

A NEW MARKET FOR PRODUCE FROM CANADIAN FARMS

A Synopsis of the new United States Tariff Regulations and a Forecast of what they may mean to the Canadian Producer.

THE Underwood Tariff Bill has become law. One stroke of President Wilson's pen has opened the heretofore highly protected markets of the United States to the Canadian farmer, his products going in either free or at very moderate duties. To compensate the United States farmer, the government gives him his implements, harness, boots and shoes and many other articles of common use, free of duty. Likewise he will benefit by material reductions in the duties on iron and steel goods, woolen and cotton fabrics and clothing.

Canadian live stock men will be the first to benefit by the new regulations, as they will be seen by the following comparison of top prices on the Toronto and Buffalo markets at the end of last week, previous to the signing of the bill.

Table with columns: New U.S. Duties and Old as Former U.S. New U.S. Article Duty. Duty. Includes items like Cattle, Horses, Poultry, Sheep, Barley, Beans, Buckwheat, Corn, Oats, Peas, Eye, Wheat, Bran, and various fruits and vegetables.

parts of Western Ontario can ship more cheaply to Buffalo than to Toronto. Cattle men of Western Canada have been using the Chicago market steadily in spite of the duty.

Dairymen, too, will benefit by the new regulations. Milk and cream, formerly taxed at two cents an imperial quart, now passes the border free of duty. This will be of great advantage to dairymen living near the border who have had a lucrative trade in cream with the United States in spite of the old duty. Butter and cheese, formerly taxed at six cents a pound, now enter at two and one-half cents. Expectations of the passing of the bill have bolstered up the butter market at Montreal for

Table with columns: They Affect Farm Produce Former U.S. New U.S. Article Duty. Duty. Includes items like Apples, peaches, plums, berries, grapes, citrus fruits, potatoes, turkeys, cream, butter, cheese, beef, and pork.

*These are countervailing duties which will be removed when the duty that Canada imposes on the same products coming from the U.S. are removed.

some weeks and large stocks at the present time are being held by United States dealers in storage at Montreal. Instead of being dumped on the Canadian market, this butter will now cross the line. It will raise in cheese prices is all the way from the tariff to cents in favor of the American market, and this difference should have an influence in brightening the somewhat dull Canadian cheese business in Canada at the present time. In fact, considerable cheese has been going from Western Ontario points to the other side at the old rate of six cents a pound.

The United States has given us an opportunity to meet them half way on the wheat question. As long as we continue to collect customs duties on United States wheat coming into Canada, they will levy a tax of six cents a bushel on Canadian wheat entering United States. As soon, however, as we untax their wheat, Canadian wheat may enter the United States markets free. Last year our dutiable imports of bread stuffs from the United States amounted to \$2,926,167, while our exports totaled \$10,802,800. United States mills need Canadian hard wheat for blending with the soft wheats of the United States. Grain Growers' Associations are already urging that the Canadian government do away with the present duty on wheat, which is of no advantage to them and thus give them free entry to their nearest and best market.

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits that will be bestowed on the Canadian farmer by these new regulations is that he will always be sure of a stable market. Slight increases in shipments of any line of farm produce are liable to glut Canadian markets. There is much less danger of a glut where the Canadian producer has a choice of two markets and of them with 90,000,000 people. The table on this page gives the new old rates imposed on articles that directly interest the farmer.

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These prices will probably even up the Buffalo prices coming down somewhat and the Toronto prices moving up to meet them. There is likewise a danger that Canadian dealers who have been buying heavily on the expectation of free entry to the Buffalo market may ship too heavily and cause a mold glut; but in the long run the live stock man is bound to benefit. The consuming population of the United States has increased by many millions in the last 13 years, but in that time the number of cattle other than dairy has decreased from 1,500,000 to 360,000 head.



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