

without asking the permission of the three great railways), "three weeks or a month ago, when this matter became very urgent, and as a result of their conference application has been made to the Interstate Commerce Commission of the United States for leave—" (imagine Mr. Foster going to Washington asking for leave. Ah, if Mr. Fielding had done anything of the kind, how the welkin would have resounded with denunciation of him!) "for leave to lessen the grain rates to Minneapolis and Duluth, and so ease the pressure by taking the grain down towards the south."

"On the 7th of February, Mr. Foster spoke again on this question. He said he had asked for leave, and that leave had been given to carry the wheat to Minneapolis and Duluth. Here is his exact language:

"Speaking generally, wheat and oats for export, wheat, oats, and flax for consumption in the United States are either being carried at present at an equal or slightly higher rate to Duluth and Minneapolis than obtain to Port Arthur and Fort William, but by the latter part of February will be carried at the same rate as to Fort William and Port Arthur."

JUSTIFIES LIBERAL POLICY.

"I ask you, gentlemen, who is the man who would blame us for having thought of obtaining by mutual reciprocal agreement what Mr. Foster had to ask as a favor from the American Government and the American people? Sir, if I wanted any justification of our policy, surely I would have it in this fact.

I know my friend, Mr. Foster, very well. I am sure it was a bitter pill for him to swallow to have to go hat in hand to the Interstate Commerce Commission and ask them to give him leave to carry our wheat through their territory.

We did the thing differently. We thought we would do it in a manly way, working our trade on equal terms. We were turned down and now you see the result.

Of course, this is not the solution of the problem. It is only a makeshift. The problem will be there again. It is there at the present time in Manitoba, in Saskatchewan, and in Alberta. So much so that Mr. Bennett tells you they must have more outlets or he will not answer for the allegiance. So far as I am concerned, I can answer for their