

What Our M.P.'s Think

Continued from page 8

dividuals. The case of terminal elevators, however, is somewhat different, and, as apparently, the supervision that the government has now over these elevators is not producing the results that we all expected. I am in favor of the government taking over the terminal and transfer elevators and running them in this way, if possible, prevent mixing of grades and undue discrimination against the farmers and millers.

In regard to chilled meat industry, I am not in favor of that business being taken over by the government. A year or two ago some delegates interviewed some of the members here, but I did not find their proposition a reasonable one, and before I would support this I would have to have a great deal more information on the subject.

(Signed) J. G. TURRIFF.
Ottawa, June 13, 1910.

G. E. McCraney, M. P. for Saskatoon, Sask.

In reply to your letter of the 28th ult., in which you wish my opinions on the matters referred to, they are as follows:

1. I am in favor of the reduction of the tariff.

2. I am in favor of taking whatever steps may be necessary to remove the abuses which have existed at the terminal and transfer elevators. This will probably necessitate the operation of the terminal and transfer elevators by the Dominion government as a public utility.

3. I am in favor of the immediate construction of the Hudson's Bay Road.

4. I have not come to any conclusion with reference to the operation and supervision by the Federal government of the chilled meat industry.

(Signed) G. E. McCRAHEY.
Saskatoon, June 22, 1910.

ALBERTA MEMBERS

W. H. White, M. P. for Victoria, Alta.

With reference to your enquiry as to what my views were upon certain public customs as set out in your letter of May last, I beg to submit the following reply:

Re Tariff.—I am in favor of reduction of the tariff, as I believe that a reduction would be of advantage to Western Canada.

Re Lake Front Terminal Elevators.—It is evident from the recent convictions obtained against some of the terminal elevator companies that it is still possible for them to manipulate grades in these terminals. The purchase of these elevators would involve a very large capital expenditure, but I think the government would be justified in taking them over if some effectual remedy cannot be found to correct present evils and insure honest and impartial administration. In fact it is absolutely essential in the interests of the farmers of Western Canada that they be protected against manipulation of the grades in the terminal elevators. If the government take over the lake terminals I think the policy should include the erection of terminals at the Pacific Coast. You will readily understand that the Alberta farmers are much interested in the question of Pacific terminals.

Re Hudson's Bay Railway.—I do not think there is any difference of opinion in Western Canada as to the desirability of the early completion of the Hudson's Bay Railway. The earlier the road is completed the better it will suit us.

Re Chilled Meat Industry.—I consider this one of the most important questions affecting the interests of the farmers of Western Canada at the present time. We are in a position to produce beef and other meats in large quantities to great advantage, but are handicapped in getting the product on the old country market. Any assistance that the Dominion government could give towards establishing a chilled meat industry in this country will have my support. Of course you must remember that once you get a chilled meat industry organized it becomes practically a monopoly in that business, and great care should be exercised to see that the producer is not robbed of the benefit that should otherwise accrue to him from the advantage in marketing. If the government were to own and operate the refrigerator car system, and could keep a reasonable control of the trade so as to prevent the producer from being squeezed by the

packer, it is of course, the condition to be desired. There is no question in my mind that the opportunity is here for a chilled meat industry. It should be established at an early date, and if the Dominion government can be induced to take hold of it, it can no doubt be established upon a basis of better advantage to the farmer than the industry, as it has been organized in the United States.

(Signed) W. H. WHITE.
Edmonton, June 20, 1910.

Hon. Frank Oliver, M. P. for Edmonton, Alta.

In Mr. Oliver's absence I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, asking for his views on certain subjects for publication in THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE.

In reply I beg to say that Mr. Oliver has already left on an extended trip to the north.

J. E. FEATHERSTONE,
Private Secretary.

Ottawa, June 4, 1910.

M. Clark, M. P. for Red Deer, Alta.

I beg to acknowledge yours of May 28th, in which you request my views on certain matters. Perhaps you will allow me, in the first place, to congratulate you on the political insight you are displaying in endeavoring to concentrate the attention of the West on certain definite points, with a view to their being brought to the attention of Sir Wilfrid Laurier during his approaching tour.

You do well, in my opinion, to place the tariff in the forefront of the matters of vital importance to the farmers. Protection is an uncompensated burden at the back of the farming community.

Sir Wilfrid has promised to build the Hudson's Bay Road, and no man is more punctilious about the fulfilment of definite pledges.

The other questions about which you write are much more difficult, raising the difficult consideration of the limitations of

the floor of the House of Commons I have spoken in favor of all of them.

The reduction of tariff on agricultural implements is a crying need in this Western country, and I feel that if sufficient pressure is brought to bear upon the government it must finally give the farmers justice in this matter.

The other matters need no reference from me as they are equally as necessary.

(Signed) JNO. HERRON.
Fincher Creek, June 6, 1910.

J. M. Douglas, M. P. for Strathcona, Alta.

Replying to yours of 28th May, asking my views on subjects contained in your letter.

In my judgment the reduction of the tariff on certain lines of goods largely used by the farmers of the West is the most vital question affecting the West today, and I would be in hearty support of any measure designed to reduce the cost to the Western farmer of all farm implements, lumber, etc., which in a measure constitute the farmers' raw material.

Regarding Terminal Elevators.—While I am not in entire sympathy with the principal of government ownership and management of public utilities, yet I believe this is one of the utilities which could be managed for the benefit and advantage of the largest proportion of our population in the West, viz. the farmers, and I would support such a policy.

