

terminal elevators. If there are many of the government supporters in parliament who hold the same views as Mr. Martin it will make it difficult for the government to grant the request of the farmers in respect to the terminal elevators.

It is coming more apparent to thinking minds each day that if our legislative bodies are going to enact laws in the interest of our rural population, and the masses of the people who are consumers, there must necessarily be a change in the selection of our representatives. The census enumerator divides the population of Canada into two classes, the urban and rural. Our representatives in parliament and legislatures are almost exclusively made up from our urban population, although upwards of 60 per cent. of the population are classified as rural, and to aggravate the situation the representatives are selected from the financial, commercial and professional classes, which constitutes a very small percentage of even the urban population. Their ideas on economic and social questions are instinctively different from those of agriculturist and wage earners, hence they are out of sympathy with those whose views they are supposed to represent in our legislative assemblies, and so long as our representatives in parliament and government advisors are chosen from classes representing in thought and social environment only a very small percentage of the people, we need not expect much legislation in the interest of the mass of people.

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### THE FARMERS' GREAT WORK

We make no apology to our readers for discussing The Grain Growers' Grain Company in these columns because our readers are the men who originated that company, and are the men who are supporting it, because they realized that it is the best work that has ever been done in the interests of the farmers of the West. There are some who are not working for their own company and there always will be. It is the same in England where the working people have co-operated for their own good. But every fair and open minded man will realize that the only hope for the Western farmer is for them to conduct their own business and they have proven their ability to do so. If the company is not properly fulfilling its functions then the 8,000 farmer shareholders are the men who can correct it.

The company has grown enormously in the four years of its existence but it is as yet handling only a small portion of the grain crop of the West. During the grain season just passed there was about 125,000,000 bushels inspected and of this 16,000,000 bushels passed through the hands of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, or about 12 per cent. There is a good showing, but the farmers should see that their own company receives even more support. The service performed by their company is performed at the same rate of commission that is charged by all other dealers. That is one cent per bushel. The company maintains a duplicate sampling system by which the farmers are assured that they will get a proper grade on their grain, and they also maintain a claims department to assist their customers in securing prompt and full settlement against the railway companies. Thus the farmers' company gives the shipper a square deal and in addition returns to them the profits which would otherwise go into the hands of private individuals.

It is in the interest of every farmer to see that as much as possible of the grain crop of the West is handled by his own company. This year the grain crop will probably not exceed one-half of last year's crop and the shareholders of the company and the farmers of the three provincial associations should present the advantages of their own company to every farmer who has grain to ship. When the farmers' company handles 50,000,000 bushels of grain per year it will be the greatest possible step forward in the improvement of those conditions which have, in the past, exacted from the Grain Growers tremendous

profits which went to swell the large fortunes of the grain manipulators.

By this we do not mean that every grain firm is exacting from the farmers unjust profits. There are a number of commission firms who are giving the farmers a fair price but the profits of these companies do not return to the farmer. Every shareholder of the company and every farmer who is interested in the improvement of present conditions should not only ship his grain to his own company, but endeavor to see that every other farmer in his locality does the same thing. Naturally there will be plenty of critics of the Grain Growers' Grain Company and farmers will be told that they are being robbed by their own company. But the farmers can rest assured that these false reports are circulated by enemies who do not wish to see the farmers' cause prosper. If the Grain Growers of the West have any hope of getting a square deal in the future they can do more towards a realization of their hope by supporting their own company than in any other way.

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### WE MUST PULL TOGETHER

We hear a great deal of discussion on the subject of farmers' organizations and politics and endless advice is given to farmers' organizations to keep out of politics. This is poor advice. The farmers should keep out of party politics but should go as far as possible into real politics.

