

Wheat Growers Must Demand That Help Which Only Government Officials, Congress and Railroads Can Give

1. They Must Have an Adequate Tariff.

2. They Must Have Export Rates Adjusted to Meet Canadian Rates.

3. They Must Cut the Wheat Acreage 20 to 25 Per Cent.

Then They Can Sell Wheat on a Domestic Basis at Prices on a Par With Other Domestic Prices

MUCH has been written and much more has been said about the American wheat farmer and the condition he faces as a result of low price for his wheat in the face of continued high prices for everything he buys.

Unfortunately, a great deal of this writing and talking has been wide of the mark, much of it based upon the fond hope that the general level of prices will somehow come down to the level of farm prices.

In the judgment of *The Omaha Bee*, the expectation of a fall of general price levels is worse than a fond hope, it is a mistake. Every indication points to the continuance of the present increased standard of living.

Time for Farm Inventory.

The farmer must stop planting and marketing blindly. He must build his activities upon the same foundation as the manufacturer.

High prices for manufactured products, high wages for industrial workers are good for the farmer—if he will but organize to put his product on the same high level.

The manufacturer operates behind the security of an adequate tariff, and properly so. Industrial labor operates behind the security of a restricted immigration law, and properly so.

The plain duty of the farmer, especially the wheat farmer, is to go and do likewise.

What Must Be Done.

This, then, is the program urged by *The Omaha Bee*:

1. An adequate tariff.
2. Readjustment of freight rates for the purpose of giving a lower rate for export wheat.
3. Reduction by 20 to 25 per cent of the wheat acreage.
4. Serious consideration to be given to the suggestion of Secretary Wallace of the Department of Agriculture looking to the organization, under federal control, of a corporation to handle export wheat.

The effect of these steps will be to put wheat on a domestic basis. The sale prices in the American markets will then be on the same foundation as the sale of manufactured goods—those products which the farmer buys.

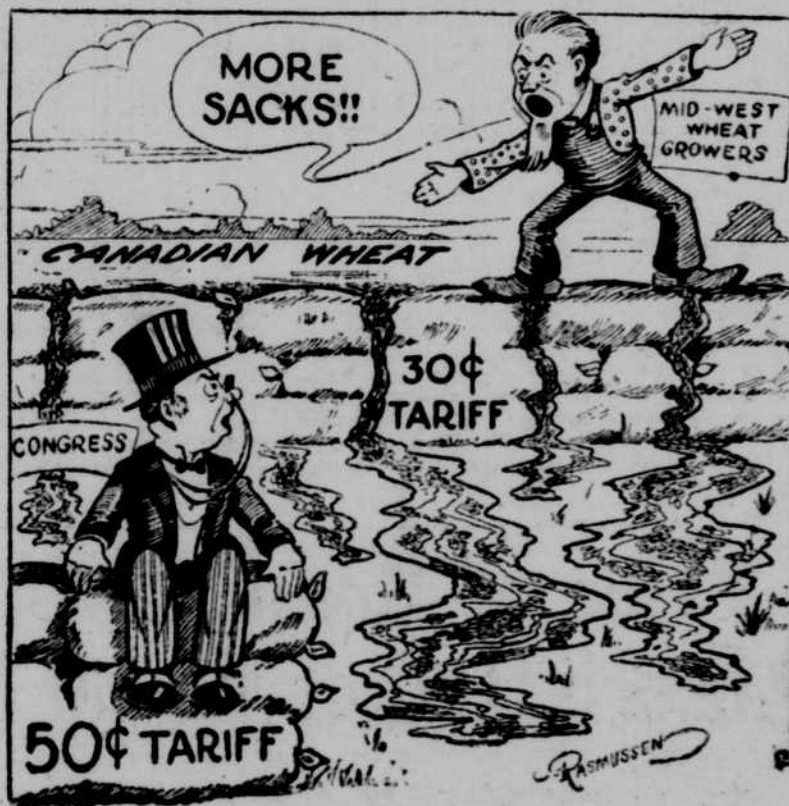
Menace of Surplus.

