from Ottawa that the first work of the tariff commission is to investigate the implement tariff it is essential that such investigation be complete. We take it for granted that the commission will be given full power to examine all books and documents of all industries protected by the tariff, and also that they will have power to examine witnesses under oath. Without such powers the commission will be impotent. Suppose, for instance, that the commission decides to investigate the Massey-Harris Company's business. It will not be enough to ascertain that the company is paying only eight per cent. dividends. The investigation should show how much of the profits of the company are not distributed as dividends, how much "water" there is in the stock of the company and the salaries and privileges of the managers and directors. The Massey-Harris Company has produced several enormous fortunes which certainly do not prove the need of any further excessive tax upon the farmers of Canada. The Cockshutt Plow company sell their plows more cheaply in United States than in Canada at wholesale, or else they are making an enormous profit at home. Here are two of the leading implement concerns that certainly have no need of tariff protection. No doubt one of them or perhaps both of them will soon be announcing that if the tariff is reduced they will have to remove their plant to the United States. That is a reasonable expectation and then the politicians will have something to excuse them for not lowering the tariff. The Massey-Harris company and the Cock-

shutt Plow company implements compare with the best made but they have yet to advance a good reason why they should be given permission to collect tariff taxes from the Canadian farmers. Let us give our manufacturers every assistance to buy their raw material wherever they can buy it cheapest and the lowest transportation rates possible but make them stand upon their own feet.

POISONING THE FOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE

The Canadian Manufacturers' association has decided to donate special prizes in the leading Canadian universities to be awarded for essays on industrial and economic subjects. The committee in charge of this work have decided that they could not devote the manufacturers' money

"to a more worthy object than that of bringing the universities and the manufacturers of the Dominion closer together and of inclining the best students in these seats of learning towards commercial and industrial pursuits."

Thus it appears that the protected manufacturers will now make an onslaught on our educational institutions. Their object, of course, is to instil the minds of the students with what Sir Richard Cartwright called the "barbarous instincts of the protectionist mind." If the leading students of Canadian universities can be induced to take up the cudgels in favor of protection, they will form a powerful re-inforcement of the protectionist ranks. We do not know what the manufacturers will select to write upon, but we would suggest the following as well suited to their purpose: "How to get rich quick without working," or "The best method of plundering the public without their knowledge," or "How the protective tariff fills the coffers of the manufacturers at the expense of the people."

Diamonds come into Canada duty free. This is a very wise provision on the part of our governments, both Liberal and Conservative. If diamonds were taxed, the working girls would have to stop wearing diamond necklaces and solitaires, and farmers would not be able to afford diamond tie pins. We should be thankful that the government has allowed diamonds to be so cheap.

For ten years both political parties have allowed the tariff to be a dead issue. The efforts of the organized farmers have made the tariff the leading issue in Canada today, and we predict that it will remain to the front for some years to come. Day by day more people are coming to see the iniquity of the protective tariff and the struggle will not cease until there is a decided downward revision.

Hon. R. L. Borden has been made a Privy Councillor, which is a distinct honor. With the honor list in his own hands it is decidedly to his credit that he took no title for himself and recommended none for members of his cabinet. Titles for Canadians as they have been distributed in the past do not tend towards democracy.

Sir Max Aitken has been remembered in the New Year's honors by election to a fellowship in the Royal Canadian Institute, probably on account of the splendid service he has rendered in cementing together the Empire. If Max keeps on he'll cement his way into the House of Lords.

Rudolph Forget, M.P., and E. B. Osler, M.P., have both been permitted to prefix "Sir" to their names. Immense wealth secured through special privilege seems to be the surest path to a title.

Every farmer who purchases a farm implement to improve his farm and add to the prosperity is fined to the extent of the tariff. This hardly encourages industry.

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