

Eastern Farmers Also for Tariff Reduction.

Editor of The Farmer's Advocate:

In view of the persistent attempts to misrepresent the anti-protectionist attitude which the farmers of the West have so vigorously manifested during the recent tour of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as a purely local affair, the outcome of local conditions, and unsupported by the farmers of the East, I have been instructed by the Executive of the Grange to issue a statement defining our position. In doing so, I speak with authority, for the attitude of the Grange on this question is a settled policy, consistently followed through years, and unanimously supported by the organization. That it has the support of the unorganized farmers of Ontario, as well, is sufficiently shown by the fact that the agricultural press unanimously support it and that no dissenting voice has been raised by anyone following general farming in Ontario.

Emphatically, the farmers of Ontario and, I believe, of Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces, stand with the farmers of the West in their demand for real and substantial tariff reduction. That they have not voiced it so strongly has been due to the fact that they have not had the same opportunity. Had Sir Wilfrid toured Ontario during the past summer, as he did the West, he would have met with the same emphatic protests of farmers against the continuance of the protective system. In 1905, representatives from the Grange and Farmers' Association met the Tariff Commission many times, and always with the same demand for lower tariff. Since then it has supported the same demand by deputations to Ottawa, when a too complaisant Government showed symptoms of yielding to the pressure of protected interests. It stands to day even more firmly for the same thing, and when the organized farmers of all Canada send their deputations to Ottawa at the opening of the next session, the voice of Ontario will be heard with no uncertain sound.

The present tariff is indefensible on any ground. It is not, whatever may be said to the contrary, a revenue tariff, but rather a protective tariff, with revenue as an incidental. No one doubts this. It is so constructed that its highest rates are imposed on those things manufactured in Canada, while its free list is largely made up of raw material for manufacturers, and of those things not made in Canada. Much greater revenue, with less burden upon the people, could be obtained by a tariff stripped of its protective features.

Protection may be defended as a means whereby "infant industries" may be fostered, but this defence cannot be applied to the case of Canada now. Our industries have long passed the "infant" stage, and our Manufacturers' Association can boast, and with reason, of their power to "make the grass grow on the streets of every town in Canada." The tendency in manufacturing concerns now is plainly toward centralization, and it is safe to say that any new concern starting business now would meet with opposition from home manufacturers more to be dreaded than any from abroad, even under absolute free trade. There is little doubt that, under the cover of the tariff, many understandings and combinations exist among our manufacturers, and that these are used to restrain expansion, and to crush weaker rivals. Protection in Canada is now defeating the end for which it was created.

Protection in Canada is of very little value in raising the wages of the working man, while it works him real injury in raising the cost of his living. Protected manufacturers show no disposition to pay any higher wages than can be helped, and there are cases on record where great manufacturing concerns, able, in at least one case, to pay 50 per cent. dividends on the cost of its common stock, have cut wages mercilessly on the first indication of a depression.

But it is in its relation to the farming class that the disastrous effect of the tariff is most keenly felt. For some years, those of us who insisted that the farming class were not prospering as they should, were laughed at. We were told that the continual decrease in farming population was not due to any lack of prosperity, but to the fact that "those who used to swing the cradle and bind the grain were now in the factories making binders." Then, last winter, when a decided shortage of farm products became apparent, quite a furor of excitement was created, and all sorts of investigations were proposed. Since then the farmer has been treated, gratis, to a great deal of advice given, however, by those who never farmed; as to how he should use his opportunities. The fact is that the farmer is using his opportunities as best he can. He has made wonderful progress in learning new methods, as the history of our Farmers' Institute will show. He has shown surprising aptitude in adapting himself to new conditions. He is, however, handicapped by lack of capital, and in this connection it is well to note the effect of the tariff. It is well within the limit to say that our protective tariff, directly and indirectly, costs the average farmer \$200, or the interest on \$1,000, per year. For this he receives nothing. It is this handicap which is preventing the farmer from expanding his

business, and which is driving population from our farms. The Conservation Commission has done good service in pointing out the national danger in depleted soil fertility. It should go a little further, and point out the national danger in depleted farm population, with its chief cause, our protective tariff.

