

TARIFF POLICIES

If the editorial staff and the owners of the Winnipeg Telegram combined their efforts they could not make worse charges against The Guide than that journal has made in the past few weeks. The Telegram declares that the West is opposed to reciprocity, and because it cannot find any proof of its contention it proceeds to abuse The Guide and the leaders of the organized farmers. The Telegram has stated its tariff policy in its issue of April 18 as follows:

"More farmers are making up their minds every day to sink this miserable experimental makeshift (the reciprocity agreement) a thousand fathoms deep, and then endeavor to have the tariff adjusted upon a sound, scientific basis, instead of being a scramble by special interests for license to practice plunder and extortion."

This tariff platform of The Telegram's sounds somewhat like the tariff utterance of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Winnipeg in 1894 when he said:

"I denounce the policy of protection as bondage, yes, bondage; and I refer to bondage in the same manner that American slavery was bondage."

If the Telegram's tariff platform means the same kind of downward tariff revision that we have been getting for the past 15 years it will hardly be pleasing. The farmers, on the other hand, know exactly what they want and are prepared to state in definite figures what action they want taken towards the tariff.

BOUNTIES ON IRON AND STEEL

The promoters of the steel industry in Canada are determined to have a bounty from the Dominion treasury if possible. Manufacturing is only a small part of their business. The really profitable end is politics. If they can operate their plants profitably under the high tariff protection afforded them it is well. If in addition to this they can get a donation of \$17,000,000 from the people's pocket book that is real business. Thus, as Mr. Edward Porritt says: "Industry leans on the politician." Today many promoters of industry in Canada figure first on the profits they can make legitimately. Then they proceed to hold up some city or town for free sites and tax exemptions. This is followed by a raid upon the provincial treasuries. This is the plan followed by the steel and iron industry. The actual manufacturing business is used as a blind to distract attention while the treasury of the people is being tapped. The people of Canada have given to the steel plant at Sydney, Nova Scotia, sufficient to build their entire plant. What return do the people get? They pay more for the products of the plant than they would pay if there were no tariff. The steel rails from that plant are sent to Australia cheaper than they are sold to Canadian railways. This is subsidizing not only Canadian industry, but Australian railways as well. Is there any wonder that freight rates are lower in Australia? Now in the face of this the steel magnates want more gifts. If the people protest they are called unpatriotic. We are led to believe that agriculture is the mainstay of Canada. Since 1867 the expenditure by the federal government for arts, agriculture, statistics, civil government and quarantine has been \$14,464,935.48. During this same time there has been given from the federal treasury \$697,000,000 in railway grants, guarantees and subsidies; \$83,000,000 for the militia, and more than \$17,000,000 in bounties to the iron and steel industry. Of course the expenditures for railways, though very lavish, as well as for the militia, were for the benefit of the agricultural classes as for others. But the expenditure for iron and steel was for the benefit of no class. More has been given to aid a little handful of manipulators in iron and steel than to assist agriculture in all Canada. The people still own the experimental farms and have something to show

for the expenditure for agriculture. There is nothing whatever to show for the expenditure on iron and steel. If we went into the other huge benefits conferred upon the manufacturing industry as compared with the niggardly appropriation for agriculture it would be an alarming picture. Every man wants to see manufacturing industries built up in Canada, but there is no sense nor reason in giving the promoters of these industries sufficient cash to build and equip their plants, pay dividends on watered stock and then give the whole thing into private hands. If the policy adopted towards agriculture had been the same as towards manufacturing, Canadian farmers today would be rolling in wealth. As it is, they are being compelled to roll out the wealth for the benefit of manipulators.

