

have discovered that they have in their own ranks men with business capacity, knowledge of public questions and ability to speak in public, equal to that of any other class that constitute the nation. They have also come to realize that the business of farming demands skill, intelligence and business judgment equal to that required in that of any other occupation. This realization is steadily giving our farmers a new dignity and the power of their organizations is forcing recognition from every other interest in the land. The Canadian Council of Agriculture has only touched the fringe of its possibilities, but already it has done a great work for the farmers of Canada.

### FREE WHEAT MUST COME

The opposition to free wheat is developing quite as fast and possibly faster than the demand for the opening of the Southern market. The greater part of the opposition is coming from interests in Eastern Canada, tho it is well known that the milling interests and a considerable portion of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange is also in opposition. The strongest opposition is possibly that of the railway companies and their allied interests. It is claimed by the railway companies that they will lose a lot of traffic if the Southern market is opened, which they cannot afford. The Western farmers do not believe that the opening of the Southern market will deflect any of the great volume of grain to the South, but that it will mean a levelling up of prices to the advantage of the Canadian grain growers. Aside, however, from the monetary consideration, there is one great fundamental principle which seems to be disregarded by all the opponents of free wheat. This principle is that the farmers who grow the grain should have first consideration and should be allowed to market their grain wherever they can get the highest

prices. It is pointed out that the C.N.R. and the National Transcontinental Railway has been built at very heavy cost to the public treasury and that they have a right to the grain traffic to repay them for this outlay. The argument is a strange one. The Grain Growers never asked, and so far as we know no person else ever asked, for the construction of the Transcontinental nor for the C.N.R. north of the lakes. These two roads were not needed thru that territory and were built chiefly for the purpose of securing political prestige and political campaign funds. If the political parties and the railway promoters will get together to plunder the public treasury, it is no reason why any special class of the people should be forced to pay the cost of this huge folly and blunder. Ever since Western Canada began to produce wheat there are special interests who have always looked upon the Western farmers as their legitimate prey and who have demanded the right to milk this Western country of the chief share of the profits of the grain crop, and in this pursuit they have been ably supported by both political parties at Ottawa. There is only one way as we have pointed out many times before that the people of the West will be able to free themselves from the grip of these privileged interests. That is by carrying the fight right to parliament and by electing men who will really represent the interests of the West. There is always some person ready to rise and point to the danger of farmers going into politics. We would like to ask, however, how the farmers could better protect their own interests than by having the chief officers of their own organization supporting them in the House of Commons and having a voice in the legislation which is enacted. It has been stated that the United States government would not regard a Canadian Order in Council placing wheat and wheat products on the free list as an acceptance of their offer of free

trade in these articles. We have reason to believe, however, and good reason, that this statement is not correct, but is merely being used by the Dominion government as an excuse for not giving the farmers free wheat. The Dominion government claims that nothing can be done until parliament meets in January. We would strongly urge every local Association in the Prairie Provinces to pass the strongest possible resolution setting forth their demand for free wheat and send the same to Sir Robert Borden, with the least possible delay. All the interests opposed to free wheat are very active and the farmers cannot afford to lose an opportunity to press their claims. It would be wise also to send copies of this resolution to their local members. Hundreds of these resolutions should be sent to Ottawa during the next few weeks.

"As a result of the organized farmers' request, the Board of Grain Commissioners will undoubtedly investigate the grading system and its effects upon the producers. It is probable that there will be an agreement by all parties concerned that a number of changes could be made in the grading system to the distinct advantage of the producers, as well as the trade.

The organized farmers are quite justified in asking the Dominion government to put in low freight rates on grain from Winnipeg to tide-water, over the National Transcontinental. The farmers do not desire their grain hauled at a loss to the road, but they do desire that they be given the advantage of the low grades and smooth road-beds, which characterize the N. T. R. These low rates were promised before the N. T. R. was built and now is the time to fulfil those promises.



WORKING AGAINST EACH OTHER

Sir George E. Foster, as Minister of Trade and Commerce, is spending \$5,000,000 a year to promote trade with foreign countries, while Hon. Dr. Reid, Minister of Customs, is doing his utmost to stop it. - And the people pay the piper.