

CHILLED MEAT INDUSTRY

"Whereas it is of very great importance to the whole West that prompt government action be taken towards establishing the chilled meat industry on a sound and permanent basis, and with the interests of the producers adequately protected; we, the members of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association in convention assembled, do hereby urge that the Federal Government take this matter up with the object of placing the business on a practical footing without unreasonable delay."

This resolution was passed at our annual meeting. We have only to say on this point that the question has been well looked into by some of our members, and especially by our sister Association in Alberta, before recommending your government to take action. That full particulars and arguments have been submitted to the minister of agriculture. We therefore take this opportunity to enlist your personal interest and request you on your return to Ottawa to do your utmost to expedite government action in this matter.

SIR WILFRID'S REPLY

In replying, Sir Wilfrid took the tariff question and asserted that he was for freer trade conditions, but said that legislation must come gradually. The tariff had already been reduced 17 per cent. He agreed that it would be best for the community to reduce the tariff, but revenue could not be obtained by direct taxation. One particular thing referred to in the address was that America had offered free trade. Years ago they made every possible effort to get a hearing at Washington for the purpose of reciprocity. They were given the cold shoulder and the government said that they would send no more delegations. Then it was Washington which sent a delegation to Ottawa. "If our neighbors meet us," concluded Sir Wilfrid "then I think that a tariff can be arranged on lines similar to those suggested by this deputation."

Dealing with the elevator question, Sir

Wilfrid said that mixing undoubtedly took place. He asked how it was there was mixing at the C.N.R. elevators at Port Arthur and Port William and not at the C.P.R. He answered the question himself. The C.P.R. elevators were administered by the company itself and the others by certain parties who were buyers of wheat. A well known firm which had been driven away from Duluth, he would not mention its name, was now operating the C.N.R. elevator. After ample conference with the grain growers of the West he was quite prepared for government ownership.

In speaking of his Hudson Bay Railway promise, he denied that it had been made three years ago as stated in the petition. He had made the promise less than two years ago, in September 1908. He believed in private ownership and government control. This policy had given every satisfaction and the government had taken every step to proceed with the work of construction since the scheme was first put forward.

Hon. G. P. Graham, minister of railways, pointed out that the actual construction of the line was not the main question. That was not a difficult matter. They had to investigate the merits of Port Churchill and Port Nelson as harbors. He was greatly in favor of the latter. It would accommodate a larger number of vessels, was 60 miles shorter by rail and had a channel leading up to it 600 feet wide. The question of harbor docks and elevators had all to be considered. But there was one question more important than these. That was to get a steamship line, and negotiations to that end were now in hand. It was not so easy as it looked to get these arrangements through.

They wanted fair rates and cheap transportation. He hoped that before next session was over arrangements would have been made for undertaking and completing the whole scheme.

Mr. Gates briefly thanked the Premier for receiving them and the meeting broke up. The deputation was introduced by W. M. Martin, M.P.

Meeting at Saskatoon

The Grain Growers of the Saskatoon district met Sir Wilfrid, Friday, July 29. Representatives of all the branches were present. The spokesmen presented the demands of the farmers of the West in a forceful, concise manner, before an audience that packed the courthouse to suffocation. The following memorial was presented to the premier.

To the Right Honorable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of the Dominion of Canada.

Sir,—We, officers and members of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, desire to add our welcome to those which have been already extended to you on the occasion of your present visit to the western provinces of the Dominion.

The eminence to which you have attained and the regard in which you are held, not alone in this country but the world over, compels our admiration, and we have confidence that it is your desire to see justice and fair treatment prevail throughout the various portions of that great Dominion of which you are practically the ruling head.

We therefore approach you with the object of calling your attention to certain matters which we consider of the first importance to the well-being and prosperity of our members who are representative of the best section of the producers of this province of Saskatchewan.

With your permission we will refer to certain resolutions passed by our members, and ask you to state if it is possible for the government of which you are the head to comply with our wishes in respect of the same.

HUDSON'S BAY RAILWAY

We wonder whether you, Sir, have fully grasped the intense interest with which the people of this province regard this question.

When you announced two years ago that this railway would be immediately constructed, the people of this province took you at your word, and if there is now a growing feeling of impatience at the delay in commencing construction, you must admit that there is justification for that feeling.

We are satisfied that by the time you have finished your tour, if you have not

already, you will be thoroughly aware of the wishes of the people in this regard, and also of the urgent need for this railway, and that you will go back to the seat of government determined that no further delay shall occur, but that this much needed outlet and inlet shall be provided and placed in operation as speedily as possible.

TERMINAL ELEVATORS

The question of the acquisition of the terminal elevators and their operation by the government is familiar to you, and we think that, in view of the numerous representations made to your government by farmers' delegates and others, and in the light of certain recent revelations as to the unsatisfactory working of the present system you will be glad of this opportunity to give us the assurance that your government is prepared to accede to our request.

We take this occasion to assure you that this is a very live issue with the grain growers and that it is a matter upon which there is no division of opinion whatever, and one upon which your government will make no mistake in deciding to act.

