

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, NOVEMBER 17 1890.

McKINLEY ADVOCATES.

The great majority of the Ultra Republican journals of the United States, especially in the west, attribute the cause of their great party defeat at the late Congressional elections to the McKinley bill and its ultra tariff provisions, and many of them speak in anything but flattering terms of the bill and its framer. Some few go so far as to take as an item of consolation the fact, that among the defeated candidates was Mr. McKinley himself. There are however a very few journals which have still a favorable word for the McKinley bill, and the attempts made by such journals to discover some other cause for the great Republican rout than the passing of this bill are amusing in some instances and idiotically silly in others.

Among the silliest of silly defences of the McKinley bill is that of the St. Paul *Journal of Commerce*, which is as follows:

"The McKinley bill was an innovation. It contained new features. The belief is general that it means higher average duties. It is not understood and cannot be until it has been tried.

The people of the United States are believers in the fundamental policy of protection. They are not easily for less trade. Should the next congress establish a free trade tariff it would be repudiated more vigorously than McKinley has been. The tariff on linen, tin and some lines of woolen goods was, in theory, especially obnoxious. Practically none of us know anything about it. But it was an innovation and was set down upon."

Like a lawyer fighting a case, which he knows to be hopeless, and of which he knows he is on the wrong side, the *Journal of Commerce* feels bound to say something for its client, although it would have been better to have let all go in silence, than furnish the above puerile attempt at a defence. The article of the *Journal* commences with a statement that "The people of the United States are not fond of innovations. They do not take kindly to changes," a statement which is a libel upon the progressive record of that great nation. The birth of the nation was a startling change, and a staggering innovation upon the mediæval or ultra conservative forms of government, which were in existence in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Almost every great progressive movement in the nation's history has been attended with some startling change or innovation, so that now it is looked to by the outside world as the pioneer of political and social evolution. Yet the *Journal of Commerce*, in order to defend a petty act of tariff tinkering, would try to make its readers believe, that the United States was a foggy nation, with a people of fossilized and conservative notions, and cannot see how inconsistent, as well as opposed to fact such an argument really is.

Among the many startling innovations of United States history, prominence must be given to that most startling of all Abraham Lincoln's emancipation proclamation, which according to the argument of the *Journal of Commerce* must have been distasteful to the people of the United States, instead of being as it now is pro-

claimed as one of the great and glorious acts of the nation's history. The innovation of freeing the laborer was accomplished a quarter of a century ago with the voice of the American people, and their voice at the late elections sounded like an intention to free his labor at some not distant date. The *Journal of Commerce* had better interpret the warning aright, and in view of the coming crash, prepare to "stand from under."

NO HOG QUARANTINE.

Three weeks ago THE COMMERCIAL under the heading of "A Lesson of the Season" commented strongly upon the neglect by our farmers of the profitable branch of hog raising, and referred this fall, when our farmers have an abundant supply of rough grain, root crops and other red to the anomalous state of affairs in the North first class hog feed, besides a considerable portion of wheat in a bleached and damaged state, all of which can only be made profitable in pork raising, and at the same time they are without hogs to which it can be fed. We were pleased to note afterwards, that the article in question was quoted by almost every journal in Manitoba, showing the interest taken everywhere in this very important subject.

There is no sense in the policy some people in this country wish followed out, namely of hiding, or rather denying the truth of adverse crop reports, when they really contain truth. The people of the Northwest can well afford to allow the few unpleasant truths about their country to be published, for they are trifling compared with the advantages it offers, both for settlement or investment, and they follow a far safer policy, when they do admit unpleasant facts, for the truth in this as in every other matter will come out best in the end.

It is no doubt a pleasure to a patriotic Manitoban to tell that the Northwest this year has raised a crop of wheat aggregating at least 15,000,000 bushels, but it is only wisdom to admit, that owing to a wet fall, and other unfavorable circumstances never before experienced in the country, one-fourth of this aggregate is so badly damaged as to be unfit for milling purposes, or rather unfit to be used in making the class of flour usually expected from Northwestern wheat. It might also be wise as well as truthful to admit that the bulk of the damage sustained is due to farmers of limited means, and with insufficient labor help, trying to raise and gather in crops far too large for the facilities at their command.

It is the burden of damaged wheat thus added to our plethora of rough grain and roots, which makes the hog question a burning one at present, and one which will require special and prompt measures to successfully, or even with partial success, grapple with it this winter. With this fact steadily in view THE COMMERCIAL has started into the subject, and with a practical desire to discover what had best be done under the peculiar circumstances. An agitation on the matter would be simply folly, although there existed points on which the Dominion Government could render valuable assistance. Our course was clear, namely by a calm and

intelligent correspondence with the Dominion authorities to secure if possible every assistance which could be expected from that source. The letter of the publisher to the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture, and the prompt reply to the same will be found elsewhere in this issue, and proves the anxiety of the Ottawa Government to make some concession, although that concession is only a partial help out of the temporary difficulty in which our farmers are now placed.

To any one familiar with the transportation of hogs, it is well known that the quarantine heretofore enforced in connection with their import from the United States, entailing a delay and supervision of twenty-one days at the boundary line, was equal to a prohibition of such imports. By the concession now to be made, this will be avoided, and the rich hog raising country of southern Minnesota and Iowa opened to our farmers as a purchase market. In those states there is a very short corn crop, a shorter crop of oats, and almost a famine in root crops. Hogs by the hundred thousand will have to be rushed into market there this winter for want of feed, and a very large proportion of them will be such as United States pork packers will not buy at any price, and a market even at reduced figures for them will be hard to find. It is just such hogs as the packers refuse that are wanted in this country. Those that are too poor or too young to slaughter, and they will be abundant in the states referred to.

The question of the cost of importing is one requiring consideration, but it presents no difficulties though no great advantages. Such hogs under present market quotations can be bought in Iowa and Minnesota, brought to this province, and after paying the present import duty, cost the importer somewhat over a cent a pound less than the figures at which they could be laid down from eastern Canada, with the prices prevailing there. Besides neither Ontario nor Quebec have any hogs to spare, and raisers there are not prepared to sell any unless those ready for the butcher, and such are not required by our farmers.

The concession thus made or to be made by the Dominion Government, is a reasonable one at this time, and it gains some in value from the promptitude with which it is made. It is one which should be taken advantage of with equal promptitude by our farmers. We have had a Farmers' Union in bygone years doing some very senseless and unnecessary things, but this is a matter on which farmers should unite for mutual profit. Every section of settled country should have its hog importing union, and its representative appointed to go to a southern hog country and secure for members of the Union the necessary imports of hogs. It is more than likely, that the government order in council on the subject may limit the privilege to hogs for feeding and breeding, excluding fat hogs ready for slaughter. These will probably be still subject to the quarantine or bonding arrangements. Be that as it may it will not interfere with imports for the farmer. The poorer and lighter the hog the less the duty, when it is based upon weight, and plenty of the kind wanted can be had within 500 miles of the Manitoba boundary,