

# THEY WANT CANADIAN GRAIN

Washington, Dec. 8.—Since the committee of ways and means began revising the tariff of 1897 three weeks ago, a number of questions have come up which are of direct interest to Canadian farmers, mine owners and lumbermen. Yesterday was essentially a Canadian farmers' day; for American millers appeared before the committee to ask for easier tariff conditions that would permit them to grind Canadian wheat for the export trade; and an hour of the committee's session was also occupied by representatives of New York maltsters, who are anxious that the duty of 30 cents a bushel on Canadian barley, that was imposed by the tariff of 1897, should be repealed.

Frank H. Henry, manager of the Washburn-Crosby company, of Buffalo, presented the plea of the millers. He came as the representative of fourteen of the principal flour mills of New York state and the Atlantic seaboard, with a daily capacity of 30,000 barrels of flour. Mr. Henry was alarmed by the increasing competition of Germany in the flour trade of Europe. "Our mills," he said to the committee, in presenting his plea, "are located directly on the route of Canadian wheat from northwest Canada to Europe, and the relief we ask to enable us to hold our own in the European markets is a more liberal tariff act which will permit us to tap this stream of wheat, grind it in our mills, export the finished product, and retain upon payment of duty the non-exportable by-products, greatly to the benefit of our farmers. We ask for no remission or reduction of duty. We simply wish to manufacture in this country, and export as a finished product the raw material that is now passing through in bond to be manufactured abroad. The treasury department has lately ruled that flour may be imported into this country, mixed with our domestic flour, and upon exportation be entitled to drawback of paid duty. This ruling benefits the Canadian miller, but creates new competition for the American miller. We understand that our present tariff act does not permit a ruling that would permit us to grind foreign wheat in this country, and retain the by-products which cannot successfully be exported; and it would seem that some change in the act is necessary conferring this authority. The present law is perfectly satisfactory to us, provided that it can be broadened so that the rulings may permit us to grind this wheat and export the flour. We are willing to pay the duty on the by-products which are not exportable because of their bulky character and imperfect keeping qualities."

"You people up there want free trade with Canada, do you not?" asked Champ Clark, the leader of the Democratic minority, of Mr. Henry. "We do not object to it," answered Mr. Henry, "we are not asking for it." "I know," replied Mr. Clark, "but you do want it—down in the bottom of your hearts." "We do not need it," replied Mr. Henry, "we have never had any government assistance." "Nearly all those who are raising wheat in the northwestern British possessions," continued Mr. Clark, "are Americans who have gone over there, are they not?" Mr. Henry: "A great many of them are, yes." Mr. Clark: "Nearly the whole outfit?" Mr. Henry: "Yes, Sir." Mr. Clark: "Fixing to bring that country into the United States, are they not?" Mr. Henry: "I cannot speak for them, but I think that is exactly what they will do, exactly what they did with Texas." "I do not think," interposed Mr. Payne, the chairman of the committee, "that you ought to give it away if they are."

Buffalo, Oswego and a number of other New York towns on the lakes were represented by the delegation of

malsters that came before the committee to ask for easier conditions for the admission of Canadian barley. Their first spokesman was C. L. Feldman, of Buffalo, who complained that the Dingley duty of 30 cents a bushel was prohibitive. "Under the McKinley act of 1890," he said, "the duty was, as now, 30 cents a bushel. By the Wilson act of 1894 it was made 30 per cent, ad valorem; but the Dingley act put it back to the McKinley rate." "Prior to the enactment of this rate," continued Mr. Feldman, "along the Canadian border there were a large number of malting plants, in which there was a large investment. But the prohibitive duty prevented the Canadian product from coming into the United States, and it has destroyed nearly all the malting industry in New York state and in the eastern states, except in one or two places. Our contention is that the removal of this duty will not lessen the price to the American farmer. We have come to the conclusion that the importations of Canadian barley will tend to regulate the price of barley; and in view of the fact that the Canadian farmer now has a satisfactory market, it will not result in putting the product in the American market at a lower price than the American farmer now receives; but it will have a tendency to regulate the price on a fair basis."

Mr. Sereno E. Payne, the chairman of the committee, representing a congressional district which has suffered from this exclusion of Canadian barley since 1897. He was the first to put some questions to Mr. Feldman. "The Canadians," he said, "have stopped raising barley and got into some other business?" Mr. Feldman: "To some extent that is so." Mr. Payne: "Under the old system barley was imported and malted in Oswego and Buffalo?" Mr. Feldman: "And in Syracuse and Albany also; and there is another fact that I want to add. The malsters in the Western states, in being nearer to the sources of American supply, had a great advantage over the eastern malsters." Mr. Payne: "The New York barley was imported, commanded a good price, and was mixed with Canadian barley for malt." Mr. Feldman: "Yes, and the New York farmer has now lost his market for barley. There is no New York barley on the market in these days. It is all produced in a limited section of the western states."

Mr. Gaines, a Republican member of the committee, asked was it necessary to mix New York barley with Canadian barley. There was, Mr. Feldman answered, no necessity, except that it seemed to produce a malt that was satisfactory to the brewers. It produced a high grade malt. It is claimed that Canadian and New York state barley makes a better quality of beer. It seems to have a lighter color, and also produces a better flavor.

In answer to a question from Mr. Boutell, a Republican member of the committee, as to where the movement originated for increasing the duty 200 per cent. in the McKinley bill. Mr. Feldman said that it was due to the western representation that the American farmer needed this protection. "Did this tariff on barley," asked Mr. Clark, "shut up the breweries on the Canadian border?" Mr. Feldman: "The malt houses, but not the breweries. It destroyed the malt industry entirely in Oswego and in other sections along the northern frontier. The American malster, the malster we represent, has been obliged to pay abnormally high price and the market fluctuates. The malster has to hold his production for some time, and while he is holding his barley in the malting establishment and malting it, the prices go down." Mr. Clark: "He has to take the ordinary chances of trade, hasn't he?" Mr. Feldman: "He has to