

market, pay the producers the balance of the full value of their product, less the cost of curing and marketing the same and a sum sufficient to pay local working expenses, such as insurance, taxes, directors' remunerations, etc., also less one-quarter cent per pound live weight. This one-quarter cent per pound to be applied to the creation of a fund for the purpose of paying back to the government their original investment and interest equal to the amount paid into this fund by the assessment of the one-quarter of a cent per pound on his produce."

We believe that under these circumstances that a pork packing plant can be erected that will be of great benefit to the producers of Alberta. It will be also a step towards freedom from the oppression of the meat trust in that province. There are two sides to every bargain. The farmers of Alberta should sign the contracts and have them ready when the legislature re-assembles in May. It will then be up to the government to fulfil their part of the agreement. A great many hogs have already been guaranteed, but the good work should be pushed as rapidly as possible.

WHO IS TO BLAME

When are we going to see actual construction work going on on the Hudson's Bay Railway? This road has been promised to the people of the west by Ottawa governments for the past twenty years. At the last general election we had the promise of "immediate construction." Surveys have been going on for a considerable time, and with the exception of the most northerly part of the road, everything is in readiness to begin work. Why is the delay? The Dominion government gave a definite promise to the people of the west and the people took them at their word. They have had two years to fulfil that promise and not a step has been taken towards it. The west needs the Hudson's Bay road, and needs it very badly. The people are tired of having such promises made and no fulfilment. Resolutions have been passed by the farmers without number and by various other representative organizations and sent to Ottawa, but they have all been disregarded. The demand from all parts of the country is that the government should build the road, own it and operate it, together with the terminals on the Bay. Yet the government makes no move. In spite of all that has been done there is now a private company on the ground announcing that they will build a road to the Bay with all speed and that they have a charter that will allow them to do so. This has a very suspicious look and certainly calls for an explanation on the part of the Dominion government. They have been playing fast and loose with the Hudson's Bay Railway proposition for a long time, and now it is time to show whether there is any sincerity in their promises. The population of Western Canada is increasing at an enormous rate and the Hudson's Bay Railway is needed at once to handle the wheat crop. Even under the most favorable conditions it will take several years to have the road ready for use. By that time the wheat crop will be 200,000,000 bushels and the present facilities will be unable to handle it properly. It is up to the Dominion government to stop acting the part of politicians in this matter and get down to honest dealing with the people of the west. We feel that we are voicing the opinions of the farmers of Western Canada when we say that the Dominion government is deserving of censure for the manner in which it has trifled in this most important problem. The day has come when the farmers of the west are not going to content themselves with empty promises, and it is time the members of the government at Ottawa became appraised of this fact. If they cannot give the people what they need and what they have been promised, then it is time for a change.

Didn't we hear a big noise about the federal government building a railway to Hudson's Bay? We haven't heard anything of construction work being started and even now a private company is in the field.

UNITED STATES TARIFF OFFER

The farmers' associations of the west have supported their attitude towards the high tariff on farm implements in no uncertain manner. They do not see wherein lies the benefit to Canada, for maintaining a high duty on agricultural implements and by this means taking money out of the pockets of Canadian farmers for the support of a few manufacturers. There seems no good reason why the implement manufacturers of Canada should not produce agricultural implements as cheaply as the American manufacturers. The United States congress is willing to meet Canada half way on the interchange of farm implements. They have placed a standing offer in their Tariff Act, which Canada can accept any time. This offer is found in the States American Tariff Act, on page 67, section 476, which reads as follows:

"Plows, disc and tooth harrows, harvesters, reapers, agricultural drills and planters, mowers, horse-rakes, cultivators, threshing machines, and cotton gins, fifteen per centum ad valorem; provided that any of the foregoing, when imported from any country, dependency province, or colony which imposes no tax or duty on like articles imported from the United States, shall be imported free of duty."

This is a subject worth careful consideration on the part of all farmers. It is desirable that industries should be built up in Canada and that manufacturers should receive encouragement. It does not seem fair, however, that all our encouragement should be at the expense of the farmers, who are the most necessary of the Canadian population.

