

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

Persevere and
Succeed.

Established
1866.

Vol. XLIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 1, 1903.

No. 836.

EDITORIAL

TARIFF MUST NOT BE RAISED.

In view of the strong and well-organized influence exerted by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association for increased tariff protection generally, and particularly just now on behalf of the woollen and cotton industries, it behooves the agricultural class to examine very fully into the tariff question, and inform itself as to the probable effect of increase in tariff schedules that are already high enough. The duty on woollen goods entering Canada for ordinary use or wear, now ranges from 22½ up to 35 per cent, while the tariff on cotton goods is also considerable, varying according to the particular line of goods. In both woollens and cottons there are some materials admitted at less than the usual rates of duty when needed by manufacturers for conversion into more highly-finished products. In every reasonable way, therefore, textile manufacturing is assisted and promoted by our tariff; yet, so far from being satisfied, these industries cry lustily for increased protection.

There is no doubt that Canadian manufacturers have come to exaggerate the value of a tariff to themselves. They overlook the fact that while under a system of lower tariff they would receive less for their products, they would, on the other hand, be able to produce much more economically, and, moreover, the stimulus given to the basic industries of the country (agriculture, fishing, lumbering and mining) by decreased cost of living and of material, consequent upon tariff reduction, would provide a far larger and more prosperous home market for the manufacturer to exploit. The familiar argument that the Canadian farmer can be made prosperous by bolstering the Canadian manufacturer, while it contains some degree of force, is very much like putting the cart before the horse. The way to make the manufacturer prosperous is to make the farmer prosperous, and the way to do that is gradually to reduce the tariff to a minimum. The way to build a house is to lay the foundation first. A prosperous agriculture is the foundation on which Canadian development must be reared, though we have been and are willing to make reasonable sacrifices for the sake of building up a self-reliant country, with diversified industries and occupations.

The important question that presents itself is, How high a tariff on manufactured goods should we maintain. Extreme protectionists say put it high enough to prevent all imports of foreign goods that could be produced in Canada. Some would go the length of shutting out Southern vegetables, in order to encourage a hothouse industry in Canada, thus compelling consumers to pay for vegetables three or four times what they are worth. The out-and-out free-trader says throw down all tariff bars, build up a prosperous agriculture, and decrease the cost of living—and, consequently, labor—to a minimum, thereby affording a favorable field to manufacturing enterprise, without artificial means of limiting supply and advancing prices. Our own view was admirably expressed by a farmer the other day, who urged that the tariff should be so adjusted as to produce the maximum of customs revenue, which is a point somewhat lower than the present tariff schedule. Any established industry, he said, which cannot be made to pay under such degree of protection as is incidentally afforded by a revenue tariff, the country is better without. The whistle costs more than it is worth.

We commend this view to those who have been agitating for an increase in the woollen duties, which are already so high as to increase the cost

of woollen clothing from 25 to 40 per cent over and above a natural competitive rate. We entertain the kindest feelings towards the woollen industry, but if it cannot get along without this much protection, we had better improve its relative position by reducing the protection on some other lines of goods.

However, when the business depression has passed, the woollen industry will naturally revive. What most Canadian manufacturing businesses need is a little less protection and a little more self-reliance and resource. When the farmer finds that his business does not pay, he has to find some other way to make it pay. When he could no longer make a profit growing barley, he turned to butter and cheese. When the manufacturer finds himself in a similar predicament, he hies him to the Government to pray for more protection, thereby seeking further to increase the handicap on agriculture, and, in fact, on all other lines of business. This sort of thing must stop, else it will eventually lead us to the fiscal folly of our Republican neighbors. It is time to turn the tables and begin gradually reducing the degree of protection to manufacturing interests, so that each industry may stand on its own feet, and those that are not well managed or not well adapted to the country, may be gradually re-organized or weeded out. In the end, this will redound to the advantage, not only of the farmer, but of the country as a whole. Favoritism has had a long day. Let the farmer's and the consumer's voice be heard.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION NEEDED.

