

wheat and free flour might be made a reality without any serious falling away of support, although government action would doubtless cause much disquietude, but tariff reductions generally would arouse hostility of a serious kind. In spite of existing conditions demands are now being made upon the government for increased protection. Within the past ten days manufacturers of stone, or, in other words the quarry interests, came to the capital and asked that the present protection of from fifteen to twenty per cent be increased. Many representations of a similar character are being less openly made and they are receiving the support of members for eastern constituencies. A large majority of the government supporters from the East, and not a few of the opposition, are just as thoroughgoing protectionists as they ever were, despite the evidences of a big swing towards lower tariff sentiment on this continent. Applications for tariff increases will not be without the usual backing, while any proposed reductions will be strenuously opposed.

News and World for Free Wheat

Free trade in wheat and flour might be brought about without any serious disarrangement in the party alignment. Already the Toronto News, one of the recognized organs of the ministry in the East, and the Toronto World, an avowedly protectionist newspaper, have favored the proposal, and it is understood that W. F. Maclean, M.P., who controls the World, proposes to support the proposal on the floor of the House. Conservative members from the West would have to do the same, or at least some of them could not very well vote against any proposal to make wheat free in order to gain the American market. A resolution calling for free wheat might pass the House as at present constituted, or at worst be defeated by a very small majority. In view of this situation it is difficult to believe that the government can successfully resist the pressure and may be compelled to act at the coming session. A proposal to remove the duties on agricultural implements would be a different matter. It would be regarded as a serious invasion of the rights of the manufacturers and the disposition of the protectionists in both parties would no doubt be to prevent any sweeping change. For that reason the duty on

farm machinery is likely to remain as it is for the present. If touched at all this session the reduction will not likely be a heavy one.

The Opposition Policy

The signs at the present time all point to the adoption by the opposition of a policy calling for the removal of all taxes on food products and a general revision of the tariff. It will be recalled that previous to 1896 Liberal leaders advocated Free Trade. When they assumed office they found that the protected interests were so strong that they had to choose between cottoning to them or again going into the cold shades of opposition. They chose the former course, with the result that apart from the British preference, in regard to the value of which there is some diversity of opinion, the tariff remained pretty much as it was. They have learned no doubt that the citadel of Protection cannot be levelled to the ground at one onslaught; that it must be taken down piece by piece. They will not, therefore, again propose to do the impossible, but, like President Wilson, may frame a policy which it would be possible to put into effect should they again come into power. The advocacy of such a policy in the House at the approaching session might do much to induce the government to go in for a downward revision of the tariff before they appeal to the people. Subsequent to 1896 the Liberals, in order to save their political scalps, decided to adhere to protection. But the times are changing, and history may repeat itself, but in a somewhat different way. The Conservatives of 1914, also in order to save themselves from defeat, may decide to make concessions to Free Trade sentiment. That is a prediction which is being made freely even in the protectionist East and there will be no great surprise expressed here if the thing should come to pass.

WESTERN FREIGHT RATE CASE

Freight Charges Inquiry to be Resumed at Ottawa

Ottawa, Nov. 23—The western freight rate case, which involves a charge of discrimination against the West by the railways in the matter of freight

charges, will be resumed before the railway board on Monday.

The case has now been in progress for two years. There has been no hearing since June when almost an entire week was taken up with the presentation of an analysis of the rate situation by J. P. Muller, Washington, an expert engaged by counsel for the Dominion government, and evidence in rebuttal, principally by Traffic Manager Lanigan, of the Canadian Pacific Railway western lines.

The case was adjourned until September, when it was found that a further adjournment until Nov. 24 was necessary because Mr. Muller was not ready with all of his exhibits. One of these is still missing and the general impression here tonight is that while the inquiry will be proceeded with tomorrow, it will not likely reach a conclusion this week.

J. A. Bicknell, K.C., Toronto; H. W. Whittle, Winnipeg, represent the Dominion government; Isaac Pitblado, Winnipeg, represents the Winnipeg Board of Trade; L. G. McPhillips; represents British Columbia, and M. K. Cowan represents Alberta and Saskatchewan. They are here tonight, as are also a large number of the legal staffs of the railways interested in the case.

EDISON'S PREDICTION FOR 2100 A.D.

"In 200 years, by the cheapening of commodities, the ordinary laborer will live as well as a man does now with \$200,000 annual income. Automatic machinery and scientific agriculture will bring about this result. Not individualism, but social labor will dominate the future: you can't have individual machines and every man working by himself. Industry will constantly become more social and interdependent. There will be no manual labor in the factories of the future. The men in them will be merely superintendents, watching the machinery to see that it works right. The work day, I believe, will be eight hours. Every man needs that much work to keep him out of mischief and to keep him happy. But it will be work with the brain, something that men will be interested in, and done in wholesome, pleasant surroundings. Less and less man will be used as an engine, or as a horse, and his brain will be employed to benefit himself and his fellows."

HOW CO-OPERATION PAYS FRUIT GROWERS.

During a sitting of the Select Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Agriculture and Colonization a few months ago it came out in evidence that many apple growers were last year unable to secure more than from 75c. to \$1.00 per barrel on the tree, and in some districts hundreds of barrels of good fruit were allowed to fall to the ground and rot because no profitable market could be found for it. It came out also that in the western provinces consumers were required to pay from \$5.00 to \$5.50 per barrel for good fruit. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, in giving evidence on this question, pointed out that about \$1.75 per barrel was received in the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie districts by the members of co-operative associations while independent growers received about \$1.00 per barrel. The Commissioner in referring to the discrepancy between the first and final prices of apples, estimated that the unavoidable expenses amounted to about \$2.23 per barrel made up as follows:—barrel, 45c.; picking, 17c.; management expenses or commission to a local buyer, 19c.; freight to Winnipeg, 80c.; broker's commission, 12c.; and retailer's profit 50c. per barrel.

The question of marketing was but one of many dealt with by the Special Committee, who had as witnesses besides the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, Messrs. Daniel Johnson, Forest, Ont., S. B. Chute, Berwick, N.S., W. S. Foggo, Vernon, B.C., and James Hardwell, Ottawa. As evidence of the value to the grower of co-operation, Mr. Johnson instanced the case of a woman who was offered, by a local buyer, \$125 for her crop for which she received through a co-operative association \$1,035. Mr. Chute, who represented 1,500 farmers, as manager of the United Fruit Companies of Nova Scotia, explained that through his organization 5,000 tons of fertilizer had been bought from the manufacturers for the members, who had benefited to the extent of about \$15,000 on purchases of fertilizers, spraying machines and materials, farm implements, seeds and other requirements. Equally interesting evidence was given by the other witnesses all of which appears in a pamphlet of 116 pages that has been printed for public distribution by the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

THE STRUGGLE WITH SPECIAL PRIVILEGE



Organized Farmer: "I have got him by the tail now, and if I hang on I shall soon put him where he belongs. But if I quit he will devour me."

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