ANOTHER TRUST

The Retail Merchants' Association did not want to see the co-operative bill pass the House of Commons. They wanted it killed, and it was killed. The bill would have allowed consumers throughout Canada to organize among themselves for fair play if they so desired and would protect them against unjust prices on the part of all dealers. This bill being killed leaves the consumers in the same helpless condition as they were before. The Retail Merchants' Association is getting busy and has a bill before the senate to incorporate itself to do business. This is certainly "doing things" with a vengeance. The consumers of Canada may not be allowed to co-operate, but the Retail Merchants want to become incorporated so that they can form a trust similar to the one existing in the United States. Down across the line it is considered that the retailers are more to blame for the high cost of living than probably any other organization. Are we going to sit by and see them do the same thing in Canada? We doubt if the farmers and consumers will stand for this.

The Winnipeg Telegram, that is now laboring so hard to discredit us through a campaign of untruth and misrepresentation, has some history to which it does not like to refer. That is the same paper that sold its columns a few months ago to the Elevator Combine and thus assisted the combine to smash the Grain Growers' Grain Company, which is composed of 8,000 farmers. We sounded the note of truth and the farmers saw what the Telegram was at. The farmers taught the Telegram that they could not carry on any double game. Just now the Telegram is determined to break the Grain Growers' Association and besmirch the character of the Grain Growers' Guide, which has been independent and friendly to the farmers always. Our record is clear, and the farmers' cause never was and never will be betrayed by us. The farmers of Manitoba are to-day too strong and too intelligent to be led astray by any paper that has betrayed them so recently as the Winnipeg Telegram. When THE GUIDE has anything to say, it says so plainly and does not stoop to anonymous letters.

We have no quarrel with the Winnipeg Telegram on account of its political leanings. Every paper has a legitimate right to support the cause for which it was originated and is maintained. The Telegram takes the stand that there is one of the great political parties in Canada, that never made an error no matter which province it may be, and never could by any possibility make an error. Even in this we have no quarrel with that newspaper. We are willing to allow a paper to have its own opinion, and we reserve the right to our own opinion. Just now the Telegram is busy misrepresenting THE GUIDE and endeavouring to show that we are partisan. Because we cannot see eye to eye with the Telegram, we are partisan. If so, then the 9,000 Grain Growers of Manitoba, whose actions we have approved, are partisans. We doubt if every one of these farmers are willing to permit any newspaper to call them hidebound partisans because they choose to have some say in the affairs of the province:

A little while ago it was the Edmonton Bulletin that did not like what we said on the attitude of the Alberta Government on the elevator question; then the Calgary News objected to our condemnation of some of the methods of political parties in general; about the same time objections emanated from the Saskatchewan government to the attitude of THE GUIDE on the elevator question in Saskatchewan; now it is the Winnipeg Telegram that kicks us for our attitude towards the elevator question in Manitoba. Truly, any paper that upholds the cause of the farmers all the time will not rest on a bed of roses. However, we believe that the farmers appreciate the truth and we shall continue to purvey that commodity no matter what other papers may think of us.

It would be well for all association branches in the west to pass resolutions in favor of the Co-operative Bill before the House of Commons. The Co-operative Union of Canada is working hard in favor of this bill. To get resolutions and information on the subject, secretaries should write to George Keen, secretary of the Co-operative Union of Canada, Brantford, Ontario. He will be glad to furnish all information needed.

A proper system of publicly-owned elevators in Manitoba, will undoubtedly result sooner or later in a practical monopoly of the elevator business. The figures submitted to the government by the elevator committee, will stand practically as well in handling, say, one-half of the grain, as in handling all of it.

When a cabinet minister is derelict in his duty it is hard to dispose of him. On the other hand, an independent commission, such as the Grain Growers request, directly responsible to the legislature, would be removable without any difficulty.

Now that the Dominion Government is extending the time the speculators are holding Veteran scrip at \$1,000. This is how the western farmers are being continually held up. The trouble is that the farmers are a long way from Ottawa and the speculators are too near.

If the Ottawa government continues refusing legislation in the interests of the farmers and caters to the big monopolistic interests we will soon have ground to ask what the Ottawa government has in view.

If we are going to rid this country of special privileges the farmers are the people on whom the task will fall. They must study the problems that confront them and act as their judgment directs.

The elevator problem in Saskatchewan will soon occupy the attention of the commission-ers. They will have the advantage of the experience of Manitoba.