The visit of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the West brings the farmers face to face with the most serious problem which has yet really confronted them, namely, the tariff. In the discussion which has taken place on this subject it has been found that the Western farmers are unanimously in favor of a big reduction in the customs tariff and closer trade relations with the United States. The farmers without exception realize that our tariff is not framed in their interest and that it exacts from them an unjust toll in favor of the privileged classes. All over the West the farmers have told Sir Wilfrid very plainly just what they think of his tariff. In reply Sir Wilfrid holds out little hope that the tariff will be reduced and emphasizes very strongly the advantages of the British preference. Whatever may be Sir Wilfrid's view of the British preference the farmers have another view and are not looking for preference. What the farmers ask for is that their own industries be not protected and that other industries and interests be placed on the same footing.

How are the Western farmers going to accomplish their purpose? The Liberal government at Ottawa and the Conservative opposition are both high protectionist parties, therefore there is nothing more to be expected from one party than from another. The present government came into power pledged to a revenue tariff but that pledge has been grossly violated. The leading men of both parties are not representative of the people. Their habits of life and their surroundings are such as to keep them out of touch with the people. The members of the Dominion government, no matter what party may be in power do not associate with the farmers and the working people. They are with the wealthy and aristocratic classes. In their social life and their club life they continually rub shoulders with the leaders in the commercial and industrial world. That is, with the privileged classes. Naturally, the inclination of all governments is towards the privileged classes. And in addition to this, the forces of special privilege are highly organized and can concentrate their forces under their own generals with great effect. But the forces of agriculture and labor are not organized. They are not yet educated sufficiently to lay aside suspicion and political affiliations and to unite for a common cause.

In Canada it is votes that count and nothing else. The leaders of the political parties know that just so long as the farmers and the work-

ing people can be divided just so long will the privileged classes dominate our governments and our legislation. Our political leaders tramp up and down through the country and talk about the traditions of their grand old parties and make every possible appeal to patriotism and to sentiment, and the result is that ever since confederation the ranks of the producers have been divided and they have consequently suffered. The only hope of the farmers of Canada is to realize that they have no more to expect from one political party than from another. They must step aside and secure men to represent them who will stand out boldly in the interests of the farmers at all times. The Western members of the House of Commons are almost a unit in favor of tariff reduction. If the farmers can induce them to stand together and disregard their political parties the Western members will exert a powerful influence upon the Dominion parliament. But here is the difficulty. Part of them support each political party and their leaders will make every effort to keep them divided. But we believe there are men in the West who will take their stand and stop the foolish practice that is indulged in purely for political advantage. Let the farmers first lay aside political affiliations and then their representatives will do likewise. Let us lay aside party affiliations and work in our own interests.

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The Brantford Courier says of the Western farmers. "What the Western farmer wants is to get the United States implements in more freely, at the expense of Brantford and other farm implement centres throughout this section of Canada. It would not be a fair deal and should not be done."

Like all protectionists, the Courier's idea of a fair deal is that the implement manufacturers should be empowered by law to compel the farmer to pay them an extra \$20.00 on every \$100.00 worth of farm implements purchased of them for use on the farm for the benefit of those interested in the manufacture of farm implements, that live in Brantford and other farm implement centres. Should the farmers succeed in getting what they want in this respect, it would not necessarily follow that these centres would cease to produce farm implements. What would follow, is, that the few men who own stock in these concerns would receive a smaller dividend annually and would not become millionaires in a few years at the expense of the farmers.

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Sir Wilfrid has suggested another tariff commission to see what the farmers need in tariff revision. There is no need of any commission. Sir Wilfrid knows exactly what the farmers meant and any commission that might be sent out would do no good to the cause of the farmers. Sir Wilfrid admits that it is the manufacturers who compel him to keep up the tariff when he would like to have it lowered. Then the only thing for the farmers to do is to stand by their guns and demand a lower tariff.

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Some of our critics say we should not criticise the actions of governments else we become partisan. We intend to present the truth no matter where it strikes. There are already too many spineless journals. If our backbone is to be broken our usefulness is gone.

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The reason the Intercolonial railway is not a success is because it is not run as a business proposition. Suppose the government conducted the postal service as it does the Intercolonial what would be the good of it? Mr. Graham should make an improvement in his system.

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The bridge across the Saskatchewan is being built by Mackenzie & Mann. By the look of things the whole road to the Hudson's Bay is to be another gift to these enterprising gentlemen.

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