

# The Grain Grower's Guide

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## Grain Growers Present Cause

*Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Trip through Saskatchewan has been exceedingly eventful, especially so on account of the Number of Meetings held at which he Received Addresses from Officers and Members of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. The Questions of the Tariff, Hudson's Bay Railway, Terminal Elevators, Chilled Meat Industry and Co-operative Legislation were taken up at every meeting, and in some cases questions of minor importance were also gone into.*

A LARGE concourse of farmers met Sir Wilfrid at Regina, F. M. Gates, vice-president of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, presented the address of the organization, which follows:

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 representatives 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.

### THE TARIFF

"That, whereas, Canadian machinery can be purchased from ten per cent. to thirty per cent. less in Great Britain than in the Canadian West;

"And, whereas, we believe such conditions are caused by the high protective tariff existing at the present time;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that immediate steps be taken regarding the said tariff so that the home purchaser may at least be able to purchase as cheaply as the outside world;

"And, further, that the Ottawa government be requested to accept the unconditional offer of the United States government for reciprocal free trade in farm implements."

This resolution was passed at our last annual meeting. The farmers of this province recognize that it is impossible instantaneously to abolish the tariff, but they do claim and believe that a reduction on agricultural implements is possible, and only a measure of justice and fairness to them. They believe they should be able to buy machinery as cheaply as the outside world. And we also ask that the offer of the United States government for reciprocal free trade in implements be accepted.

We have a right to as much consideration in this matter as the makers of certain goods who receive privileges in the matter

of machinery imports for use in their manufacture; and as more and more machinery is necessary for the pursuit of farming operations in the best manner the present unnecessarily high prices bear unduly upon the cultivators of the soil.

Then in regard to the general tariff. You, Sir, say that you are a free trader, but that you are not in a position to carry out the policy you would like. We, in the West are not all free traders, but in the course of contact with a great number of our members who are representatives of the mass of farmers of the province in which you now are, we have found, and we are in a position to assure you that there is a strong and growing favor of an all round reduction in the existing protective tariff. We believe the time has arrived when manufacturers in this country should be expected to get along without further aid in the way of protection—protection which is afforded them at the expense of the consumer who in common fairness should be considered; and we ask you to say to us here that your government will undertake, at the earliest opportunity to so readjust the tariff as to make it more a tariff for revenue and not for protection.

You should be aware of this feeling, Sir, through the people's representatives in the House, but we are afraid they have not all done their duty in this matter and we have felt it necessary to place this question before you who should, judged by your utterances in the past, not be afraid to deal with it. It is not our intention to take up any time in reciting figures or quoting statistics, nor do we wish merely to ask from you an expression of sympathy with our wishes. What we seek from you is a definite assurance that your government will adopt measures

to give us relief by affecting a reduction in the general tariff and especially in respect of agricultural implements.

### 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.

You are aware, Sir, that an investigation is now being conducted by this province into the conditions of the grain trade as it affects the provincial end of the question and we deem it of the utmost importance to the success of any action which may be taken by the provincial government as a result and in consequence of that investigation, that the question of the absolutely impartial operation of the terminal elevators should be settled at once.

The fact that, under the system of Dominion inspection, our wheat when graded in Winnipeg has its grade and value then fixed and determined, makes it imperative that the possibility of subsequent manipulation be precluded absolutely.

This we believe can only be satisfactory if undertaken by the government and we most earnestly ask you to state that you have decided on this course. We would remind you that the legislature of this province at their last session unanimously recommended that this be done.

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.

### 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 three 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 are 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.

Your assurance to this effect will have a very satisfying effect upon our people. We notice that in replying to previous delegations you have not given an assurance that this railway shall be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people. This we believe to be absolutely necessary to ensure that the greatest benefit may be derived from it; that it will be available to all on equal terms and the possibility of discrimination in respect of facilities and rates be placed beyond question.

We are aware of the strong interests which it is unnecessary to enumerate to-day which are opposed to the principle of government ownership, but we must impress upon you the fact that the strongest sentiment of the Western people is against allowing this railway to pass from the control of the government into the hands of any corporation.

### 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 Retailers to organize under a Dominion Law and form a gigantic combine against the consumers of this country.



Bound and Plundered