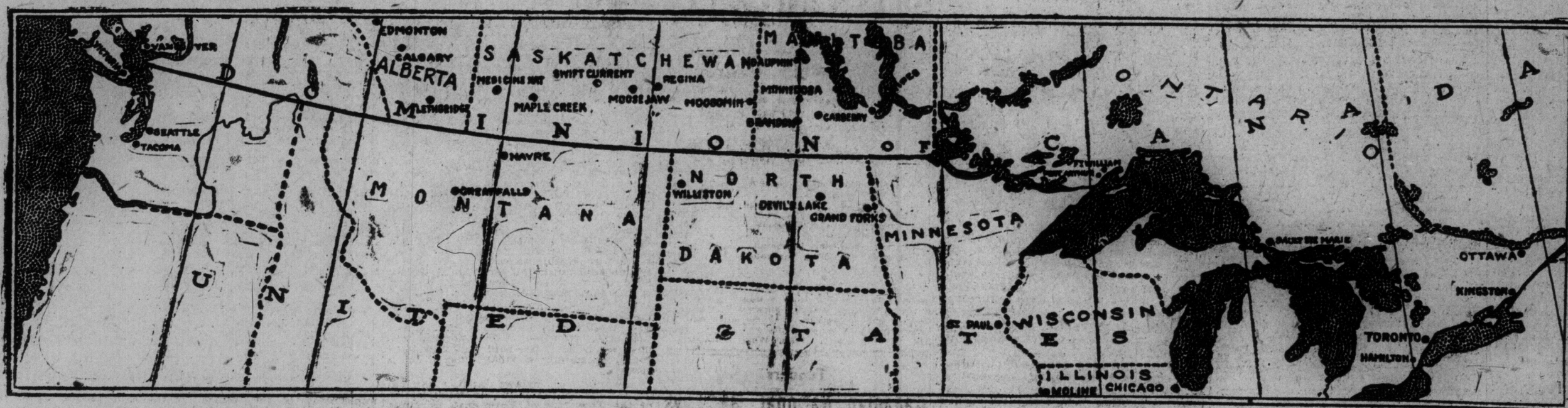


FARM IMPLEMENT PRICES AND DUTIES

THERE is a wide difference between statements of Western grain growers and the manufacturers relative to the prices of Canadian-made agricultural machinery and comparable implements produced in the United States. The Canadian Reconstruction Association has made an investigation of such prices at a number of points in Western Canada and at places directly south in the Northwestern States.

As a result of the inquiry the Association submits the following comparisons, believing them to be accurate. The quotations are *average*, retail, one-payment prices in the United States, for 1913 Spring delivery, of a standard 7-foot binder equipped with sheaf carrier and fore carriage, as compared with the *highest*, retail, one-payment prices in the districts mentioned in Canada. The prices are for implements which compete regularly in foreign markets, where the Canadian-made binder is said to sell for even a higher price than the binders made in the United States.



Comparison No. 1		Comparison No. 2		Comparison No. 3		Comparison No. 4	
Grand Forks, North Dakota...	\$240	Williston, North Dakota.....	\$280	Havre, Montana.....	\$290	Great Falls, Montana.....	\$300
Devil's Lake, North Dakota..	\$245	(See Map)		(See Map)		(See Map)	
Any point in Manitoba as far		Regina, Moose Jaw or any point		Maple Creek, or any other		Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmon-	
north as Dauphin and west to		in Southern Saskatchewan to		point in Southwestern Sas-		ton or any point in Southern	
the border of Saskatchewan	\$248	West of Morse.....	\$259	katchewan.....	\$261	Alberta.....	\$266

The prices quoted are much higher than were prices before the war, but the comparative figures show a very similar relation to those quoted by Sir Thomas White in the Canadian Parliament in April, 1914, as a result of an enquiry made under his direction by Mr. Costello, an official of the Canadian Customs Department, who was sent to Western Canada and the Northwestern States expressly to secure information as to prices and the effect of the tariff duties on agricultural implements.

The figures given above and those reported by Mr. Costello seem to show that the Canadian price is not, as sometimes stated, the United States price plus the duty. In some cases, agriculturists in Manitoba appear to pay more than is paid by the farmers at points directly south in the United States, but such does not seem to be true of farmers generally in Western Canada.

The Canadian manufacturers claim that farmers west of Manitoba buy binders at lower prices than do farmers at places directly south in the United States and, indeed, that Canadian agriculturists generally purchase farm machinery more cheaply than do the farmers in any other country in the world.

For comparison, the binder has been considered because it is a fairly standardized implement. In the case of drills, mowers and certain other farm machinery there is a wide difference in the products of various manufacturers, and price comparisons are apt to be misleading. Comparison is possible, however, between the prices of wagons. The inquiry made by the Canadian Reconstruction Association, and supported by actual signed orders, seems to show that a purchaser in Southern Manitoba pays \$163.50 (one payment, retail price) for a 3½-inch arm, 3-inch tire, Canadian-made wagon, complete with seat and box, while a farmer at Devil's Lake, North Dakota, has to pay for a comparable wagon \$170.00. The price at Havre, Montana, appears to be \$185.00, as compared with \$168.00 at Maple Creek, or any other point in Southwestern Saskatchewan.

