

accumulation of their wealth they are forcing men and women to live under conditions such as these! Do their wives and daughters know that the luxury which they enjoy, the magnificent homes, the motor cars, the jewels, and the costly gowns which are to them a part of the necessities of life, are the fruits of a system which involves such misery and wretchedness for their fellow humans! For the sake of our faith in human nature, we hope not.

OUR PIONEER MOTHERS

No stronger instinct dominates human kind than that which impels them towards the establishment of a home upon a portion of the earth, which the Creator gave for the free use of all mankind. No better illustration of this unerring instinct can be shown than the unparalleled rush of people from all quarters of the globe to the Prairie Provinces. The lure of the land is irresistible. The land hunger forces untold thousands from countries where land is monopolized, or held at prohibitive prices, to come to a country where land is advertised to be free for the asking. Obeying this natural and heaven-blessed instinct thousands of young women have left the shelter and comfort of parental homes, and with their husbands have come to build homes of their own. In thousands of one and two-roomed log cabins, or it may be in sod shacks, out on the Western prairies from twenty-five to one hundred miles from the railways these women are living today. The mud-chinked walls of their humble abodes protect them from the inclemency of the Western winters. The candle or the coal oil lamp lights the long winter evenings, and sheet iron heater or the cook stove protects them from the ravages of King Frost. The furniture is plain and substantial, and the clothing is secured more for comfort than for appearance. But these young wives and husbands, as side by side they face the struggles of pioneer life are not unhappy. They live largely in the future, for the day when their homestead will be "proved up" and will be to them a home which they can call their own. As the years pass children come to the home and bring additional joys and responsibilities. Those who live in homes surrounded by every convenience do not realize the courage required by these pioneer women. The journey through the mysterious land of motherhood has frequently not been brightened by the skilled assistance of physicians and practically never by the comforting presence of the trained nurse. These homes are far away from medical assistance and beyond the habitation of the Sisters of Mercy. Many of these women in such crises have given up life's struggle, which might easily have been continued had medical aid been within reach. The increasing cares brought by the young family are borne with brave hearts and smiling faces. These pioneer women have the courage of the Spartan mother. In these frugal and deserving homes, and there are thousands of them on our lonely prairies, every cent is carefully counted and is expended with a thriftiness that puts to shame our public financiers. This picture is not overdrawn, as thousands of our readers can testify; neither in its portrayal is there a desire to discourage our Western mothers, to whom the nation owes a debt which will forever remain unpaid. They are hewing the paths of civilization and rearing the citizens of the future. Our motive is to present a plea on behalf of these uncomplaining mothers that they may be given a square deal and be treated by their fellowmen as human beings quite within the range of the application of the Golden Rule. Consider for the moment that these mothers when leaving the railway on the long drive to their cabin homes pass by tens of thousands and in some cases hundreds of thousands of acres of virgin land awaiting only the hand of the husbandman. But upon none of this land may

they rest nor erect a home, because the greed of the land speculator backed up by a barbarian law prohibits it. And when they have reached their homes and gone beyond the realm of doctors and nurses, and the church and the clergyman, and the schoolhouse and the teacher, and the merchant and post office, and the other marks of civilization, we wish for them that they might obtain freedom, but it is not so. Where civilization gives them less it demands more, contrary to the divine mandate that where much is given much shall be required. In this humble home where we have been visiting, where the real struggle for existence is being fought out, the cruel hand of Special Privilege is ever present to make the struggle harder. And every cent of wealth created on these homesteads must be divided and half given to those who already live in the palaces of the millionaire. Is it fair? Is it just? Is it right? Is it according to the Sermon on the Mount, that this miserable blot upon our civilization should remain, or should we say to these pioneers: "Build your homes wherever you find vacant land; buy where you can buy cheapest; sell where you can sell highest, and pay tribute to no man." We believe that such is due to our pioneer mothers, who are the true heroines of our nation. Let us give them a square deal.

