

BIG DEPUTATION OF FARMERS.

On Friday, a large number of grain growers will journey to Ottawa to present their demands to the Government. The Western representatives may number 400. Mr. R. McKenzie, representative of the Western Grain Growers' Association, states that among the recommendations to be made to the Government is one that the terminal elevators at Port Arthur and Fort William be taken over and conducted as a public utility. They will also advocate the Government construction, ownership and operation of the proposed Hudson Bay Railway.

In regard to the tariff, Mr. McKenzie says that a demand would be made for an immediate increase of the preference on British goods to fifty per cent. with a stated annual increase until free trade with Britain is obtained. The farmers desired no reciprocal preference in return, the Canadian farmer wanted only the continuance of the open door for Canadian farm products. He demanded an increase of the preference for his own good, and as a logical step toward free trade as it is in Britain. The request will also be made for reciprocity in natural products and timber, and for free trade in agricultural implements with the United States. This, it is felt, would be a great boon to the Canadian farmer both as to buying and selling; it would enable him to get his implements and farm equipment cheaper and to sell his wheat for more, as farmers claim the prices of wheat in Minneapolis range from eight to ten cents per bushel more than the market price in Winnipeg. A general reduction will also be asked in all custom duties, and especially on woollens, cottons, sugar, cement, iron and leather manufactures.

Mr. McKenzie stated the farmers would suggest as a means of supplementing the possible decrease in revenue which might ensue as a result of the freer trade policy, the gradual introduction of the taxation of the values of coal, timber, mineral, agricultural and urban lands to absorb for public purposes a portion of the enormous unearned increments now enriching speculators.

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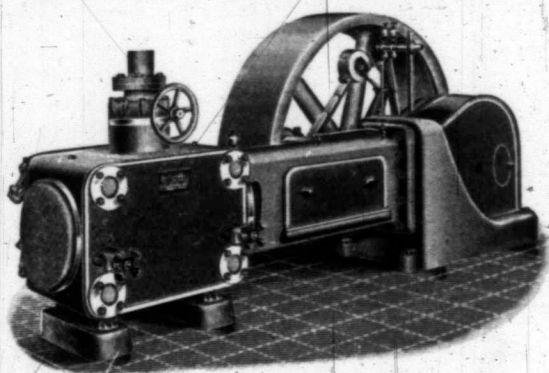
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