

this? Not the welfare of the farmer; not the welfare of anybody in this Dominion; absolutely nothing but the partisan purpose of helping themselves out in the face of a coming election.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What coming election?

Mr. GRAHAM: My hon. friend confessed that there were to be two, one in Alberta and one in Saskatchewan.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Not on free wheat, surely.

Mr. TURRIFF: My hon. friend the Solicitor General made a trip out West.

Mr. GRAHAM: Free wheat was one of the prisoners that my hon. friend let free.

Mr. TURRIFF: My hon. friend went West to ostensibly look into the question of penitentiaries, and while he was there he was told emphatically by his own friends that unless wheat were placed on the free list his candidates would have very little chance of returning to this House. My hon. friend, by one of his little adroit movements, has now practically got rid of the leading member of the Government from the West and is able to take his place. He does not want to come back from the West without some following there, so he sends out s.o.s. calls for help to his friend, the Minister of Finance, and they prepare this Order in Council to give free wheat to the farmers. I may say to my hon. friend, the Minister of Finance, that of all the members on that side of the House I think he is the best.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is a doubtful compliment,

Mr. TURRIFF: I do not know that that is saying very much, but under the circumstances my hon. friend the minister has not done too badly, and I congratulate him for putting wheat on the free list. It will be a help; it is a good thing for the West. I told my hon. friends many times in this House that free wheat had to come; that it was a question that would not down. It has not been downed; it has downed the Minister of Finance and the whole Government and they have had to put wheat on the free list. They are entitled to all the credit they can get out of it, which will not be very much. There is not a man in the West who does not know that this move on the part of the Government is simply a death-bed repentance; it is just a little better than dying in sin. My hon. friends

think it may help them to get out of purgatory; it may, but I doubt it. Well, we will give hon. gentlemen the credit of having done this, but I wish to point out to them that since 1911 there has not been one year in which free wheat would not have been worth more to the farmers than it is worth this year. I wish to point out to the Minister of Finance that the statements he makes in the Order in Council relating to free wheat are not correct. My hon. friend got his information, he says, from the Grain Commission. Who is the head of the Grain Commission? A police court partisan lawyer from Montreal, recently appointed, who knows no more about the wheat question than the man in the moon.

An hon. MEMBER: Who is he?

Mr. TURRIFF: A man by the name of Boyd, I think. At all events, he spent his life in Montreal studying and practising law. I assume that the only thing that recommended him to the Minister of Finance and his understudy the Solicitor General was the fact that he was president of a Conservative Association.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Where?

Mr. TURRIFF: Near Westmount. It appears that he has qualifications that my hon. friend the Solicitor General was not aware of, so he is that much better. This is the kind of person who gives my hon. friend the Minister of Finance information about this wheat question. I quote from the Order in Council:

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 past almost entirely ceased on account of shortage of ocean shipping due to submarine warfare, practically all available tonnage being required to transport grain of the higher grades and flour made therefrom, purchased in Canada and the United States by the British and Allied Governments for their respective needs.

According to that, my hon. friend the Minister of Finance would want this House and the country to believe that there was not a good demand for low-grade wheat.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: In Canada.

Mr. TURRIFF: There was demand in Canada, but the difficulties of shipping to the United States when there was a duty enabled the Canadian buyer to crowd the price down unreasonably. While this year there was a greater difference in the respective values of low-grade wheat