

astride the necks of producers and consumers in this country? The days of slavery, as regards the traffic in human beings, went out years ago in a struggle. A new kind of slavery is growing up in Canada and the fetters of servitude are already being rivetted upon the producers and consumers. They are daily being taught, as they pay their household bills, that it is their duty and privilege to support a privileged few and say nothing about it.

It would be a most interesting and educative pastime for farmers throughout the West to reckon up their various necessary expenditures in the light of the tariff schedule. They should take the price which they pay for their various farm implements and also for most articles used in the house together with the manufactured foods; then take the tariff schedule and see how much beyond the actual value of these articles they are paying for supporting the heads of the Canadian manufacturing industry. If this study should become general, (which the Canadian manufacturers hope it will not) it would soon bring to an end the oppression of the trusts and combines.

PLAYING WITH THE QUESTION

During the past week in the legislature of Manitoba, the monotonous debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, has been carried on. It has been one-sided. On the government side of the House they have not bothered to take much part in the discussion excepting the address made by the acting premier and that of the mover and seconder of the reply to the speech from the throne. The opposition speakers, as usual, reiterated the long series of horrible crimes, which they have been laying at the door of the government. The most interesting part of the speech from the throne received very little attention from the speakers, namely, that referring to the elevator bill. There were several speakers on the opposition side of the house who came out strongly in favor of the principle of government owned elevators. There was one notable omission however, in the address made by the leader of the opposition, T. C. Norris. The leader of the opposition expended considerable energy in impaling the government for what he claimed were errors of omission and commission. He criticised the government for their change of front on the elevator question, but expressed no opinion himself upon the same question. Thus, despite that several members of the opposition favored government ownership of elevators, the party as a whole do not favor it. Whether it is a matter of policy for the opposition, remains to be seen. On the government side of the House, T. W. Taylor flatly opposed the elevator scheme. Mr. Taylor represents centre Winnipeg and has no farmers in his constituency; it therefore seemed particularly appropriate that if any one of the government side were to oppose the bill, it should be Mr. Taylor. Possibly this also was a matter of policy on the part of the government. George Steele, representative of Cypress, gave expression to views in opposition to the government owned elevator scheme at his nomination meeting a few weeks ago. It begins to look as though both parties in the legislature were endeavoring to accomplish some adroit manoeuvres on the elevator question. They realize that it is by far the biggest and most important question they will be called upon to deal with at the present season. We greatly mistake the temper of the farmers of Manitoba if this game of political foot-ball over the elevator question is received with favor.

The farmers of the province sent thirty-seven of the forty-one members to the legislature. The farmers therefore have the right to demand that their representatives act honestly by them. It is time for the members of the legislature, one and all, to remember that they are placed in their present positions to do their duty towards the people of Manitoba. The farmers of the province have no desire to see their representatives on both sides of the House

eternally playing for political advantage, when the point at issue is one so seriously affecting the agricultural life of Manitoba. It would be a very wise act for every farmer in the province, to get busy and write to his representative in the legislature, and demand honest treatment of the elevator question. The farmers would also be looking well to their interests if they pledged every candidate now in the field to support the Grain Growers' Elevator Bill. There is no use in taking chances. The time has come when it is necessary to do more than merely elect a representative to the legislature. It is now necessary to instruct all representatives on the course in which they are expected to follow. Grain Growers of Manitoba! if you expect fair treatment from your representatives in the legislature, no matter on which side they sit, it is wise to tell them so.

ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

The question of the management of the agricultural college in the province of Alberta has been agitating the province for some time past. Some dissatisfaction was expressed that the government purchased a site for the college in Strathcona, with the idea of combining the agricultural college with the university and placing them under one head. Many of the farmers did not think that such an arrangement would be in the best interest of the farming community of the province. However, the government has taken the step and it was discussed very fully at the Edmonton convention last month. The final decision of the convention was, that the matter be referred to the executive of the United Farmers of Alberta with power to deal with it. The executive have taken up the matter and have demanded that the farmers of the province be given a fair representation upon the governing board of the university so that they shall have some say in the control of the agricultural college. The executive have also demanded that the government establish agricultural schools throughout the province in connection with the agricultural college. These schools are to have practical demonstration farms attached to them in order to take up practical farm work, and are also to provide that the students are to reside on these farms. At the close of the course in these agricultural high schools, the final course will be taken at the agricultural college. The executive decided that in the event of the government accepting the proposition that they would agree to having the agricultural college combined with the university. The principle of the agricultural high schools and demonstrating farms is undoubtedly a good one. It will bring the opportunity for agricultural education within the reach of farm boys all over the province of Alberta. Nothing is needed more in the present generation than that farm boys should be given the opportunity to educate themselves, not only in practical farm work, but also in the great problems which indirectly have a most important bearing upon the farm life of the country. The establishing of these high schools for agriculture will certainly reach more of the boys who need the education than would any single agricultural college in the province, no matter how well equipped. The completion of the course at the high schools (which will be feeders to the agricultural college) will enable the students to enter the college prepared to take up the work in an intelligent manner.

The demand that the farmers be represented upon the governing board of the university is eminently fair. In the final analysis it is the farmers of Alberta that will have to pay for the university and its support as well as for the agricultural college. Despite this, in other parts of the world it is not generally recognized that the farmers have any right to a voice in problems of higher education. This voice on the part of the farmers if Alberta is one decidedly in keeping with the spirit of the age. The farmers, through their represen-

tation on the governing board, will have a direct voice, not only in the management of the agricultural college, but also in the control of the university. It is considered that the government of Alberta can have no reasonable objection to accepting the demands of the United Farmers of Alberta.

TROUBLE AHEAD

It begins to look as though the members who are fathering the co-operative bills in the House of Commons, will not have smooth sailing. The matter was brought up a few days ago, and came before the attention of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The prime minister expressed no enthusiasm, and, in fact, seemed loath to allow the bill to be brought before the House. There is undoubtedly very powerful opposition to the bill, and strenuous efforts will be made to prevent it coming before the House. There are scores of ways of smothering a bill before it can ever reach the governor-general for signature. It is evident that some of these methods will be called into requisition at Ottawa during the present season, unless the supporters of the bill are exceedingly active. The only way this legislation, which will secure a measure of justice for the producers and consumers of Canada, can be enacted is by eternal vigilance on the part of its friends. It will be good idea for all those friends of co-operation, in Western Canada to sit down and write to their member at Ottawa and tell him what he is supposed to do. Too many of our members get the idea that they are more for ornament than use. We think it would be wise to notify them that they should be both ornamental and useful.

We have received word that considerable literature has been circulated throughout the west in opposition to the co-operative bill before the House of Commons, and also that petitions have been sent out for signature, for the same purpose. We should be glad if our readers would keep us posted on such things that come into their hands. These co-operative bills are in the interest of all farmers in Western Canada, and if they are to be passed by the Dominion parliament, they must be supported by the farmers. The opponents of the bill are very active, and it is necessary that the supporters be equally active. Several resolutions have already been passed in favor of the bill by local branch associations. Copies of all such resolutions should be sent at once to all western members in the House of Commons, with the earnest request that they bring the matter before the government.

The eyes of Canadian farmers are upon the Grain Growers of Manitoba.

There is no report yet of the appointment of an elevator commission in Saskatchewan. Evidently the government of that province is watching Manitoba.

Let us hope that all the representatives of the farmers in the Manitoba legislature will see that an open market and a public abattoir is provided before the session closes.

The enactment of the Grain Growers' Elevator Bill will mean hundreds of dollars annually to every man who grows grain. It will also aid in bringing forward a reign of prosperity for the province.

Always bear in mind that the good old patriotic slogan of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, "Canada for Canadians" means, "Canada for 2,500 Canadians." Let us look at things in the right light.

The Canadian Council of Agriculture is preparing to show Canadians why they pay such high prices for manufactured goods. It is to be hoped that the House of Commons will enact the bill for the prosecution of trusts, that is now before the House.