For every reason, of justice, of expediency, of national well-being, the time is ripe for the disappearance of protectionism. The only classes in Canada who really want it to continue are those interests which profit by it, and the politicians, who, for reasons of party expediency, do their bidding. The people, and particularly the farmers, are united in their desire that it shall go. There are not wanting signs that it is going.

Let all means let there be a Tariff Commission, but let it go farther than the last one did. Let it go through the country and hear what the different classes have to say about the tariff. But, before it begins its investigations, let this rule be made, and strictly adhered to: Let every class or industry asking for any tariff favors be required to furnish sworn statements as to their organization, profits, capitalization and industrial methods. This is plain justice. If the country is asked to burden itself for the benefit of any industry, it is but right that it should know what profits it is paying, what its organization is, whether it is honestly capitalized, and whether it is following up-to-date methods of manufacture. Let the information thus acquired be given the widest publicity. If this rule is followed, my own belief is that there will be revealed a surprising oneness of feeling in favor of tariff reduction.

In regard to the proposed arrangement with the United States for freer trade in farm products and agricultural implements, the farmers of this country have everything to gain, and nothing to lose by it. The organized farmers of both Ontario and the West have long since renounced all desire for protection on their products, which experience has shown to be of no value to them. To be admitted on better terms to the great cities of the Republic would certainly be of great value to us. Our Government need have no fear of opposition from the farmers in arranging the fullest measure of reciprocity with the United States.

E. C. DRURY,

Master, Dominion Grange, and Secretary National Council of Agriculture.

HORSES

Stabling for Colts.

If the colt is to grow into the most that is expected of him, every attention must be given to his healthy development. It is not sufficient that he be well sired, and from a useful dam, nor that he be well nurtured, though both of these things are essential. Of equal importance with either of these are fresh air and exercise. During the first five or six months of a colt's life, while running with his dam at pasture, there is no need of giving special attention to these features. But when winter sets in, there is great danger of neglecting these necessities, either through intentional but misjudged kindness, or forgetfulness. Frequently the colt is housed in a box stall, in a

basement barn or other equally warmly-made place, into which the drinking water is piped, and, as a consequence, since there is no need for turning the colt out, he remains there for a week at a time, and often longer. The intention is good, but the treatment is not. The colt does not require a warm stall. He does require a dry place, where there are not drafts; consequently, a closed shed, with a good roof, a dry place on which to lie down, provided with a liberal amount of straw bedding, so that cold from the ground will not be felt, best provides for the colt's needs. A shed of some size, providing these things, is a healthier place for colts than a warm inside box stall usually is, and has the double advantage of stimulating the colt to take exercise by being cold, while affording room in which to exercise. Such a shed should open into a large yard or small field, to which access should be had almost always, if not always. It will take a trifle more feed to so winter the colt, though so little that it will not be noticed; but, where well fed under such conditions, a hardy, healthy, growthy colt results.

