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The Grain Grower and stock raiser of Western Canada who knows from years of experience and observation that his fellow farmers on the south side of, the boundary line have received so much more for their preduct than he has done, will not readily yield to the specious pleading of "Special Interests" in his behalf and will more than likely discreted the teachings of his would be tators in economics and do some thinking

While we do not for a moment justify the continuance of customs duties on agricultural implements and freely admit that the agreement would be much more accept able if free implements were included, we cannot close our eyes to the fact that its provisions will be of much value to the people of Canada. In order to demonstrate the relative value to the Western farmers of free trade in farm implements and free trade in farm products, we salount the following statement of the probable amount of customs duties the farmer on one half section of land pays each year and compare it with the probable value to him of free trade in farm products.

The following list comprises implements as classed in the trade returns as "agricultural implements." The appraised value, for the purpose of determining the duty to be paid when the size of the implement is given, is correct, while in other things the average appraisement of different sizes is given.

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The amount of duty imposed in the above enumerated list of implements under the present tariff would be \$162.5. Under the present tariff would be \$162.5. Under the present tariff would not be asked, to bear. Assuming that farming implements under ordinary conditions must be replaced on an average every ten years, the annual duty would be, therefore, under the agreement, \$2.00. Estimating the annual repairs to the above list on the average farm as \$30 which, under the agreement hears. 15. per eent, duty, the additional duty paid would be \$4.50. In other words, the annual duty the farmer has to pay on the above list of agricultural implements with their repairs is \$12.50. For several months past the price paid in Buffalo for No. 3 Manitoba barley was \$1.05, duty paid, or 75c when the purchaser paid the duty. That is to say if we had free trade in barley the Canadian

inct of the crimary beet of wheat or some on the ordinary beet on the ordinary beet on the ordinary beet on the crimary beet on the crimary beet on the day of agreement would be a leveling down as a leveling up, and the existing dependence would be reduced, but we cannot over of any condition arising wherein at the first softhe Western farms would not be reduced, and the agreement on that the down not provide for the crimary of the western farms would not be reduced to the first softhe was not provide for the crimary of the western farms would not be reduced to the crimary of the western farms would not be reduced to the crimary of the western farms would not be reduced to the crimary of the western farms would not be reduced to the crimary of the crimary of the crimary of the crimary of the crimary been determined to the crimary of the crimary beautiful to the crimary beau

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The proposed agreement would not affect the duty on this last, excepting very slightly on wagons.

The duty on agricultural implements has undoubtedly been emphasized by farmers and others because of it being largely of the nature of "class taxation," the farmer alone learning the burden thereof. But the burden is trifling in comparison with the tax imposed upon the farmer by reason of customs duty on everything he buys to a much larger extent than on his implements. A farmer with an average family on a quarter section of land on the Western plains pays more duty yearly on the mitts, seeks and boots necessary for the confort of his family alone than on all the implements he uses on the

## UNION THE ONLY HOPE

The farmers are in the majority in the Frairie Provinces. They have it in their spower to control the provincial law-making bodies, and, if united, to exercise a most powerful influence at Ottawa. It is only a matter of a few years till the West will have the voting strength of Canada. The only possible means of using this strength for good is by united action. The farmers have publicly declared for tariff reduction, reciprocity, government ownership and operation of the terminal elevators and of the Hidson's Hay Railway, amendments to the Hadson's Hay Railway, amendments to secure the reduction of freight rates, and to secure the reduction of freight rates, the inauguration of a chilled meat export industry and refrigerator car service under ogovernment control, and the encatment of general co-operative legislation. A small portion of these just demands will probably the granted at the present session of parliament. But the opposition of Special Frivilege is sufficient to prevent the farmers getter that the men whom they elect are pledged to fight for these demands at Ottawa. Neither the offict of these demands at Ottawa. Neither the oright to the seed of the farmers, if they really want these reforms, must see to it that they do not defeat their own object by becoming divided amongst themselves. Divided, their power is gone.

Today there are more than 10,000 miles of railway west of the Great Lakes, or more than 40 per cent. of the total railway mileage of Canada. Yet the railway commission with jurisdiction over all Canada has not a single

member from the West. Since the death of Hon. Thomas Greenway no person has been appointed to the vacancy. Eastern men can not live continually in Eastern Canada and pretend to understand Western conditions. The government evidently does not want a Western man on the commission. Why should there not be at least two members of the commission who know something of this part of fanada? What is the reason of this part of fanada?

## SPREADING INFORMATION

departure for the purpose of supplying to our readers authorative books on the leading agricultural and economic questions. It has not been a financial success, but it would have paid for itself had there been more demand for the books, and we believe another winter will recoup the loss sustained during the past winter. However, the aim in opening the book department was to distribute reliable information in a form in which it could not be supplied through the pages of The Guide. We feel that the books sold have been a great help to our readers sold have been a great help to our readers and have thus justified the expense necessitated in handling them. There have been 4,000 books sent out by our book department during the next winter. Our aim is to make our book department on the pages of our work. We hope in future to add more books to our list, so that this will be increased to at least 10,000 during the next winter. Our aim is to make our book department one of the most value able parts of our work. We hope in future to add more books to our list, so that this with the best books which they require upon all subjects. We have not advertised any books which we do not feel would be of permanent value, and we are already searching for new books and are, in tooch with the different publishers to secure a large and better list for the coming winter. With 150,000 farmers in the West seeking information upon various lines and not knowing where to secure books, we believe that this department of our work has unlimited possibilities for development and

Mr. R. L. Borden, the leader of the Opposition, in referring to the great farmers' delegation to Ottawa on the 16th of December, said in the House of Commons on the same afternoon:

'The occasion was a memorable one to myself, for it was the only occasion since 1896 on which I have seen the treasury benches occupied by gentlemen in whom I had the utmost confidence.'

If Mr. Borden still has confidence in the Grain Growers and the Grangers, why does be oppose the reciprocity agreement which they asked for on that, to him, memorable occasion, and which they are still asking for! Ask him when he comes west.

we often wonder if a reliable "party" man, that is one who votes for his partyupon every occasion, realizes what a small influence he has upon public affairs. He is a fixed quantity and both parties always know how he will vote. Consequently they never bother him nor ever think of justifying their public actions to him. On the other hand the man who puts principle above party receives most careful attention from politicians of both parties. He is the independent thinker and it is such men as he who turn the elections every time. The blight of party is the darkest shadow in civilized lands.

The farmers of Canada have quit grumbling about the weather and are complaining of the wrongs which they are suffering at the hands of selfah politicians and the Barons of Special Privilege. They could not change the weather, but they can change the unjust economic, social and political conditions which at present prevail.

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