

to 1880. It is true that the South had tariff protection ever since the war and up to 1880, but the old free trade sentiment and old Bourbon spirit was so largely in the ascendant there that advantage was not taken of that protection until the time mentioned, while in Canada from the inception of the National Policy manufactures began springing into existence, until at this time we are largely and well prepared to manufacture at home a very large proportion of all the requirements of the country, and fast getting into position to produce quite as great a variety of goods, and of equal merit, as is being done by American manufacturers in their country. As soon as Southern farmers discovered that a large and growing demand for a large variety of farm products had sprung up in their local markets, the consumers being the employes and others engaged in or interested in the new manufacturing enterprises, they diversified their crops, and although the production of cotton there is as large now as ever before, but on which the cotton planters can realize their money but once a year, the diversified products of the farm bring ready and remunerative prices every day in the year when the farmer sees fit to market them.

And it is in this manner that the Southern farmer profits largely by the contiguity of factories and workshops throughout his country, and it is and will be through the demand for similar products for home consumption, arising through the large numbers of consuming operatives and employes of Canadian manufacturing industries, that Canadian farmers derive and will continue to derive similar benefits.

THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE MEETINGS.

JUDGING from appearances the inference is plain that an organized scheme is being made to stifle free discussion at the so called farmers meetings engineered by the Central Farmer's Institute. In the first place the meetings have certainly not been representative, and the attendance at each has comprised but a microscopical percentage of the resident farmers in the counties in which such meetings have been held. This may be accounted for by the supposition that the large majority of the farmers are loyal to Canada and her institutions, and refuse by their presence to give countenance to what is looked upon as an unhealthy agitation and one certainly calculated to prejudicially affect the diplomatic efforts of our Government to arrange such a *modus vivendi* with our neighbors as will not discriminate against Canadian interests.

The methods employed by the accomplices of Mr. Erastus Wiman are various. After drumming up every possible sympathizer they call a meeting, and if, as has happened in most cases, but a very small number are present in response to their urgent appeals, they put a resolution which is declared to be carried unanimously, and which, by the aid of the telegraph system controlled by Mr. Wiman, is wired to every part of the country, and when appearing in the columns of pro American journals, is surmounted by prominent head-lines announcing that the "farmers of the county" have pronounced in favor of Commercial Union. If, however, there should be any present at a meeting who are opposed both to the policy and the tactics sought to be endorsed, the agitator's method is to, if possible, occupy the whole time of the meeting, or in the event of a loyalist getting the floor, to subject him

to constant interruptions and insult. A few instances will suffice. About two weeks ago a meeting of the Wentworth Farmers' Institute was held in the city of Hamilton. Although Mr. Valancy Fuller, the president and chief organizer lives in the county there were but twenty-five persons present entitled to vote, (nineteen for and six against) and this number was only secured by enrolling several new members during the progress of the meeting. Mr. Fuller and Mr. Shaw each spoke twice, occupying nearly the whole sitting, but when a farmer present rose to oppose their contentions he was deliberately affronted by being told that he was drunk, and the President took no notice of the insult. Mr. E. D. Smith, of Winona, also attempted to make himself heard on behalf of Canadian interests, and casually remarked that he wished some one better posted than himself were present to discuss his side of the question, whereat Mr. Shaw interjected the insulting comment "So do I" which was followed by (laughter and applause).

Mr. Shaw is the secretary of the Central Farmers' Institute and is therefore supposed to be an impartial officer, but his conduct warrants a widely different supposition.

Another meeting was recently held at Picton, and the *Gazette* of that town informs us that the speakers against Commercial Union were so interrupted and insulted that their friends left the hall, and "that there was an organized arrangement by those favoring Commercial Union to either prevent a full and fair hearing or to nullify the effect by a fusillade of interruptions."

If the promoters of veiled annexation are of the opinion that public sentiment can be won over to their cause by such disreputable tactics they will find themselves seriously astray in their estimate of the common sense of the people, who in Canada are a reading and thinking people. Any cause which cannot bear the light has little chance of vigorous or enduring growth.

ABSOLUTE GOVERNMENTAL OWNERSHIP.

THE Inter-State Commerce bill is likely to prove another exemplification of the utter uselessness and futility of half measures of reform. Nothing short of absolute governmental ownership of railways will cure the evil, and attempts to patch up the present system will only result in making confusion worse confounded. We suppose, as the result of our railway commission's "investigations," some such alleged reform will be attempted in Canada, but, if so, it will fail to accomplish any real good.—*Labor Reformer*.

The great trouble with some people is that they cannot be content to bear the ills they know of, and try to ameliorate them, but must needs fly or want to fly to those they know not of. Instead of legislating against monopolies and enforcing the provisions of laws thus made, by usual and lawful methods, they look to a paternal government to take charge of every imaginable interest and operate them for the general good. Sometimes the craze is in the direction of uncounted issues of fiat money; othertimes it is for the organization of anti-poverty societies and the suppression of empty pockets; sometimes it manifests a desire for the Government to take charge of railroads, telegraph lines and other methods of conveyance and transportation, and again that no man shall hold any title to