

FIXING WHEAT PRICES

There is some talk in the press about the Dominion Government fixing a maximum price for wheat, not only for the benefit of the Canadian consumer, but for the benefit of the Allied Governments as well. There is no doubt whatever that the extraordinary high price of wheat has an effect upon the high cost of living, but it is only one item. The government up to the present time has taken no action to reduce the cost of living in other directions more important even than the cost of bread, and the government will be well advised not to make the farmers the goat in any scheme for reducing the cost of living. The farmers would have no objection to a reasonable maximum price, provided the government is prepared to step in and curb the enormous profits being made by millers, munition makers, paper manufacturers and nearly all other manufacturers. It must be remembered that the farmers themselves have nothing to do with the high price of wheat. They dump their wheat on the market as they have always done, and take whatever they can get for it. Up until the last two years they have gotten mighty little for it. None of the other producers and manufacturers are in this position. They fix their own prices and have government legislation in the shape of tariff to assist them in making it high enough to be very profitable indeed. If the government is going into the business of bringing down the cost of living and curbing profits it would be well to start on the munition makers and then pass it around.

MUST BE SOME FINANCIER

A case came to our attention last week where a farmer who wanted to buy some steers for feeding purposes approached his local banker. His note was endorsed by a reliable business man and the loan finally approved by the head

office of the bank, but the note was discounted at 10 per cent. The farmer using 10 per cent. money has to be a better financier than men in other lines of business if he can pay 10 per cent. on capital and still make a profit.

THE C.P.R. STRIKE AVERTED

There will be general satisfaction that there is to be no strike of the employees on the Western lines of the C.P.R. As to the merits of the demands of the employees there will always be room for debate. The C.P.R. is an immensely wealthy corporation, has enjoyed extraordinary concessions at the hands of the public thru the federal treasury and has made enormous profits for its shareholders. The profit in the past year alone has been \$49,000,000. None of our governments, either Liberal or Conservative, have done anything appreciable to secure better freight rates for the public, even in the face of these enormous profits. It is only natural, therefore, that the employees should feel entitled to a little better remuneration for their labors rather than see so much of it go to a handful of shareholders, the majority of whom reside in foreign lands.

WATCH YOUR DRAW-BACK

Industrial Canada, the official organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, devotes a full page leading article in a current issue to the necessity of manufacturers getting all the "draw-back" that is coming to them from the public treasury. It is provided by law that any manufacturer in Canada may get a refund of 99 per cent. of all duty paid on imported articles entering into the manufacture of goods which are afterwards exported from Canada. For instance, when they import wood and steel from the United States for the manufacture of a binder and afterwards export the binder to some foreign country

they get a refund of 99 per cent. of the duty paid on these articles, but if they sell that binder to a Canadian farmer they get no refund and the farmer pays the duty. All the manufacturing export business of Canada is thus on a free trade basis. The idea of this scheme is to place the Canadian manufacturers on an even footing with the American manufacturers in the foreign market, and it has been very successful. What we have never been able to find out is, if the Canadian manufacturers can meet the American manufacturers in every other country under the sun, why they cannot also meet them in the Canadian field.

There is one class of manufacturing business in Canada, however, that is not permitted to enjoy this refund of duty paid, namely, the agricultural manufacturer. The farmer pays duty on practically everything he uses in the production of his crop and he exports his product to the foreign market. If any manufacturer in Canada is entitled to a refund of duty surely it is the farmer, but did you ever hear of the farmer getting a refund of duty? Not much! The farmer not only pays the duty on his own stuff, but he is taxed to pay the duty that the manufacturer doesn't pay.

The Grain Growers' Guide is arranging to give 1,000 farmers each enough pure wheat, oats or barley to seed one acre, and the Grain Growers' Grain Company is giving \$500 in cash prizes to those who produce the best half bushel exhibit from this seed next year. If you are interested, read further details on page 23 and act promptly.

We would suggest that our readers write a personal letter to the leaders of the Liberal party at Ottawa or any prominent members of the Liberal party in Western Canada to see if they can discover what is the tariff policy of the Liberal party.



PREPARING THE SACRIFICE
An ancient custom with a modern application