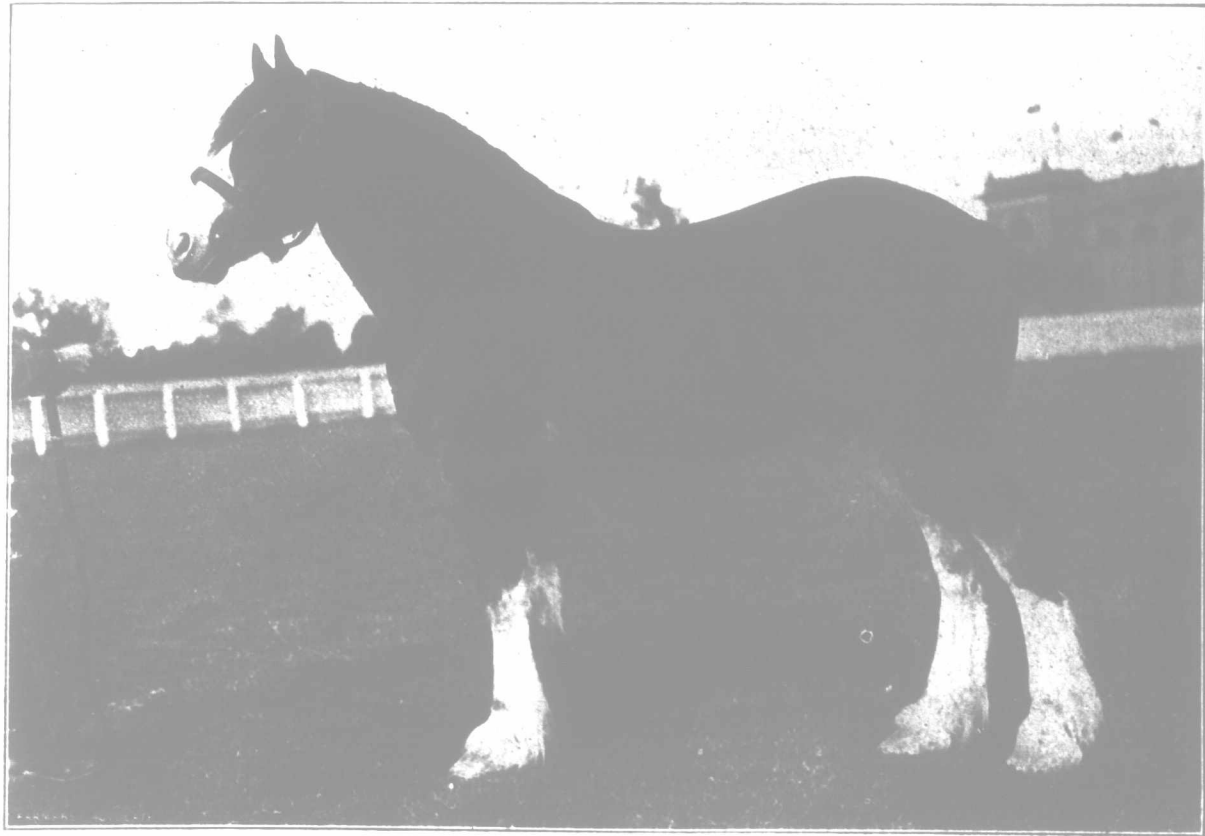
The inside box stall has several disadvantages. It is difficult to properly ventilate, for one thing, as is evidenced by the sweating walls and the swollen doors. Then, someone, because of the stuffiness of the stable, opens the door to ventilate it. The warmth and dampness results in an opening of the pores of the animal's body, and the draft from the open door is likely to produce a cold. If water is piped into the stable, the colt is not likely to be turned out for exercise; while, if the colt is turned out from a warm stable for water, this, too, is likely to produce colds, yet, since the stall itself offers no opportunity for exercise, the only manner of obtaining this necessary feature is by turning the colt out every day for an hour or two. In truth, warmth is a very secondary consideration in providing for the colt in winter, which the colt itself readily meets with its long, thick coat; while fresh air and exercise, with plenty of good food, are of primary importance.

Horse Improvement By Law.

About four years ago, a pretty thorough canvass of the status of the horse-breeding industry of the Province of Ontario was made by sixteen representative men for the Ontario Government. These men were selected for this purpose because of their close connection with the industry, and their consequent ability to interpret the needs of it, after a close inspection. All of these men, with perhaps one exception, in their reports recommended, as a desirable step on the part of the Provincial Government, that a Stallion Enrollment Act be made law in this Province.

What would be accomplished by such a law? That depends upon the law, but wherever these laws pertain, the stallion with unsoundnesses the tendency to which is hereditary, such as curb, side-bones, ringbones, spavins, periodic ophthalmia, and such like, is so labeled by competent authorities, and the unknowing breeders are either protected entirely from the evils consequent upon the use of such a sire, or are at least informed of his unsoundnesses before using him.

It must be admitted that by no means is every



Glenavon [11467].

Second prize three-year-old Clydesdale stallion at Toronto and Ottawa, 1910. Property of Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont. Sire Baron of Bopdan.