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to assume any such thing. Even during these war times, when prices for farm produce have been very high, farm expenses have risen almost, if not quite, in proportion, except perhaps, in a few special cases. Moreover does Mr. Parsons know that all of the cereals, the value of which produced 32 per cent. upon the capital, were sold? Possibly a large bulk of them were fed to live stock and sold as "other than cereals." If such be the case, Mr. Parsons' argument falls to the ground, at once as worthless, even supposing his other assumptions valid. Under normal conditions, and throughout all Canada, the results are very different, as Mr. Parsons may see if he will examine the statistics for the years 1910-14.

Calculations Wide of the Mark

Mr. Parsons' figuring on the implement business is interesting. I fear, however, that he has overlooked the fact that the Canadian farmer not only pays the duty on imported implements, but the equivalent enhanced price—that "incidental protection," which Mr. Parsons says has brought so many industries to Hamilton—as well. In such case, Mr. Parsons' calculations are very wide of the mark. At all events, they are entirely different from those of careful farmers who have made estimates of the cost of the Tariff tax.

May I suggest further that the "manufacturers" would doubtless get great relief by having free raw material and free machinery, even if their protection were cut off. And this is only fair. Were the "manufacturers" protection withdrawn without relieving him of the tax upon his raw material and his machinery, he would be in the same position in which Canadian farmers have found themselves for so long—forced to sell in an open market and to buy in a restricted market. We protest against this for ourselves and we wish to extend to all other Canadian industries the same fair play that we demand for ourselves. Of course, it is theoretically possible to make protection fair to all parties. This is the ostensible ideal of the sincere Protectionist. In such case every industry must suffer equal disadvantage and enjoy equal advantage. It is as if half a dozen snakes were placed head to tail in a circle and each started to swallow the one in front at an equal rate; such would be "adequate protection to all Canadian industries," a phrase which has made its originator ridiculous. In practice, however, protection doesn't work out that way; one or more of the snakes is handicapped, and Mr. Parsons doubtless has sufficient imagination to realize what would happen in such a case, and to apply the moral.

I make no comment upon Mr. Parsons' claim for recognition of the Canadian "manufacturers' contributions and obligations, other than to suggest that the "manufacturers' contributions as capitalists are relatively trifling, and could very easily be dispensed with, as they have in the British co-operative movement. Further, I venture to say that Canada's idle acres will attract a goodly number of willing workers, and that it may not be perpetually necessary for a worker to get permission from a capitalist in order to get busy and earn his living.

Mr. Hughes' remarks, as quoted, may or may not correctly represent "Australia's attitude." They are, however,

The Grain Growers' Guide

merely an exhortation to organize the Empire, which may, or may not, be a good thing for the Empire or the world. Germany is the crowning example of national organization. The vital thing is the spirit and purpose of the organization.

Greater Production Necessary

Mr. Parsons speaks truly, when he says: "There is only one way to pay off our accumulated war debts, and that is by producing in field, forest, mine and factory all that we possibly can;" etc. This, too, is the only way to secure material prosperity at home. We cannot enjoy it if we do not produce. Greater production is highly desirable. And it is for this very reason that farmers believe in such a radical change in our fiscal policy as is set forth in the "Farmers' National Platform." Such will involve readjustments, but, on the whole, will greatly stimulate production, because it opens wide the opportunity to labor and kill out parasitism. We advocate the National Platform on national grounds.

Mr. Parsons proceeds to expatiate on the need for "home markets." Some of us have heard this before, and would be more inclined to pay attention to it if we believed that Free Trade would wipe out all our secondary industries. Moreover, if the home market is the only one that will be available for farm produce, how are we going to pay off our foreign debt? Perhaps we shall do that with our manufactures! Then there will be a home market, and we shall be a manufacturing country, like England, providing our manufacturers can compete with other manufacturers in the foreign market. They claim that they cannot compete in the market next their very doors, and need "protection"—so the outlook is bad, no matter which way we turn. No doubt if the farmers' policy is adopted all our manufacturers will be killed, and, as our farmers will have neither a home market nor a foreign market they will be forced to raise only enough food for themselves and their families! We shall be reduced to the homelike condition of patriarchal times, with a few primitive pastoral people roaming over the plains hunting wild cattle, as the red Indians did the buffalo! And our foreign debt! That must either be repudiated or we must remain in perpetual financial servitude!

Time to Brush Away the Cobwebs

When it comes to the question of international trade, protectionists' brains are filled with many cobwebs, through which things look all topsy-turvy. Mr. Parsons should brush these away by a serious study of Political Economy, and then he would know how "to build up and not tear down," a sentiment with which we are in complete accord.

To Mr. Parsons' concluding paragraph, we all say Amen. "Get together," I have done what I could, even to the point of offering to explain what was alleged to mystify the "manufacturers." All advances, however, have received the polite refusal, so that I have been forced to conclude that the C.M.A. is, on the whole, quite unwilling to discuss Tariff matters with farmers. Mr. Parsons talks differently, and I can only hope that his views may not prove valid. Let him but delay too long, however, lest one snake wholly engulfs the other; that making a friendly 1915 is a task impossible.



Men of the Machine Gun Corps galloping into action.

August 28, 1915

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