

CANADIAN WHEAT IS GRANTED FREE ENTRY TO U.S. MARKETS

Order-in-Council Points Out Necessity of Opening Ports to Canadian Growers Who Suffer Thru Lack of Ocean Transportation—Prices of Lower Grades of Wheat Unduly Depressed.

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, April 16.—Canadian wheat now has free entry into the markets of the United States. Sir Thomas White today announced that under the War Measures Act, section 4, is pleased to order and it is hereby ordered that wheat, wheat flour and semolina be transferred to the list of goods which may be imported into Canada free of duty of customs.

In Effect Today

Up till today the duty upon wheat entering the United States was ten cents per bushel; upon wheat flour 45 cents per barrel; and upon semolina and other products of wheat ten per cent of value. The action by the government takes effect tomorrow and the customs officers at ports of entry were all notified today of the change.

The Canadian duty on wheat was twelve cents per bushel and upon wheat flour sixty cents per barrel. In addition there was the seven and a half per cent ad valorem war tax. After the order-in-council was made public, some doubt was expressed as to whether the seven and a half per cent war tax was removed, but it was officially stated that no war tax would be imposed and customs officials were notified that wheat, wheat flour and semolina were to be absolutely free of duty. The visible supply of wheat in the west is estimated at about 100,000,000 bushels. One third of this will be necessary for seed, feed and domestic mills. About sixty-seven million bushels will be available for export.

Prices Carefully Investigated

The question of free wheat, as the issue has come to be termed, has been under consideration for some time and prices were carefully investigated by Sir Thomas White, assisted by Hon. Arthur Meighen. The latter visited the west recently and the chief purpose of his visit was understood to be to canvass thoroughly the situation. However, it is well known that he has always been a strong advocate of free wheat. Sir Robert Borden was consulted by cable before action was taken, and the full concurrence of himself and his colleagues, Sir George Ferguson, Hon. Robert Rogers and Hon. J. D. Hazen, was obtained.

obtained to the markets of the United States, for Canada's wheat. Therefore his excellency the governor-general in council, under the authority of the War Measures Act, 1914, section 4, is pleased to order and it is hereby ordered that wheat, wheat flour and semolina be transferred to the list of goods which may be imported into Canada free of duty of customs.

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Situation Altered

The German submarine warfare, which has seriously affected Atlantic transportation, and the entrance of the United States into the war, have completely altered the whole situation in regard to the sale of wheat. In normal times there existed a large commercial export demand from Europe for wheat of all grades, and owing to the scarcity of shipping, all available tonnage was required to transport grain of the United States into Europe. Since the outbreak of the war, the wheat supply of Canada and the United States has been practically pooled for British and allied consumers, so that the British Wheat Commission was practically the sole export buyer in both countries. This left the United States the only market for Canada's low grade wheat. Investigation shows that prices are much lower in Canada than in the United States.

Concession to Farmers

The order-in-council sets forth that there are strong grounds for belief that advantage was being taken of the situation to maintain prices in Canada lower than warranted by the market conditions. In view of the extraordinary situation, and the desirability that the Canadian farmer with the present appeal for increased production should feel that he was obtaining the best market price, it was decided to place these products on the free list.

When the Wilson-Underwood tariff was passed by the Democrats in 1913, clause 644 was inserted providing for the placing of wheat, wheat flour, semolina and other wheat products upon the free list for any country whose preference in return. This clause is still operative, and the government has now taken advantage of it.

Order-in-Council

The order-in-council is as follows: Whereas the minister of finance reports that certain conditions arising out of the war seriously affect the obtainable in Canada, for wheat, especially of the lower grades, and whereas in normal times there exists a good commercial export demand for milling purposes, from Great Britain, and the continent, for wheat of all grades, and whereas this demand has for some time almost entirely ceased on account of shortage of shipping due to submarine warfare, practically all available tonnage being required to transport grain of the higher grades, and four made therefrom purchased in Canada and the United States for the British and allied governments for their respective needs, and whereas in consequence of this condition much Canadian wheat is being exported to the United States at prices lower than warranted by the market conditions, and from information at hand it appears that there still remains a large amount of last year's Canadian crop unmarketed,