Re Immediate Construction H. B. Railway.—The government has already pledged itself to the immediate construction of this railway and I believe they will carry out their promises.

Re Chilled Meat Industry.—I am in hearty sympathy with the establishment of such an industry and believe the government should guarantee the bonds of any reputable company who are prepared to carry this project into effect. The establishment of this industry would, in my judgment, be of incalculable benefit

and I think it is rather my duty there to express them than elsewhere. You will find that I have lost no opportunity of pressing on the government the matters referred to in your letter, and I sincerely wish that some real success may attend the organized farmers when they place their case before the head of the government as indicated in your letter.

(Signed) ARTHUR MEIGHEN.
Portage la Prairie, Man., June 6, 1910.
[Note.—We have not Hansard at hand.—Ed.]

W. J. Roche, M. P. for Marquette, Man.

In reply to yours of 28th ult., asking for my opinion on certain subjects which it is the intention of the farmers to bring to the attention of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on the occasion of his proposed visit to the West, I beg to submit the following:

Firstly Regarding Reduction of the Tariff.—I am a moderate protectionist and believe that for a country like Canada situated alongside of a highly protected country like the United States, a protective tariff is essential to the best interests of our country as a whole. At the same time, I believe that there are a number of articles bearing too high a rate of duty which might be reduced with benefit to the agriculturist of Western Canada, such as agricultural machinery, a resolution to reduce such duty having received my support in the House of Commons. On the other hand, there are some duties on the products of the farm which might with advantage to the Canadian farmer be increased, and made more in accord with the American tariff, on similar products entering the United States.

Secondly.—The Taking Over the Terminal Elevators and Operating Them as a Public Utility.—I am heartily in favor of such a proposition, and have also supported it in parliament, believing it to be the solution of many of the disabilities under which our farmers are laboring in connection with the disposal of their grain.

Thirdly.—The Immediate Construction of the Hudson's Bay Road.—This is undoubtedly the desire of every resident of Western Canada to the advocacy of which I have lent my assistance both inside and outside of parliament, but unless greater progress is made in the immediate future I fear it will not be a factor in the carrying trade for many years to come.

Fourthly.—The Inauguration of a Chilled Meat Industry with Refrigerator Car Service Under the Operation and Supervision of the Federal Government.—This also is a question that has been the subject of discussion in the House on more than one occasion which has my sympathy, as it is undeniable that our farmers have not been receiving adequate return for their stock, especially taking into consideration the high price of meat which is exacted from the consumer, showing inordinate profit to some person or persons other than the farmers.

As I understand you simply desire to obtain the views of the members of the Federal House on these questions, I have refrained from backing up my views with lengthy arguments which would take up too much space in your valuable journal.

(Signed) W. J. ROCHE.
Minnedosa, Man., June 1, 1910.
Hon. Clifford Sifton, M. P. for Brandon, Man.

In the absence of my principal, the Hon. Clifford Sifton, I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo. Mr. Sifton is now in England and is not expected back until the first week in July. Your letter will be placed before him immediately upon his return.

Yours truly,
J. H. CREEGAN.
Ottawa, June 2, 1910.



Threshing with an auto-thresher on farm of J. W. Roberts, Brandon, Man.

state control. I prefer to deal with this matter from my place in the House of Commons where I can make myself quite clear.

(Signed) M. CLARK.
Olds, Alta., June 9, 1910.

M. S. McCarthy, M. P. for Calgary, Alta.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of May 28th. I have just returned to Calgary from the West, and will look into the matter concerning which you write me at an early date and communicate with you.

Yours truly,
(Signed) M. S. MCCARTHY.
Calgary, June 8, 1910.
[Note.—No further word has been received from Mr. McCarthy.—Ed.]

John Herron, M. P. for McLeod, Alta.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 28th ult., and must apologize for delay in answering, owing partly to absence.

I am exceedingly glad that your paper is urging all the farmers in the West to press on Sir Wilfrid Laurier the four matters you refer to, viz.: Reduction of tariff, the taking over of terminal elevators on the lake front, the construction of Hudson's Bay Roads, and the chilled meat industry.

As a farmer myself I have always been and am still strongly in favor of carrying out all measures along this line and upon

to our Western farmers and should put the cattle business on a profitable and paying basis for the producer.

(Signed) J. M. DOUGLAS.
Strathcona, Alta., June 7, 1910.

MANITOBA MEMBERS

F. L. Shaffner, M. P. for Souris, Man.

Yours of May 28th to hand. I am sending you copies of my speeches on the floor of the House of Commons, the proper place to fight for our rights, and I stand by everything contained in said speeches.

(Signed) F. L. SHAFFNER.
Boissevain, Man., June 2, 1910.

[Note.—Dr. Shaffner enclosed copy of his speech in moving a resolution for government owned terminal elevators; copy of speech in favor of the Hudson's Bay Railway and copy of his speech asking that the duty on agricultural implements be reduced from 17½ to 10 per cent.—Ed.]

A. Meighen, M. P. for Portage la Prairie, Man.

I have your letter of May 28th, and note that in view of the contemplated trip of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in July and August, and of the intention of the organized farmers to discuss with him certain issues, you request in advance the views of the Western members on these issues.

If you refer to Hansard of the last to sessions you will see that I have in the House expressed my sentiments in regard to the questions to which you refer,

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