

ceedingly large amount." There blister copper of about 99 per cent. purity is turned out in cakes of about 100 pounds each.

These references by a chemist of experience to the mining activities of our Western country are valuable. Much of the news we in the East get about British Columbia and Alberta is of the "celestial rosy red" hue of the local daily newspaper, whose world, as Voltaire has it, is the best of all possible worlds. And the average writer therein is rarely known to admit that, as the Spectator said to Sir Roger, much may be said on both sides. Nevertheless, it is only by getting to know our defects, as well as our proficiency, in metallurgical or any other directions, that intelligent arrangements can be made to profit by our great resources.

\*\*\*

### FARMERS AND THE TARIFF.

The Tariff Commission, at its various sessions lately, has been the recipient of the views of not the least important section of the community affected by any changes in the tariff, namely, the farmers. It need hardly be said that the great preponderance of opinion of the agricultural body was distinctly in favor of any changes being in a downward direction. Nor is this to be wondered at. Directly at any rate, it is the farmers of Canada who have to pay perhaps most largely for any help that has been accorded by the Government for the development of the great manufacturing industries. They have paid the most, that is to say, compared with what help they have themselves received from the same source. Not that the Government, in framing its tariff schedule, has wilfully discriminated against the farmer, but simply that from the necessities of their products, with prices based largely as they are on values in outside markets thousands of miles away, it has been practically impossible to assist them in this way. Thus it comes about that while the clothes and boots they wear, and the fences and agricultural implements they use, and, generally speaking, all the articles they have to buy, are protected by more or less high rates of duties, the grain and other products which they have to sell are left unprotected. No wonder, as we said, that the farmers, as a body, are not in favor of a general raising up, but rather of a general leveling down of customs duties.

That this is far from being without exception, however, is shown by the attitude of the beet growers and tobacco raisers. The latter, as one of the ministers on the commission tersely put it, actually want a protective duty of 300 per cent., while the beet men are practically unanimously calling for a higher tariff on sugar; facts which indicate that, after all, the difference of opinion existing between some manufacturers and most farmers is one of interest, not spirit.

At the same time, to be fair, there is another side of the story which should be presented. We said that, directly speaking, the farmers are the people who have to pay most for assistance accorded to manufacturers. But against this, it may be argued that, by the development of these great manufacturing industries, there is a home market created for the farmers' produce which, for its net profitableness, is far and away ahead of that presented by exportation to Britain or any foreign country. In both the aggregate quantity of products it will absorb, and in the clear cash

it will return into the farmers' hands, the local market is, strictly speaking, infinitely superior to the other, and this is a feature that perhaps scarcely gets the recognition it deserves. The full purport of this argument is that even if the farmer does have to pay out directly more for tariff favors than he can hope to receive in return from the same source, yet indirectly, by a large local demand being thus created for his produce, he does receive a certain *quid pro quo*.

Yet we do not dispute that the farmer, as all history shows, is very apt to receive the thin end of the stick in tariff arrangements, a condition mainly brought about by his habit of isolation or separation of units as contradistinguished from that of the manufacturers who have learned the value of association and of the added weight which co-operation for a set purpose brings. The estimates of the cost of running an average farm, and of the profits accruing therefrom after paying for the necessary labor and machinery, etc., show that the farmer, considering the intelligence, skill and labor required, does not receive a sufficiently good percentage of interest on his capital invested, compared with his manufacturing brother. The work of a Government should be, as largely as can be without undue interference, to even up natural conditions as far as possible rather than render them more uneven. Now, the high protection which many of the manufacturing industries have been receiving, apart from making the farmer pay a high price for the necessities of his life and profession, has also had the effect of increasing his difficulties in carrying on business. As an illustration, take one very important item. Manufacturers, owing to the good profits accruing from their several businesses, profits only possible, on their own showing, because of the protection of a customs duty, are enabled to offer higher wages. What follows? Thousands of young men are attracted away from the farms and towards the cities, and the farmer thus has to pay an exorbitant wage for hands, a wage which the profits of the business of farming will not stand, or, what is more likely, has to get on without the help at all, to the great detriment of his whole property.

Under all these considerations, it may easily be seen what an extremely difficult task confronts Mr. Fielding and his brother commissioners in their efforts to frame a tariff which shall at one and the same time create and develop the manufacturing industries, build up a great home market, keep some degree of equipoise between the urban and rural interests, and not bear heavily on the class who, after all is said and done, are really the mainstay of Canada in more senses than appear immediately on the surface.

\*\*\*

### GROWTH AND EXPORT OF CANADIAN APPLES.

The price which good Canadian apples are bringing this year on the British markets suggests several considerations. It shows for one thing, that even in an "off-year" there is money in growing apples of good varieties in Canada. And secondly, it raises the question: What becomes of the difference between the price realized by the grower and that which the consumer in England pays? Not that the grower who has held his fruit has so very much to complain of this year in intrinsic return for his skill and labor, for \$2.50 to \$3.50 for a barrel of Greenings or Spies or

Baldwins is to sell at such tune. Even, his orchard presence between eties have be are not speak which a bu risk of buy country thre is heard that handled by th or dealer on slips through when the ma is \$5 per barr in Canada, a charges is a shippers of a have to exer mission me have to co-op ing of their tant Canadia management Canada.

Allied w eting, the go have been de pices during be a keen ne individual gr to be imbue his apples, t getting, and will be save ing by such reward for k were going Greenings an the ground under ordina But this year later were g the former f for a very li one case t ronto sold while the Now, as v in advance good profit entitled to a prove our co growers wil pitch to wh just about a of the mark time it mus sometimes h ing when judgment.

A Montre for a seat on asked, howeve tion in the co about a large profits.