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FREE BRAN, SHORTS AND MIDDLEDINGS FOR THE FARMERS.

A somewhat annoying condition for the farmers in Eastern Canada has arisen in regard to the by-products of wheat by the placing of wheat, wheat flour and semolina on the free list. After the 16th of April last wheat, wheat flour and semolina can go from Canada to the United States and vice versa free of duty. The by-products of wheat, such as bran, shorts and middlings go from Canada to the United States free of duty, but when the Canadian farmers undertake to bring into Canada from the United States, bran, shorts and middlings, they find that they have to pay to the Canadian Government a 25% customs duty. This is an extreme hardship, particularly to our farmers in Eastern Canada. Today bran, shorts and middlings are worth from \$40 to \$45 a ton, a customs tax of 25% means something and unless the government takes action and removes this duty the farmers of Canada will have another real grievance.

Speaking in the House of Commons on Tuesday, May 1st, Mr. J. A. Robb, Liberal member for Huntingdon, gave notice that before the Budget speech was passed he would move the following resolution:

"That to ensure a plentiful supply of bran, shorts, and middlings for the farmers to produce milk, cream, butter and cheese, and for the raising and fattening of livestock, this House is of the opinion that wheat, bran, shorts, and middlings should, without delay, be placed, on the free list."

In the course of Mr. Robb's remarks on this resolution he stated:

Price of Feed Goes Up at a Time When Greater Production is Asked For.

But what is the condition with regard to bran. The Finance Minister lays great stress upon the fact that our wheat crop was pooled with our Ally, the United States, and that we must do all we can to provide bread at reasonable prices. But man cannot live by bread alone—he must have butter on his bread. And how is this Government going to help the Canadian dairymen

to produce more butter and more cheese and to answer the demands of the cities for cheaper milk and cream, when it places a tax of 25 per cent on bran and shorts coming into Canada? Let me show the Minister of Finance how that works out. The Order in Council enacting free wheat was passed on the 16th April. On the 14th April the price of bran in Buffalo was \$43.50 a ton; in Toronto, \$38.40, and in Montreal the same. After this Order in Council has been in force for fourteen days, the price of bran had advanced for the Canadian dairyman to \$43 to \$45 a ton in Toronto, and the same in Montreal; but in Buffalo the price remains about the same as it was on April 14 (indeed a little less), prices being quoted at from \$43.75 to \$43.25 with \$43.25 for May delivery. Thus there is no advance in the price of bran in the United States, but an advance of \$5 a ton in Canada. How does the Finance Minister think the Canadian farmer is going to answer the appeal for more butter and cheese, and cheaper milk and cream, under these conditions?

Bran Up \$5 a Ton.

I would plead with the Minister of Finance; just now we have a demand from the housewives of Canada for the admission of oleomargarine, for anything at all to get cheaper fat stuffs for the bread of the children. We have a demand from the cities for cheaper milk and butter. The farmer is blamed for advancing prices. The Finance Minister answers that demand by compelling the Canadian farmer to pay in his own market \$5 more for a ton and \$100 more for a carload of bran than he was paying fourteen days ago. He has placed the further restriction upon the Canadian farmer that if he imports bran from the United States under the present conditions he is met at the custom house with a price of \$216 per load.

If I were looking to my own interest and that alone, (Mr. Robb is a miller) I would not object too strongly to this protection on bran and shorts. But I am not elected to this Parliament of Canada to look after my own business. I am elected to look after the dairymen of the constituency which I represent.

I hope the minister will change his mind, and that before we get through with the session he will introduce such legislation as will enable our Canadian farmers to get their bran and shorts without being compelled to go to the custom house and pay an increased tax.

At the time of going to press Mr. Robb's resolution had not yet been dealt with in the House.



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