

FREE WHEAT—*Con.*

MacNutt, Thomas (Saltcoats)—856.

Price of wheat at Winnipeg and Minneapolis for 1911-15, given, 857-8. Freight congestion referred to, 859-60.

Meighen, Hon. Arthur (Solicitor General)—1068.

I have always believed, and never more than now, that at least ninety per cent of this free wheat issue is purely political, while, for the other ten per cent, it is economically unsound, 1068. The whole people of Canada are concerned, and concerned vitally, with the question of whether or not we place wheat and flour on the free list, 1069. Prices of wheat and grading referred to, 1070-2. The hon. member for Edmonton says that in justice they are entitled to a measure of protection, but because the interests of the millers and the farmers are not the same you shall do what the farmers say and do an injustice to this other class. I cannot subscribe to that doctrine, 1073. Reference made to the Grain Growers' Grain Co., 1074.

Morrison, Alexander (Macdonald)—1057.

I hold it is the duty of Canadians to conserve what surplus we may have, over and above our own requirements, so that it may be available for the requirements of Great Britain and her Allies, 1057-8.

Oliver, Hon. Frank (Edmonton)—874.

Regrets that Sir Thomas opposes passage of resolution, 874. The difference between my hon. friend and his Government and his followers, and us on this side of the House is this, that he is prepared, as he and his followers and his supporters have always been prepared, to set the interests of the railroads, or the millers, or the manufacturers or any other industry under heaven against that of the farmers, 875. As a matter of fact he has informed the House and the country that the reason the Government will not agree to give the western farmer free wheat is because it is bound to maintain on behalf of the Canadian milling industry that protection which it enjoys at the present time, 877-80.

Rogers, Hon. Robert (Minister of Public Works)—880.

I am sure that no hon. member in this House would say that the provision in the Underwood tariff giving us free access to the American market, on certain conditions, was made for the purpose of giving the Canadian producer of Western Canada any special advantage. Government Commission of Saskatchewan quoted, 881-2. The Canadian farmer is getting a good deal more for his wheat this year than the American farmer is getting for his, notwithstanding the statements made by hon. gentlemen opposite. The extravagant statements they put forth do not agree with the facts, 884. Because of the methods pursued by the grain trade of the Dominion, as compared with the methods employed in the United States, where they pick and lower their grades,

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a great advantage has come very recently to the grain producers of western Canada. Boomhalls Supplement quoted, 1047-9. A vigorous and determined immigration will have to follow the conclusion of the war in order that all the advantages possible may come to Western Canada, 1050. We want for Western Canada an informed industrial leadership, a skilled industrial population, the best of both in the world, 1051.

Thomson, Levi (Qu'Appelle)—1062.

When we are passing legislation in this House, we must pass it with a view to the circumstances that at present exist, 1062. Speech of Minister of Public Works criticised, 1063. Minister of Finance criticised, 1064-7.

Turriff, J. G. (Assiniboia)—793.

Grading of wheat defined, 793-4. I do not care whether the United States exports wheat or not. What I know is that the American elevator man is there with money ready to buy our wheat, and pay a higher price for it than we can get on our side of the line, 795-8. The milling trade and free wheat referred to, 798-802.

White, Sir Thomas (Minister of Finance)—861.

There is a very considerable body of opinion in Canada which believes that if we admit wheat free from the United States our wheat will then automatically be permitted free into the United States. That is not the fact, 861. Provisions of Underwood tariff quoted, 862. Gives reason for higher price for wheat prevailing at Minneapolis, 863. Extract from Wall Street Journal quoted, 863-4. Memo. of comparative prices of wheat given, 864. The real question is not whether the price is higher at Minneapolis under existing tariff conditions, but the question is: what would be the state of affairs if the present situation were changed, 865. It is obvious that if our grain did flow down to Minneapolis it would not remain in Canada to be ground by our mills, nor would it be carried from Canada by our transportation systems to the markets of the world. If free wheat will be a real, and not an illusory, advantage to the farmers of the West, that is what would happen, 866. Now, I have dealt with this question from the standpoint of the farmer of the plains, and I have dealt with it from the standpoint of the milling industry I now propose to deal with it from the standpoint of general Canadian policy, 868-72. I desire to give some figures on the potato. It is a homely subject, but the potato is an honoured vegetable, and we might spend a worse five minutes than in considering the tariff with regard to it, 873.

FRENCH CANADIANS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE OF CANADA.

Motion:

That, in the opinion of this House, Canadians of the French language should