

The Duty on Agricultural Implements

"In the opinion of this House the time has arrived when in the interests of the farmers and consequently in the interests of the whole of Canada, the duties on agricultural implements should be forthwith removed." This resolution, one of vital importance to farmers in Canada, was introduced in the House of Commons recently by W. E. Knowles, the member for Moose Jaw, Sask., and in response to a request from one of our subscribers. Farm and Dairy gives herewith a brief resume of the case for free implements, even though the news may be stale to the man who takes a daily paper and reads it.

"The growth of our exports in agricultural implements," said Mr. Knowles, in support of his resolution, "shows that this industry has been on an entirely different footing than any other manufacturing industry. It can stand free trade. When the tariff was revised in 1894 our exports of agricultural implements, amounted to \$466,479. The tariff on agricultural implements was next revised in the fall of 1906 when our exports amounted to \$2,099,104. Our exports in the last fiscal year, ending March, 1913, amounted to \$6,152,559. Since the great reduction was made in 1894, when the tariff on agricultural implements was reduced from 35 per cent to the Mackenzie Government figure of 20 per cent, our exports have grown more than 13 times. Our exports last year when the duty was 17½ per cent were 13 times as much as they were when the duty was 35 per cent in 1894. Our exports of other manufactured goods during that time have not grown to anything like that extent. They have grown only five and a half times. Our exports of all manufactured goods in 1894 amounted to \$7,692,755 and in 1913 to \$43,692,708. They have grown five and a half times as against 13 times in the case of agricultural implements.

"Let us make another comparison: our exports and imports. Taking all manufactured goods as a whole, we import more than 10 times as much as we export. Last year we imported to the amount of \$462,461,945, and our exports of all manufactured goods amounted to \$43,692,708, or not one-tenth as much as we imported. We find just the contrary in the case of agricultural implements. Last year we imported \$4,445,484 worth, and exported \$6,152,559 worth; that is to say we exported more than one and a half times as much as we imported, whereas, taking manufactured goods as a whole, we imported 10 times as much as we exported."

Mr. Knowles failed to see the reason or justice in a tariff which made it possible for Canadian manufacturers of agricultural implements to sell their mowers, binders and plows cheaper to Frenchmen and Germans, or even to Russians and Australians than they do to our own Canadian farmers. Canadian implement manufacturers have demonstrated that they can compete with foreign manufacturers on any market in the world and yet for the home market they claim the protection of the protective tariff.

In support of his contention that implements can be manufactured as cheaply in Canada as elsewhere, Mr. Knowles resorted to the testimony given by Mr. Metcalfe, who reported the International Harvester Co., before the Ways and Means Committee at the Congress in Washington, in 1908-09. Mr. Metcalfe swore that it cost practically the same to manufacture in Hamilton

as in Chicago, and the firm that he represented had factories in both cities. Mr. Knowles then gave specific instances of where machines manufactured in Canada had been sold at lower quotations in the western states than in the prairie provinces. Comparative quotations were then quoted from the Grain Growers' Guide as follows:

| Implement | Winnipeg | Minneapolis |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 8-foot binder | ... \$425.00 | \$340.00 |
| 7-foot binder | ... 327.00 | 325.00 |
| 6-foot mower | ... 35.50 | 35.00 |
| 6-foot mower | ... 35.50 | 43.00 |
| 10-foot hay rake | ... 30.00 | 34.00 |
| 12-foot hay rake | ... 30.00 | 32.00 |
| 70 bushels manure spreader | ... 155.00 | 135.00 |
| 12-inch gang plough | ... 75.00 | 60.00 |
| 14-inch still beam walking plough | ... 17.00 | 12.00 |
| Hay tedder | ... 49.50 | 36.00 |

The question was debated vigorously for several hours without any definite decision being arrived at.

The Advantage of Small Fields

(Continued from page 5)

ence in the appearance. Where the sub-soil had been exposed we brought a little back.

We kept track of the cost and it cost us for labor at odd times when the men would not have been doing anything quite as valuable, \$1 for 300 yards; so you see the expense was not great, and now that field never has any water winter or summer; it all runs away in that ditch. We have a ditch and we have no ditch. We can work right through it and grow corn right through it, and in the bottom of that ditch we had corn last year, and it was just as good a crop as anywhere else.

A PATCHWORK FIELD

"I saw a smaller field about 10 miles from here where a farmer had a big ditch across a field of about 15 acres and it was divided into about 10 acres on one side and six on the other; and it was a triangular field. By adopting the method I have just described he could have that in one field."

"Do away with all these little bits of fields. There is no longer any necessity for having three or four cows here and four over there a little patch here and another yonder. Get your farms into as large fields as you can. A large field will pay for the labor of bringing a number of small fields into large fields in one year. It concentrates your work and saves you going around with your tools from one field to another, and it enables you to use larger machines. When you have got your farm into large fields and are following the right rotation you will wonder why you did not do it before.

"I know you are not doing it, because I see these little farms every year where it is not done. I suppose there is not a farmer in this audience to-day but does not know what good rotation is, and just as the best rotation that I am just what the confidence that there is not more than about 10 per cent. of the farmers here that are following a good rotation. We know, but we do not do."

The question is frequently asked, "Is it safe to plant potatoes on a field where blight and rot have been destructive the previous season?" The New York Agricultural Experiment Station answers, in Bulletin No. 367, "The fungus causing blight and rot does not survive freezing in the soil; so that, under all ordinary conditions, it is as safe to plant potatoes in a field where those diseases have prevailed during a past season, as in any other place.



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