Free Access to Markets

And whereas it is desirable, at a time when a special appeal is being made for increased agricultural production, and when the government is endeavoring to give the best market price obtainable for the product of his industry;

And whereas the minister of finance is of the opinion that it is, in the circumstances, advisable that such action should be taken which will give to Canadian wheat free access to the markets of the United States in lieu of the commercial markets in Great Britain and on the European continent, formerly available, under the conditions then existing;

And, with this object in view, he directs the attention of his excellency to certain provisions of the customs tariff of the United States:

By item 644 thereof, wheat, wheat flour, semolina, other wheat products, shall be entered free of duty from countries which do not impose a duty on wheat or wheat flour or semolina imported from the United States; otherwise the duty upon wheat is fixed at ten cents per bushel and upon wheat flour at forty-five cents per barrel, and upon semolina and other products of wheat ten per centum ad valorem.

Put on Free List

And whereas if Canada should place wheat, wheat flour and semolina upon the free list, our wheat and wheat products would gain free entry to the markets of the United States.

And whereas it is desirable in the national interest that, for the reasons stated above, free access should be

Feb 19th - 1917

AM 5 O'CLOCK EDITION

PRICE ONE CENT

WAITING FOR WILLIE



FREE WHEAT MOVE PLEASURES THE WEST

Agricultural Organization Officials Speak With Satisfaction of Recent Action.

MEANS PROSPERITY With Competitive Market Assured, New Impetus to Farming Will Result.

Winnipeg, Man., April 16.—"At last the government is beginning to realize that the demands which the farmers in this west have made for a number of years are in the right direction," commented Roderick McKenzie, secretary of the Canadian council of agricultural organizations, upon the decision of the Dominion government.

Mr. McKenzie said the announcement would be hailed throughout the west as the best piece of news since the outbreak of the war, they have had for years. It is only in the west, he states, where significance of move can be appreciated.

Referring to the effect which free wheat would have, Mr. McKenzie remarked: "It will greatly stimulate all lines of business throughout the west, because the wealth of the west is taken out of the land. Farmers will be inspired with confidence and it will encourage them to increase the production of wheat as much as possible. It means a great deal for the farmers, and as the consequence of free wheat, sample markets are bound to come. We favor the establishment of a sample market at Winnipeg. Of course we have still to press for free access to the United States markets for oats, barley, flax, potatoes and so forth. Our principal object is achieved, but we have still some demands which we must continue to press upon the authorities."

"The decision of the government is not going to make a difference to western farmers immediately, as practically all of the 1916 crop is out of their hands, but it means much for the future. It will, of course, bring farmers more money, and in addition to getting into the United States market for low grade grain, it is going to give us another avenue for export, and will provide a check on the manipulating of grain thru facilities afforded for that kind of work, in having all our grain going to export thru one point."

"We have been fighting for free wheat since 1908. It was drawn especially to the attention of the Laurier government in 1910, when a large delegation went to Ottawa. As a result of that delegation's visit the Laurier government negotiated the reciprocity treaty, which included free wheat. Since that time we have continually pressed for it. All farmers' organizations in the west have used every means in their endeavor to influence the government. In 1913 we sent a special delegation to Ottawa to press upon the present government to give us better facilities for handling our wheat crop, and we asked for free entry into the United States. Dominion millers sent a delegation immediately we left Ottawa opposing our claims, and it was stated by the minister of finance in his budget speech that the millers had put up a better argument than the farmers, and consequently the duties would remain as they were.

BENEFITS TO CANADA SEEN BY WASHINGTON

U.S. Duty on Imports of Canadian Wheat Disappears Automatically—Order Not Likely to Have Immediate Effect on Prices.

Washington, April 16.—Canada's order today putting wheat and wheat products on the free list will be decidedly to the advantage of Dominion producers, officials here said tonight. The American duty on imports of Canadian wheat will disappear automatically, and if the American crop is short the United States may become a good market for the Canadian product.

Officials here think Canada could have profited long ago by a reciprocal arrangement for free wheat. Coming at this time they believe the Canadian action was inspired to a large degree by the fact that the United States is now an ally of the British government, and that therefore the move will be for the common good. American wheat is going to England in large quantities.

