

Waterloo County and the Tariff

C. H. Shub, Waterloo Co., Ont. As yet it seems almost too early to say much about the effects of the new Underwood Tariff. The man who produces beef, pork, mutton, poultry, and dairy products should benefit by it to some extent. Prices for most food products are higher in the United States than here, and if our products can enter free a market with a population of 90,000,000 people, we need have no fear in not having a ready market.

But whether the farmer will benefit by it or whether the middleman will get advantage of the margin, remains to be seen. Cooperation in producing and marketing seems to be the only way open at present for the farmer to get what rightly belongs to him. Under here quite a lot of feeders had sold and put in stockers, and immediately after the signing of the bill by President Wilson prices took an upward jump. We expect to break even next spring when we sell.

All kinds of dairy products are expected to strengthen if we allow the law of supply and demand to adjust itself. In Waterloo County we are not as directly affected as those living near the border.

Few Radical Changes Expected

W. F. Stephen, Huntington Co., Que. There is no appreciable difference as yet on dairy conditions here. The bulk of the cream has gone to the United States for some time, especially when butter prices were higher in the United States than in Canada. It will continue to be shipped across. We are looking for a considerable amount of milk being shipped to New York City in the near future. The Berden Condensers have lately fitted up their plant here with pasteurizer, cooler, and bottler, and are putting up milk for city trade with a de-

livering depot in Montreal, there as yet a limited amount of milk is being handled. It is considered likely that a large part of their output will go to New York. If so, the prices paid to the farmers will have to go up. As Montreal prices are about as high as New York, we are not looking for any very great advance in the price of milk produced for that market, though it will give a wider markets.

Prices Better all Round

C. M. Macvic, Mulltlesee Co., Ont. The farmers of this locality, with few exceptions, are possessed of a more independent feeling as a result of the opening of the United States market. They can dictate a little higher prices for their cattle, milk, cream, sheep and poultry.

They have no additional advantage in purchases of machinery, such as they would have received under the proposed agreement of 1911 and the question arises whether the protective tariff that still walls in the manufacturers will not enable them to increase the cost of machinery to the farmers to offset the higher cost of living due to the wider markets and increased price of what the farmer sells.

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS HIGHER

There is almost evident another result in relation to the farmer who has been buying finished cattle. Stockers as well as finished cattle will be increased, but that spread will be no greater, if as great, as formerly between the classes. The capital investment will be much higher and the feeder will have smaller profits than formerly. The tendency will be to increase the production of stockers on the farm where they will be finished.

I can see no great advantage over late prices in the hog market except that this will be steadier. Free meats will give the packers here a wider market and should have some effect in stopping those fluctuations in hogs said to be due to the reduction in price in the English market.

The new tariff has given results already. One dealer near here bought in anticipation a number of cattle and his sale of these two days before the tariff to an American buyer, cleared him a net gain of over \$1,000. You can't blame him for being enthusiastic over the removal of the duty.

Withdrawal of U. S. Duties a Help

R. B. Sloan, Huron Co., Ont. The recent change in the United States tariff will have the effect of somewhat firmer prices for Canadian farm products, such as cattle and grain. So far cattle are very much more in demand than they have been for some time. This occurred even before the duty was removed. American buyers were through this section of the country looking for beef cattle as well as stockers.

The prices were also better than they have been for a considerable length of time, so the producer in this case is getting a better return for his cattle than before the duty was removed.

The general opinion is that the price of swine and sheep, especially the former, will not be changed much while dairy products and grain will be somewhat firmer in demand and therefore will be a little higher in price. In some occasions when sheep will be shipped to American markets, but on the whole the market through time will equalize in the two countries.

The price of calves will be much higher here than before the duty was removed. On the whole, it is thought that the recent change in the tariff will be a great benefit to Canadian producers, though it is somewhat premature to tell exactly.

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