The heavy hand which now rests on the American farmer is the wheat surplus. Not only the surplus raised in our own country, but the surplus raised in Canada, the surplus in Argentina, in Australia, in all the countries of the world, including Russia, which is rapidly reaching an export basis.

Lower export rates are essential, but these will not cure the difficulty nor raise the heavy hand of the surplus unless there is an adequate tariff to keep the surplus raised in other countries from pouring over our borders.

Tariff to Protect Home Market.

Reduced acreage is essential, but we can cut our wheat crop in half and still we will face the surplus of the world, unless there is an adequate tariff to keep it out.



When water comes over the levee the only way to keep it out is to raise the barrier by piling sacks of sand. The barrier against the wheat from Canada must have "more sacks."

An export corporation, established by the federal government, could handle the American wheat for export, but the American wheat farmer would continue at a disadvantage, would still be compelled to sell at world prices unless an adequate tariff is provided for his protection in the same manner as an adequate tariff is provided for the protection of the American manufacturer.

To Establish Independent Prices.

Give the American wheat farmer an adequate tariff, give him lower export freight rates and cut the wheat acreage, and his wheat will sell on a domestic basis, at a domestic price.

Then the American wheat farmer can absorb the higher wages for farm labor, can pay fair domestic freight rates, can farm profitably on his higher priced lands, can pay the high prices now required for everything he buys. Then we will see our splendid American prosperity spread out over our western farms. Then we will have achieved that greatest need of the nation, a happy, prosperous, contented family in every farm home.

Not Matter of Credit.

Co-operative organizations among the farmers are valuable, but they cannot bring full relief. Adequate credit facilities are essential, but more than credit is needed. Credit is of small value when wheat is selling below the cost of production. Credit disappears in bankruptcy when there is no profit on the farm.

Let us look at some of the facts.

The total world wheat crop in 1923, excluding Russia, is estimated at 3,400,000,000 bushels. This exceeds the 1922 production by 300,000,000 bushels and is greater by 500,000,000 bushels than the pre-war production.

Before the world war Russia exported annually about 164,000,000 bushels. It will not be many years until Russian wheat is again in the world markets, at probably an even greater export level.

Canada's Crop Is Problem.

Canada produced during the prewar years 1909-13 an average of 197,000,000 bushels of wheat a year. During 1923 Canada had increased its production to 470,000,000 bushels. This production will be still further increased. The Dominion government is following a consistent policy of attracting immigrants to her western wheat growing provinces.

At the time of the extension of the Canadian railroads into western Canada the dominion government gave them large cash subsidies and land grants and in return demanded and secured the present low rates to the head of the lakes.

Local and short haul rates in Canada, as is shown on another page of this issue, are as high, and in some instances higher, than rates in the United States for similar distances.

Canada has only about 9,000,000 inhabitants, yet her farms produce a wheat crop greater than half the American production. We have a population to feed 12 times as large.

Canadian wheat, therefore, must be exported.

Keep Out Surplus.

The wheat production in the United States in 1923, including carry over in the form of both wheat and flour, is estimated at 893,000,000 bushels and it is estimated that of this we exported between 130,000,000 and 140,000,000 bushels.

Thus, it is self-evident that we must keep out the surplus from other countries, especially from Canada, from which country it could most easily be dumped across the border, were there no tariff to prevent it, and we must eliminate our own surplus by reducing our acreage.

In spite of the best laid plans, however, surplus wheat will be raised in the United States, therefore, the need for lower export rates to meet similar export rates in Canada.

What Figures Prove.

Attention is called to the special articles on the wheat tariff, the export rates, the reduction of acreage and other phases of the wheat farmers' problem that appear in this issue of *The Omaha Bee*.

It will be well for wheat farmers to keep this issue as a permanent record in order that they may have before them at all times the chief facts upon which their future prosperity depends, as well as the steps necessary to be taken to insure that this prosperity will be achieved at an early date, and once achieved, permanently maintained.

The data in this review of the wheat farmer's condition are gathered from various sources, including government reports, market reviews, and the record of freight rates from both Canadian and American railroads.