

# EVIDENCE.

## THE OPERATION OF THE TARIFF ON THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

SIR,—The Committee appointed by the House of Commons to enquire into and report upon the operation of the Tariff on the Agricultural Interests of the Dominion, address to you the following questions, to which they hope you will give careful consideration, and favor the Committee with a prompt reply:—

1. Would it be in the interest of agriculturists in Canada to admit any or all kinds of American farm produce free of duty? If so, why?

2. What has been the effect of the imposition of a duty on American Indian corn and other coarse grains upon the price of coarse grains in your section of country? Specify as to oats, rye, corn, barley and pease separately.

3. What has been the effect produced upon the price of wheat and flour by the duties imposed on these articles coming from the United States? Specify the effect on the different classes of spring and fall wheat?

4. What has been the effect of the increased duties on live hogs, dried hams, bacon and lard, upon the average price of these articles in the Canadian market?

5. Have the increased duties imposed on horses and other live stock improved the market price by giving the Canadians the home market, especially in Manitoba and the North-West?

6. Do you find it profitable to breed horses, and how do the profits compare with the profits on other stock, and where do you find your principal market for horses—in the United States or Manitoba?

7. Can the Canadian farmer raise profitably all the grain required to fatten his stock? Or would it pay better to import American corn?

8. Is the market for vegetables, poultry, eggs and butter, improved through the effect of the present Tariff?

9. Would the Canadian farmer be benefited by a Reciprocity Treaty with the United States? If so, are we in a better position to negotiate such a Treaty with the present Tariff, or when American produce was admitted free?

10. What is the effect of the Tariff on the price of wool.

11. What effect, if any, has the Tariff upon the cultivation of flax, tobacco and sugar beet?

12. Is the cost of farm implements increased or decreased under the present Tariff, and is the quality as good? Specify articles.

13. Are woollens, cottons and hardware in common used amongst farmers increased or otherwise in price by the Tariff? If so, specify article or articles, and extent of increase, if any.

14. Has the home market for farm produce been on the whole increased and improved by the operation of the Tariff? If so, how?

15. Has the present Tariff given diversity of employment and other encouragement to our various industrial classes, and thereby retarded emigration to the United States, or encouraged Canadians to return to this country?

16. Is there an increased tendency for the investment of capital in farm property under the present Tariff? And have farm lands increased or decreased in value since 1878; and why?