

SHARE THE FAULT.

There is every indication that with plenty of grain ready for the market and even with money in the bank, many people in Western North Dakota will suffer great hardship before spring. Stores are short of stock, work of all kinds is suspended, men and women thrown out of employment and many people face to face with want and cold. For ten days many towns have been reduced to depend upon the express companies to bring in the food which is doled out from day to day to keep the wolf from the door. Fuel cannot be had in many localities until Gov. Burke interceded in behalf of the freezing people. Every day it is becoming harder to get the food to nourish life and the fuel to keep the icy grip of winter from closing about hundreds of prosperous, frugal and industrious citizens. Railroading is becoming harder and harder and more uncertain.

Why this condition? Nobody knows. It is suspected that the roads of the country are in collusion to bring the rate bill into ill-repute. All such conjectures may take the form of belief but the people can know nothing of the real reasons in North Dakota. Why? Because the railroad commission, clothed with ample power to control the roads with-

in the state and know what they can do and what they cannot do, have been recreant to the trust placed in them by the people. They have sat idly by and watched the traffic of the state become paralyzed either by the stupidity of traffic managers or willful mismanagement. There is no reason why the state was brought to its present pass, the ordinary provisions for winter in the surplus of fuel and food would have prevented the present and future suffering.

It is for the railroad commissioners to explain why they have not used the power of their office to at least attempt the relief of the people of the state. Gov. Burke can relieve them; why not the commissioners. The roads have moved heaven and earth to comply with Burke's request and why should not they pay some attention to the commands of this commission. The answer is simple; they own the commissioners and they do not own Burke. They fear him.

If the commissioners cannot clear their skirts from contributing to the present situation by wilful negligence, they should be impeached and removed from office. The people of the state should see to it that it is done.—Valley City Times-Record.