

"The present movement for the adoption of a prohibitory tariff is avowedly promoted, if not solely initiated and carried on, by a few interested firms who desire to engage in the iron industry."

The British Iron Trade Association are credited with having drafted this memoranda; and it is interesting to note the fear under which British manufacturers, who have free trade, labor. They fear that protection to the iron industry in Canada would interfere with their business. As any and all Canadian manufacturing enterprises would undoubtedly advance the price of all Canadian agricultural products, through the increase of skilled labor drawn from English industries, the argument fails that free trade industries are not adversely affected by protection.

"TERGIVERSATIBUS TOGA."

It may sound somewhat strange at this time to quote the *Toronto Mail* as an advocate of protection, and to cull from its editorial pages strong reasons why protection is good for the country. A few years ago the New York Free Trade League sent out an illustrated publication entitled "The People's Pictorial Taxpayer," which contained a cartoon entitled "How the tariff robs the farmer and workingman to benefit the monopolist." Defending protection and criticising this and other free trade screeds, under the caption, "Consolations for the Protected Farmer," the *Mail* said:—

"The farmer rises in the morning tolerably refreshed. True, he has been sleeping on a bed, the sheets, blankets and mattresses of which would have been taxed from 60 to 180 per cent. had they been imported from a foreign country. But they are home made, and his dreams have not been disturbed by the free trade bugbear that 'Protection raises the price of the home manufactured article up to at least the price of the imported article, plus the import duty.' Mr. David A. Wells and other agents of the Leeds and Manchester manufacturers, once tried to frighten him with this bogey; but experience has taught him that it is only a make believe. There is an import duty of eight cents a yard on cotton sheeting, but he buys it from the cotton factory in his market town at seven cents a yard; and he sees it going to England in competition with free trade cottons. Moreover, he knows that it is to that import duty he owes the establishment of the neighboring cotton factory, whose operatives give him a profitable home market for his rotation crops. He is well satisfied with his bed. It is home made. It cost him, if anything, less than an imported article; and its manufacture has given employment to artisans who buy the products of his farm almost direct from his wagon.

"He is not alarmed because there is a heavy import duty on foreign cloths, boots and cotton shirts. His suit from head to foot is of domestic make; he thinks this is better for him than if his coat had come from the West of England, his shirt from Manchester, and his boots from Stockport.

"Breakfast over, he takes to his farm implements. Foreign implements, such as shovels, hoes, pails, churns, reapers, etc., are taxed thirty-five per cent.; and when the battle of the Morrill Tariff was being fought in the American Congress, the agents of the great Bedford and Leicester firms predicted that an import duty on their goods would ruin farming in the United States. He has discovered that this is not true; and

that Yankee farm implements have become the cheapest and best in the world.

"The farmer hears the toot of the dinner horn, and sits down to his table, nothing put out by the reflection that tin horns of foreign make are taxed about two cents each. Neither does he lose his appetite when he remembers that furniture, such as the chair he is sitting on, and the table at which he is eating, are taxed thirty-five per cent. when of foreign make. This duty has helped to establish furniture factories and to give employment to thousands of mechanics at home, and in this way has benefited him.

"After dinner he sets out for his market town, and as he journeys pities the Canadian farmer, who, as a rule, has to dispose of his produce to middlemen, who stand like a row of tax gatherers, each levying his tithe between the Kanuck farm and the foreign consumer. He enters the market town at one o'clock, and his sympathy for the Canadian farmer is deepened as he sees troops of Canadian operatives returning to these Yankee factories from their dinner. 'I wonder,' he says, 'if the Kanuck farmer ever sees crowds of Yankee operatives going to work in a Canadian factory. Guess not. Then what do free traders mean by arguing that protection, such as we Yankees are cursed with, ruins industry; while free trade, with which the Kanucks have long been blessed, builds it up and makes a nation great? If that were so, would not those active little French-Canadians be at work in Montreal, and would not our Yankee mechanics be pouring over there also?'

"By this time he has reached the store, and disposes of his tomatoes, potatoes, etc. With the money received in payment he makes his necessary purchases, and finds no small consolation in knowing that almost every dollar he pays out goes to home industries.

"He thinks this over as he travels homeward, and talks Protection *versus* Free Trade with his sons in the evening. One of them works on the farm and the others are at trades in town—Canada has no attractions for them. 'You boys are all here,' says the old man, 'and I guess it is a pretty good country, protection and all.'"

THE PRICE OF PROTECTION.

Eternal vigilance is the price of protection. Under her National Policy Canada has made remarkable advances on her road to greatness; and the men who so nobly and indefatigably served her in this great work are deserving of all praise. But the enemies of protection are vigilant and active, and to retain the policy that we now have requires all of the intelligent exertion that its friends possess. Powerful influences are working to destroy Protection. There are those whose pecuniary interests make them its enemies. There are those who study false political economy, and from it originate fine-drawn theories, and put these in antagonism with the teachings of experience and the judgment of those whose knowledge of affairs lead in another direction. These adversaries of protection are constantly at work; and they must be opposed, fought and conquered. If this is done, smoke will continue to roll out of the tall chimneys of our workshops and factories, and Canada will rank where she belongs, among the most prosperous nations of the world.