A JUST TARIFF IMPOSSIBLE

All the ingenuity of men and all the investigations of tariff commissions will never produce a protective tariff that will be just to all classes. In other words it is impossible to protect one industry by means of the tariff without imposing a burden upon every other industry. The duty on cement, for instance is an advantage to the manufacturers of that commodity, because it enables them to charge a higher price for their product, but it is a disadvantage to the building industry and to everyone who uses cement. The duty on coal is an advantage to the owners of coal mines, but it is a disadvantage to every manufacturer who uses coal to feed his steam engines and to every householder who burns coal to warm his home and to cook his food. The iron and steel duties are an advantage to the iron manufacturer, but they are a disadvantage to the innumerable industries of which iron is the raw material.

Protection is also given as one of the reasons for high railway rates. H. M. P. Eckardt, in an article in the Monetary Times of November 30, dealing with the relation of government guarantees to railway rates, says:—

"There is another respect in which the railways are entitled to consideration at the hands of the government. No one can deny that the policy followed by both Liberal and Conservative governments of building up Canadian industries by means of a protective tariff, has served to increase the cost of constructing railway lines in Canada and of equipping and operating them. Locomotives, cars, steel rails and other supplies cost more because the railways are denied the right to buy free of duty in the markets of the world."

Again, because of protection, food, clothing, houses, and most other necessities of life are dearer, and because these things are dearer employers of labor must pay higher wages. As a result they must either charge more for their products or take less profit for themselves. All this discourages industry. Protection thus defeats its own object. It works to the disadvantage even of protected industries, except those which enjoy considerably more than the average amount of protection. But if protection is a burden even upon protected industries what can be said of its effect upon industries which have to bear the burdens of protection without getting any of the benefits? The agricultural industry, the largest and most important industry of Canada, is in this position. It has been demonstrated again and again that the Canadian farmer receives no advantage from the tariff

in selling his products, although he suffers from the tariff every time he spends a dollar. This is unjust to the farmer and a discouragement of Canada's basic industry. The farmer, however, does not ask for a tariff that will enable him to plunder others, but that the tariff that enables others to plunder him should be swept away.

SHALL CANADA BE THE LAGGARD?

In the march towards democracy Canada lags behind the Motherland and her self-governing sisters in the Empire. Great Britain sixty years ago abolished her protective tariff, one of the chief enemies of democracy, and is making towards the freedom of the land for the use of the people. Telephones and telegraphs are public utilities, the cost being reduced and the service improved. The British civil service is a model for the world and a standing rebuke to the system of patronage and graft in Canada. The power of the lords has been broken, the poor and infirm are being provided for and Ireland is to have self-government.

In Australia and New Zealand the railways and telegraphs are operated by the people and there are no plutocratic railway magnates dominating governments and milking the public as in Canada. In these two sister dominions, the women exercise the franchise and manufacturers have not the chief power in the making of the tariff laws. Big land owners are compelled to sell and cheap credit is provided for farmers who are recognized as the foundation of the national greatness. South Africa has also solved the railway problem by public ownership and the blighting grip of privilege-seeking manufacturers is not known in that country. In Canada we believe we have climate and natural resources superior to any of these countries, but the people of Canada have not the freedom. Not in any country under the sun are the forces of privilege more powerfully organized than in Canada. Not even in the United States, the cradle of plutocracy, have the railways, bankers and manufacturers such a grip upon the people. Our railways are practically uncontrolled, our manufacturers have the tariff made to suit their own sweet will, and our banking combine is beyond comparison. Year by year this mighty Triple Alliance is drawing tighter the strings on the Canadian people. Are the Canadians willing to be the laggards of the Anglo-Saxon race? Shall it be said that we have not the courage to govern ourselves? How long shall we tolerate the extortion of our railways, our manufacturers and our bankers? This is of more importance than the childish quarrels between self-seeking politicians.

Andrew Carnegie celebrated his 77th birthday a few days ago. "The universe is well" was the sweeping verdict of the Steel King. "I have a higher opinion of the race than ever." A fortune reckoned in the hundreds of millions might naturally enough cause anyone to survey mankind through rosy-tinted spectacles. But to our way of thinking, "all's well with the world" can never truthfully be said so long as the economic system permits the heaping up of such gigantic fortunes as Carnegie's. Even a philanthropic effort to hand back millions of dollars to the people does not make everything right.

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