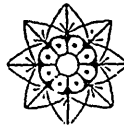


risk of seeming to trench on so quasi-political a topic as that of tariff legislation, I would again point out that our present fiscal system distinctly favours the manufacturer rather than the farmer. This may, or may not, be necessary, or even inevitable; the point with which we are here concerned is the result of this preference. There may, again, or there may not, be a detriment to agriculture involved in it; that is a question to be decided by those competent to do so. As material on which such a decision must be based, if it is to be in any way exact, a comparison might fairly be instituted between the city and the farm population of Canada using each term in its most accurate sense, of consumers and producers of the necessities of life. The proportion of each to the whole might, in such a case, be held to show a very decided preponderance in favour of the former, and might be taken as evidence that, from various causes, indiscriminate encouragement of non-agricultural immigration being not the least of them, we have built, and are building up our cities, with materials, good, bad, and indifferent, at the cost of the country as a whole. That is to say, we are accumulating wealth in a few centres, and in a comparatively few hands, without thought, not only of the possible political consequences involved in so marked a disturbance of the equilibrium of influence as between producers and consumers, farm and factory, but, what is far more fatal to our true welfare, without thought of what becomes of the toiling masses, with still less as to the latent resources of our real wealth, the untilled fields, and unploughed prairies.

F. W. GREY, Litt. D.

(To be continued.)



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