For the present it is not believed the order will have practical effect, as Canada's visible supply is as short as this country's.

Asked our request so long as the granting of it will not affect the revenue to any great degree. There was nothing so easy to grant as free wheat. Under the present provisions of the tariff, the duty on wheat imported from the United States is 10 cents per bushel, and the duty on wheat imported from the United States is 10 cents per bushel. The duty on wheat imported from the United States is 10 cents per bushel, and the duty on wheat imported from the United States is 10 cents per bushel.

Many Advantages

R. J. A. Maharg, president of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, gave out the following interview at Regina tonight:

"When I hark back to November 16, 1910, the date of which the grain growers of the west today realize that our great aim—a free wheat—has been attained, I can only say—as I have said time and again, it is right, it is just."

"I needn't enumerate the many advantages to be gained by the free interchange of wheat and wheat flour; they can be seen without any prompting; they're on the surface."

"Our organized fight for free wheat has been successful; it has brought about what we desired; it gave us the assurance that we shall get for the products of our farms a just return. Now that we have what we have asked for for so many years, it may perhaps not be amiss to look at the future of the grain growers of this country."

"With the assurance of good prices in competitive markets, we can be certain that our labors will be repaid justly. Free wheat will help bring back to the land that population which has gone elsewhere. Our wheat land will soon be dotted with comfortable homes—men will return to agriculture—and Saskatchewan will maintain her position as the bread-basket of the empire, giving full expression to the ideas contained in the presentation of the gold and silver bread-basket, made by the Saskatchewan grain growers, and presented to His Majesty King George V. at his coronation."

SCORE'S TOGGERY SHOP.

We are the sole agents for Toronto of Pim's real Irish Poplin neckwear made in Dublin.

The man who wears exclusive neckwear will appreciate the blending of colors, which Pim's ties are noted for.

Come in and see our bountiful selection in bows and four-in-hands. Prices \$1.00 and \$1.25.

R. Score and Son, Ltd., tailors and haberdashers, 77 King street west.

BALFOUR WILL BE RECEIVED BY WOOD

British Commission Expected to Arrive at Washington Tomorrow.

Washington, April 16.—Major-General Leonard Wood, ranking officer on the active list of the army, was designated today to represent the military branch of the government on the committee which will welcome to the United States the distinguished British war commission headed by Foreign Minister Balfour.

NORTHERN ROUTE MEN NUMBER TWO HUNDRED

Special to The Toronto World.

Kitchener, April 16.—The Kitchener Board of Trade met today and completed final arrangements for the monster deputation to the Ontario Cabinet Thursday next. C. H. Mills, M.L.A. for North Waterloo, will introduce the deputation and will be accompanied by W. D. Butler, president of the Kitchener Board of Trade, and other speakers supporting the proposed route will be Hugh Guthrie, M.P., Guelph; Hon. Nelson Monthey, ex-minister of agriculture, Stratford; Mayor Stevenson, London; Mayor Kerr, Chatham; A. S. Smith, New Hamburg, as well as speakers from Owen Sound and intermediate rural sections. It is expected North Waterloo will be represented on the deputation by at least 200 delegates.

STRIKE AT BERLIN.

London, April 16.—Travelers arriving in Holland from Germany, according to a despatch from Amsterdam to the Central News Agency, say that a general strike was commenced this morning in Berlin, and that riots have taken place in the German capital.

Boys and girls, be producers. See year, free seeds to help. — See Sunday World.

Observation Man Has Been Signalled: "Important News for Toronto Motorists!"

Watch Him Come Down

GEN. MACDOUGALL BACK IN TORONTO

Local Officer Has Been Overseas for More Than Two Years.

PHILOSOPHIC CALM

Says British People Are Not Worrying About Food Shortage.

Looking the picture of health, Major-General C. Macdougall is back in Canada on a month's leave, after two and a half years overseas. The general was born in Toronto and for a term of six years preceding 1899 was adjutant at Stanley Barracks, later going to Ottawa. The beginning of the war found him in Ottawa, and on twenty-four hours' notice he left for two and a half years overseas, going over with the minister of militia. Last February he returned to England, and was in charge of the training of reinforcements until he obtained a month's leave.