Though unable to agree with the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in its resolution calling for higher tariff protection to Canadian industry, we do most heartily endorse and approve their demand for a general system of technical education, to the end that our artisans and captains of industry may be trained to a greater degree of proficiency. As President Roosevelt has very truly said, the keenest competition which American (and likewise Canadian) industry has to meet is not from the cheap-labor countries of Asia, but from those countries of the highest degree of industrial efficiency—Germany, for instance.

Urban as well as rural school education requires revolutionizing, and it must commence in the common school; so that, from the very beginning of his education, the manual and intellectual faculties of the child may be developed in consonance. School-gardening and nature study, manual training and, probably, domestic science, must be introduced into the lower forms of the public school. In the rural school, the emphasis will naturally fall on gardening and nature study; in town and city schools, manual training may properly receive the greater degree of attention.

With such a foundation laid in the common schools, the High Schools and colleges may continue the evolution of the child's faculties by weaving principles of agricultural science into the rural High-school curriculum; while in the city schools, those pupils with a bent for arts and trades may be offered a course of instruction that will develop them into proficient workmen, instead of heading them off from the occupations for which they were cut out, by stuffing them with an academic and purely bookish education, and finally graduating them into second or third-class teachers, doctors and lawyers. The problem of technical education is indeed a large and pressing one, calling for immediate attention and action, and the vote of \$5,000 offered by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association towards the expense of investigating and reporting upon the matter, is an act of generosity the fruits of which will reward the donors and their successors manifold.

JUDGES AND JUDGING.

The principal autumn fairs are over for another year, and judges of the live-stock classes have been subjected to the usual amount of criticism of their work, in some cases favorably, in others otherwise. The sympathies of those who have had experience in this capacity are with the men who, with honest purpose, accept the responsibility of the position, submitting themselves to possible adverse criticism, while doing the work to the best of their ability, according to the merits of the animals brought before them for comparison and placing. And we are glad to believe that, with but very few exceptions, the work is, in this country, undertaken and prosecuted in the spirit of manly fairness and impartiality. Moreover, we are satisfied, from extended experience and observation, that in no other country is more capable, conscientious and impartial adjudication the rule than in Canada.

The statement that we have seen more glaring misjudgment performed by officiating judges at the Royal Show of England, and at principal fairs in the United States, than ever we have observed in Canada, may surprise some, but it is, nevertheless, our candid opinion. And just here we may state we are proud to believe that in no country is a higher sense of personal honor and fairness entertained by stockmen and farmers generally, and by judges particularly, than in our own Dominion. Nevertheless, we find the usual crop of complaints after the fairs each year, regarding alleged improper, incapable or unfair judging in one or more classes, and, we regret to say, in some instances, with apparently good reason for censure. While it may be possible that, occasionally, and, let us hope, rarely, judicial authority is entrusted to a man so devoid of principle as to be capable of prostituting his judgment and his honor in return for the influence of an exhibitor in securing his appointment to the position of judge of the class in which the exhibitor is interested, we are glad to believe that such instances are few and far between, and that the cause for complaint, where well founded, is more generally due to incompetence, weakness of character, lack of knowledge of the approved type of the classes of stock assigned him, or want of confidence in his own judgment on the part of the man appointed. And if any of these are present, it is not strange that mistakes are made, when we reflect that even the most experienced and capable of judges are liable to occasional lapses in rating large and close classes. The important point, therefore, to be observed and guarded is the appointment of only capable men, experienced in breeding or handling the breeds or classes of stock they are invited to pass judgment upon. And, from observation and report, there is, we regret to say, too good reason to conclude that, in some instances, in recent years, too little consideration has been given to the question of the character and qualifications of men nominated or appointed to the position, even for the larger and more important exhibitions in this country, while not a few complaints have been made of the general work of some of those appointed to officiate at local fairs, where, to save expense, one man, of limited experience and ability, is sometimes entrusted with the judging of several classes of stock, if not of the whole live-stock department, from horses to swine.

It is difficult to conceive of a person conscious of unfitness for the work consenting to accept so important and responsible a position as deciding on the merits of animals on which their owners may have spent much money and a whole year's work in their fitting and preparation, and who, from experience and training in the handling of the