

## TAX THE UNITED STATES FARMER.

I will venture to say that there is one thing we can do which would teach the United States how intimately their interests depend on the maintenance of good relations with their best customers, and that is the imposition of such a tax. One thing is very certain. You will not produce any material effect on United States politics by taxing the manufacturers. If you want to hit the United States you must hit the United States farmer by putting a tax on the food he exports to Great Britain. Do that, and the advocates of protection and excessive tariffs would have no status. They have spent close upon two generations in telling the farmer that the producer pays the duty. Tax all the food products of all countries, and there is no doubt that the prices would go up; tax them from one country alone, and the producer cannot escape being burdened. The question is whether the producer has any other market to go to. In the case of the United States farmer there is no other market. France and Germany are closed to him by high tariffs, and Russia is practically closed also.

## WOULD GIVE BRITAIN CONTROL.

Remember, this is one of the cases in which the prices received for foreign exports regulate the prices at home, and if once the United States farmer finds he loses ten per cent. of his gross profits by taxes on food products sold to England, and loses thirty per cent. of the net profits he expected to make, and is also taxed exceedingly heavily on the goods purchased in exchange, there is little doubt that the people of Great Britain would get reciprocity with the people of the United States. I do not pretend to say that the experiment will not be attended with risks. It must be done cautiously, moderately and discreetly, though most assuredly in the light of their own example, the United States can have no fault to find with England if this is done. My own opinion is that they will respect her all the more if she does it. Canada can help. Such a policy would be a practical adoption of our own British preference, and the preferential policy generally.