Last night, when seen by a reporter for The World in the Queen's Hotel, he showed the usual military reticence to say anything about his own activities, but was unstinted in his praise of the Canadians.

Being along the Hindenburg line, the general said that he knew nothing about it, and could not say as to what its topographical position or its defences were. He had a map showing Vimy, but the British were now past that point.

The district held opposite Vimy was part of the coal area, and from observation points in February he had seen the shafts of the nearby mining region, and he believed that these would now be taken, but whether or not the allies could operate them in the near future he did not know, as the machinery would probably be wrecked and the mines damaged as much as possible by the retreating enemy.

The people in England were taking things with their usual philosophic calm, and while they appreciated the submarine menace and the necessity of increased production, no hardship was noticeable. There was a shortage of sugar in private homes, but people were not worrying about food conditions.

General Macdougall thought that the people of England would rather welcome the overseas dominions' interest in imperial relations, and their desire to share in the deciding of imperial questions.

The English people felt that the war was bringing desirable changes, and that class barriers were being removed by all classes fighting side by side in the common cause.

The general is in Toronto for a day or two on personal business, and was warmly greeted by several old friends who happened to meet him in the hotel.

Man Sustains Fractured Skull When Thrown From Motor, Car

While responding to a fire at the Forton Milling Company, 444 Dufferin street, about 9:30 last night, Olin Olinson avenue hose wagon collided with a motor car belonging to the Pure Gold Manufacturing Company, and driven by Fred Miller, 391 College street, at the corner of Dufferin and College streets. Clarence Morris 487 Brock avenue, who was riding with Miller, was thrown head foremost to the pavement, the fall fracturing his skull. He was unconscious when taken into Dr. Russell's office, 1084 College street. He was later conveyed to his home.

ENGLISH BILLIARDS HOTEL TECK

GENTLEMEN WILL FIND OUR BILLIARD PARLORS MOST EXCLUSIVE AND INVITING. SAME PRICES AS PREVAIL ELSEWHERE. TABLES UPSTAIRS AND DOWNSTAIRS.

GEN. LOGIE MAKES A STRONG APPEAL

Asks Hundred and Ninth Regiment to Aid C.D.F. Movement.

"I hope the 109th Regiment will be a leader in the new Canadian Defence Force movement," said Major-General W. A. Logie, in addressing 823 members of that unit on parade at the Pearl street armories last night. The regiment's parade was the best he had witnessed in Toronto this spring, declared the general. This was especially creditable in view of the regiment having only been established about two years ago.

The general said some members of the militia regiments might object to joining a C.D.F. battalion on the ground that people might say they "couldn't" oversee and make fun of us and things about us. General Logie pointed out that many militia men had been selected for overseas service, and that was a good reason for not going.

"It does not rest with civilians or anybody, unless they know a man's circumstances, to say, 'he is a slacker,' or find fault with him, as long as the voluntary system exists," he said.

"Fifty thousand men must be secured somehow, tho'," he declared. "and if not by the voluntary system, they must be obtained some other way." It was not in the nature of things that the C.D.F. effort could extend over a long stretch of time, because of the approach of the summer training period. The general concluded by complimenting Lieut.-Col. W. S. Dinnick on his work as commander of the regiment, and in praising the 109th's proud war record, more of its representatives winning honors at the front than any other Toronto unit.

SCORE'S GREAT SALE.

"It gathers momentum as it goes." This little speech applies to in many ways, and of nothing could it be more truthfully spoken than the P. Score & Son \$50,000 estate sale. The wools are so high-class, so wide in variety, so great in assortment, and the discounts so genuine that the sale is bound to attract the attention and have the practical support of men "in the know." The name "Score" is the hall mark for quality in the merchandising and the tailoring and the special prices make the sale an opportunity of more than ordinary interest.

BOYS AND GIRLS.

Do you want to be helpers? Read the children's column and send stamps for free seeds.

FIREMAN IS INJURED.

Fireman William Everson, of the Toronto fire station, was seriously injured when a portion of the roof at the Forton Milling Company, 444 Dufferin street, fell in early this morning. Everson struck him on the head. He was rushed in the police ambulance to the Western Hospital. The extent of his injuries is not yet ascertained.