

one is to be held shortly. Free wheat, it is learned, was one of the subjects of discussion, and the government is always willing to give an ear to what its supporters fresh from the constituencies have to say. The predominant sentiment is said to be distinctly against the proposal to make Canadian wheat and flour free in order that the countervailing duty imposed by the Underwood tariff against the Canadian product may be lifted. At the same time it is recognized that a certain sentiment in favor of the proposed change exists in the West. Western Conservatives in the House have among them representatives who favor the proposal, but they have been saying very little about it in public. In the caucus yesterday, a certain number are said to have advocated the government taking down the barriers. On the other hand there is the strong argument that free wheat is but the reincarnation of the Reciprocity principle so overwhelmingly rejected at the elections in 1911, and the objections then urged against the diversion of Canadian trade and the building up of the great milling industries in the American West, to the detriment of Canadian railroads, apply with equal force. Unless things change materially between now and the time of the budget speech next month, it is said that there will be no change in the tariff respecting wheat or any other vital part of the customs schedules. At a time when, owing to the temporary depression, the revenues are falling off, the general view is that it is peculiarly inopportune to make any tariff revision downwards or any adjustments whatever which would be calculated to affect the staple industries of the country. In past months some of these establishments have had a hard time in view of predominant conditions—decreasing business, tight money and in many cases increased cost of production. It, consequently, is little to be anticipated that the government will make any vital alterations in the customs rates, especially of a character

GRAIN GROWERS NOT OPERATING GOVERNMENT ELEVATORS

At the Annual Meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Company in November last, it was announced to the shareholders that the Manitoba Government had cancelled the lease of the government elevators, under which they were being operated by the Grain Growers' Grain Company. The cancellation takes effect on August 31, 1914. It was announced at the time that the board of directors would deal with the matter further. The Directors have decided that as the operation of these elevators has not resulted profitably, that they will not enter into negotiations for the renewal of the lease.

calculated to remove from them that stability which is regarded as an essential condition."

Up to the Farmers

There is not much hope for tariff relief in this evidently inspired statement. While apparently a bit worried over the situation, as it affects the West, the disposition of the government at the present time is to cling to the big interests of the East. There may be a change of viewpoint before another session comes round, but much will depend upon the steps which are taken by the farmers themselves to impress the matter upon the government.

Judging from the statements quoted above, the assertion that the government is about to yield and bring about a reduction of the duties on agricultural implements this session is to be taken with a grain of salt. There is a general disposition to believe that the duties will be sliced from two and a half to five per cent. at the next session of Parliament rather than at the present one. A practical politician, in discussing this aspect of the question with the correspondent of The Guide, remarked that if the duties were cut this year, the farmers would be back next winter for more. He believed that a better political effect would be secured by doing nothing until the pre-election

session. Just at present matters relating to the tariff are at an absolute standstill because of the illness of Hon. W. T. White, minister of finance. Mr. White underwent an operation about ten days ago. His subsequent condition was such as to alarm his physicians for a few days. He is now understood to be rapidly improving, but it may be some time before he is in a condition to attend the House or transact business. In the meantime all tariff matters must rest in abeyance, while the possibility of changes being made before the delivery of the budget speech will be materially reduced.

Laurier Against Titles

The supposedly Democratic House of Commons decided by practically a unanimous vote to despatch the bill introduced by J. H. Burnham, of West Peterboro, to do away with titles in Canada. Mr. Burnham, in moving the second reading, explained that he had no intention of interfering with the prerogative of the Sovereign to confer distinction upon people worthy of it, but he thought that in a Democratic country like Canada there was no reason why the government representing the people should make recommendations. Such a condition, he said, was not in keeping with the principles of true democracy. One objection to the present system was that many people who might be worthy of receiving honor

are too poor to accept titles. Then there was the danger of the barter and sale of titles, such as it is claimed has developed in England.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster said that while he considered himself to be a good democrat, he thought that titles were a good thing. They were a proper reward for public service meritoriously performed. Of course mistakes were made even by Kings, but this, perhaps, could not be avoided.

The only bearer of a title to speak was Sir Wilfrid Laurier and, curiously enough, he took the democratic view. "There is no doubt," he said, "that the title which I bear is a relic of feudal times." While approving of the principle of the bill, Sir Wilfrid said it would not do for the Canadian Parliament to pass this bill, as this body does not have anything to do with the granting of titles. The proper way to proceed would be for the House to pass an address to the King, asking for the discontinuance of the practice. When the motion for the second reading was put, there were not enough members in favor of it to demand a division of the house.

Another interesting discussion of the week resulted from the motion for second reading of Robt. Bickerdike's bill to abolish capital punishment in Canada. Mr. Bickerdike made a strong speech against the present practice of demanding a life for a life, but was able to convince only a small number of the members of the House that a change in our criminal practice is desirable at the present time. His most prominent supporter was Hon. Geo. P. Graham, who said that as a minister of the crown, he had always disliked being called upon to deal with questions involving a human life. Probably the most interesting suggestion made during the debate was one advanced by Charles Wilson, Liberal member for Laval, who, in the course of an extensive criminal practice has defended fifteen alleged murderers, only one of whom he

Continued on Page 32

Special Privilege Arithmetic
Addition

\$1,000,000 Cash

\$2,000,000 Water

Result = 3,000,000 Capital Stock

Either Political Party

Substantial Campaign Fund

Result = Servile Politicians

42 Magnates

Special legislation

Result = Plutocracy

25 Newspapers

Political subsidy

Result = Public opinion misled