The executives of Canadian implement companies state that they have not at any time sold farm machinery at a lower price in the foreign than in the domestic market, under similar conditions and when the difference in cost of transpor-

tation is taken into account. On that proportion of their output which is sold abroad, Canadian manufacturers are entitled to a rebate of 99 per cent. of the duty which they have paid on materials entering into their products. It is claimed that the United States and Canada are the lowest-cost producers of agricultural machinery in the world. These two countries have an advantage over domestic producers in foreign markets. Competition is less keen and prices are higher than are prices in Canada. Government reports show that during the war overseas prices in Great Britain, France, Australia, Argentina and elsewhere have been much higher than those obtaining in this country.

The tariff on agricultural implements yields about three million dollars revenue annually to the Dominion Treasury—income which should have to be made up in some other way if the duties were removed. Besides, there is the revenue from customs duty paid by the farm implement manufacturers on imported machinery and materials. In addition, the farm implement industry in Canada, through taxes and otherwise, helps to support provincial and municipal services and provides a considerable market for the products of a large number of other Canadian interests. The tariff duty, in the case of binders, mowers and reapers now only 12½ per cent. of the Customs valuation, or in reality not more than 10 per cent. of the retail selling price, helps to retain the market for Canadian manufacturers, enabling them to produce in larger quantities and at lower unit cost. The annual wage and salaries bill of the agricultural implement industry to Canadian workers is about \$20,000,000 and close to 100,000 persons are dependent upon this income for their livelihood. Through other local industries, from whom

the agricultural implement companies purchase materials of various kinds, the interests of many thousands of additional workers are involved.

If, by abandonment of the Canadian tariff duties, the United States manufacturers of farm machinery were enabled to capture a larger part of the Dominion market, it is said that serious harm might be done to the Canadian industry and the foreign manufacturers might then exploit the Canadian grain growers by charging higher prices, on account of there being little or no competition from domestic producers.

Before removing or lowering the duty, it is desirable that Parliament and the public should have definite information as to whether or not the present duty more than compensates for the higher costs resulting from the geographical situation and other factors over which the Canadian manufacturers of farm machinery have no control. They also should know whether the Canadian farmer could obtain any lasting advantage from removal or modification of the present duty. Who pays the duty? Does the tariff help to retain the Canadian market for Canadian-made implements, thus contributing to a lower unit cost of production and at the same time providing employment at good wages for Canadian workers and a market for the products of other Canadian industries? Have the manufacturers of implements any undue advantage of the tariff to charge excessive prices? These questions should be studied and answered. Until they can be answered and until the tariff problem can be considered in its entirety, there is reason to suggest that the demand for removal of the duties on agricultural implements be deferred.

CANADIAN RECONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

WESTERN OFFICE
510-11 Electric Railway Chambers, Winnipeg

HEAD OFFICE
Royal Bank Building, Toronto

EASTERN OFFICE
603-4 Drummond Building, Montreal

CLAS ADVE

Help
PRACTICAL F
at once, to m
town, conve
James Under
Ont.

Help V

GENERAL-M
Ironing, ref
month, 18 5

SEVERAL Y

moral chara
position of
nurses at th
Conshoekers
This sanitat
for the
and nervous
The work is
virement is
women from
with commu
those who ha
perience, esp
state asylum
but some fev
ence we can
reference is
Company, N
Dr. Winter,
at the King
Canada, until
personally in
ing condition
ween 11.30 a
to do this, I
formation to
superintende
Conshoekers
Institution,
Association.

WANTED, MA

cook. No ve
but must be
help with a
family. Good

Mech

METAL PAT
quire a thoro
patternmaker
to first-class
qualifications
able Iron, Co
Ontario.

Age

THE POLICE
whole bunch
since every
should have
script of 20c
Holder free
Manufacturing
Houten Street

Teac

APPLICATION
rector of the
ing at the
Toronto, will
day, April 3rd
a graduate o
engineering,
annum. Appl
W. C. Wilkie
Board of Edu
Toronto.

Arti

BILLIARD AN
slightly used
pense, easy
Canadian Bill
west.

COLUMBIA DE

tion. Box 1
sen.

Build

ART STONE A
are selling th
Stone and Ar
eral thousand
(all sizes), b
lamb, 7½ x 4
large blocks
also several
John T. Hep
We have to
property, and
sacrifice. A
rear of Onta
ue.

Business

BUSINESS WA
25 Toronto at
sell your busi
ter what kind
set you the
and talk it o
I might help

Bicycles

BICYCLES wa
181 King we
Motorcycle
cles repaired
used machin
hand, new sid
one hundred
ner Sumach
worry, ship 7

DR. DOXSEE

Building, Yo
attendant.

X-RAY DEN

radiographic
trouble.

DR. KNIGHT

practice tim
traction, No
Simpson's.

H. A. GALLO

Queen, Ont
phone for B

BALLROOM

vidual and
Smith's priv
Bloor, Gerr
Gerrard thre
boulevard.

Electric V

SPECIAL pri
and wiring.

Gra

GRADUATE M
netic, electr
spinal and bo
428. Mrs. H

ALVER'S

Eczeema; P
storative Ho
Enquire Dra
Alver, 501 St

HOPE'S

Bird Store,
Phone Adela

Lathin

ESTIMATES o
Experts on
57 Queen Str