CO-OPERATIVE LEGISLATION

This is a vast country and it is inevitable that transportation charges add greatly to the cost of most of the articles in

every-day use among the settlers of the West. But, there are other charges which under the present system of supply and distribution add unduly and unnecessarily to the price. These we believe could be largely eliminated by the introduction of an intelligent method of co-operation, and we desire to know whether you, Sir, are prepared to promote the passing at the next session of parliament of a generous and liberal measure of co-operative legislation, more especially since parliament has allowed the R.R. to organize under a Dominion law and form a gigantic combine against the consumers of this country.

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GRAIN GROWERS' SPEAK

Following the address the premier was given a rousing cheer, which he smilingly acknowledged. He did not reply and Mr. Evans, the chairman, continued the program. The resolutions drafted by the Grain Growers were read and a number of the prominent farmers throughout the surrounding district spoke in reference to them. The first resolution read was that on Terminal Elevators.

Wilbur Kirkpatrick of Cory, Sask., was the first speaker. He referred to the mixing of grades of wheat which resulted in the lowering of prices and the fact that this practice had been going on for a number of years. The only remedy he could suggest was that the government take over and operate the elevators. "We are not satisfied with the present conditions and we won't be satisfied with anything less than government owned elevators," declared Mr. Kirkpatrick.

Following him spoke A. F. Dickson of Saskatoon. "The farmers of the west are proud of the wheat they raise," said Mr. Dickson. "The sterling standard of the grain is deserving of higher prices and the only way in which we can at better prices is through government owned and operated elevators. The government employs 70 inspectors to look after the men who are mixing the grades of wheat and the government should lose no time in dealing with this matter."

THE TARIFF

The question of the tariff was next discussed, and some very pointed arguments were advanced, and Sir Wilfrid was called upon to answer some questions which he probably did not expect. John Evans was the first speaker. He went into the question very fully.

"The tariff system of protection can be called by different names which will help us common people to understand its meaning," said Mr. Evans. "It may be called trade restriction, class legislation, legalized robbery, mother of trusts, combines and mergers. It is also the cause of graft, regarding the morals of our public men, and worse than all it is the cause of lowering the moral life of the working classes of this fair Dominion, by causing hard times, compelling our people to live under conditions that are a disgrace to a country like Canada, where prosperity should be the lot of everybody." Mr. Evans outlined the hardships experienced by the homesteader through the present system of tariff. He pointed out the duties on many other manufactured articles.

Murdock Cameron, of Floral, Sask., also spoke on the tariff question. He said he had pleasure in supporting the statements of Mr. Evans, and that the farmers were almost a unit on the matter. "We are not asking for a privilege," he said, "but we are asking for pure justice. The farmers do more for the good of the human race than all the manufacturers in the whole Dominion. No member will be returned from Saskatchewan as a protectionist. There are 100,000 grain growers in the west. I am a Liberal and I hold a very strong opinion of you, Sir Wilfrid, but your promises have not been carried out. I look to you and honor you and as long as you do justice to the people of the west we will hold that opinion of you until the day of your death."

W. Rowlands, of Aberdeen, also spoke and censured the present system and pointed out its awful defects. "We want the protection that benefits the masses and not the minority," he concluded. Mr. Rowlands emphatically told the premier that his promises had not been fulfilled, and that if he wanted the votes of the people again he would certainly have to redeem his promises as soon as possible.

THE HUDSON'S BAY RAILWAY

The Grain Growers next took up the Hudson Bay Railway problem. T. Lawrence of Hanley was the first speaker. "Sir John Macdonald made a political football out of the Hudson Bay Railway," he said, "and we don't want you, Mr. Laurier, to follow his footsteps. You have promised us the road and we want your promise fulfilled. We want the road for the purpose of getting our wheat shipped out of the country at reasonable rates. It was promised us and your promise should be fulfilled."

Following him spoke (W. Lawrence of Aberdeen. "I have supported the Liberal government all my life but I want to see the promise in connection with this road fulfilled," he said. "I would like the premier to say something definite and tell us what the intention of the government really is." Mr. Lawrence pointed to the freight charges and compared them with what the charges over the Hudson Bay Road would probably be. He urged that it be owned and operated by the government.

A resolution in connection with chilled meat was read but not discussed and following this was a resolution in connection with co-operative legislation.

THE PREMIER'S ANSWER

Sir Wilfrid then addressed the meeting. "I appreciate that I am a British subject," said the premier. "I am proud to say that I live in a British country and I am glad to know that I have the freedom of speech. I claim this privilege of speech."

"Many addresses have been made, and while many of them are to be commended, there are others that border on politics. The address of the chairman, I think, was more of a political than about Grain Growers. I am here simply to meet the view of the people of Saskatchewan."

"The first matter is that of terminal elevators. I am familiar with this subject, having had to do with it before. The Grain Act passed a few years ago was satisfactory as far as it went. The conditions of grades and terminal elevators have not proven satisfactory. We know this is a grievance and it must be remedied, but as to the way of remedying it, I am not in a position to say as yet. I am not an advocate of government owned utilities,



Farm Home of S. Sell, Whitewood, Sask.