WHEAT AND RECIPROCITY

In our Mail Bag of last issue Mr. G. D. Fitzgerald asks us definitely our opinion on wheat prices when the reciprocity agreement is ratified. It is impossible for any man to state just what advantage in prices will accrue to the farmers of Western Canada from reciprocity. The Peavy elevator interests at Ottawa a few days ago said undoubtedly that the Western farmers would secure better prices for their soft grades. It is also patent that there will be keener competition for Canadian wheat, which should bring its advantages. The Minnesota grading system is of a considerably lower standard than the Canadian system, but a great deal of the wheat from Minnesota and the Dakotas is sold on sample at Minneapolis. We wish to call the attention of our readers to the following grading requirements of the Minnesota act:

"No. 1 Northern Spring Wheat—Shall be sound, sweet and clean, may consist of the hard and soft varieties of spring wheat, and weigh not less than 57 pounds to the measured bushel."

"No. 2 Northern Spring Wheat—Shall be spring wheat not clean enough nor sound enough for No. 1, but of good milling quality, and may consist of the bearded varieties, and must not weigh less than 56 pounds to the measured bushel."

"No. 3 Northern Spring Wheat—Shall be composed of inferior, shrunken, spring wheat and weigh not less than 54 pounds to the measured bushel."

These are the grades upon which wheat is sold at Minneapolis. In order to understand the difference in prices it is necessary to consider these in the light of the Canadian grade requirements upon which the Fort William prices are based. They are as follows, quoted from the Manitoba Grain Act:

"No. 1 Northern Manitoba wheat shall be sound and well cleaned, weighing not less than 60 pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of at least 60 per centum of hard Red Fife wheat."

"No. 2 Northern Manitoba wheat shall be sound and reasonably clean, of good milling qualities and fit for warehousing, weighing not less than 58 pounds to the bushel and shall be composed of at least forty five per centum of hard Red Fife wheat."

"Any wheat not good enough to be graded as No. 2 Manitoba Northern shall be graded No. 3 Manitoba Northern in the discretion of the inspector."

Now with these standards before us we wish to call our readers' attention to the cash prices on the Minneapolis sample market and the Winnipeg Grain Exchange on the same day, April 13, which is the most convenient date at the time of writing:

Minneapolis	Winnipeg
1 Nor. 98½	1 Nor. 89½
2 Nor. 96½	2 Nor. 87½
3 Nor. 95½	3 Nor. 85

If our readers study the grade requirements for 1 Northern at Minneapolis and Winnipeg they will notice that there is a considerable difference as to weight and color. No. 2 Northern Manitoba wheat is considered by experts to be superior to 1 Northern Minnesota, and it is also claimed that a goodly portion of our No. 3 Northern wheat would

grade at 1 Northern at Minneapolis. Just what advantage the Canadian farmers will secure we do not pretend to be able to say, but there certainly will be a considerable advantage. No doubt the abolition of the duty on wheat will render necessary some changes in our marketing system, and this will have to be worked out by the farmers and those connected with the grain trade with a view to securing for the Western farmers the utmost market value of his wheat.

The announcement made by Mr. Fielding in his budget speech on April 4, that the steel bounties would not be renewed, caused the price of Dominion Iron and Steel stock to drop from 60 to 56 on the stock exchange. This gives a fair indication that the bounties bestowed upon this institution by the Dominion government have been used to create dividends. The manipulators of the steel and iron industries have not yet given up hope that they will again be allowed to tap the Dominion treasury. They are still holding out this hope in order to hold up the price of their stock.

According to the Winnipeg Telegram, Mr. Glen Campbell at his meeting at Neepawa on April 17 told his audience that "he was only a farmer like his hearers, his interests were INIMICAL with theirs, and he wished to address his hearers from that line." It is gratifying to know that before he goes back to Ottawa he has admitted his inconsistency. We are glad to know from Mr. Campbell personally that he is really opposed to the Western farmers.

Seeding has begun and the farmers are getting busy. Unlike the Protected Interests, the farmers have to depend for success upon the efficiency of their labor and on the bounties of Providence. The Protected Interests depend largely upon their political influence and the bounties of the Dominion government to give them their chiefest profits.

It should be made a rule that every interest demanding protection should publish a detailed statement of its business, profits, salaries and capitalization each year. If the people have to support these industries they have a right to know what they are supporting.

Those working for the cause of reform should not be discouraged if immediate results are not all that could be asked for. If the foundation is rightly laid and the educational work properly carried on the results are as sure as anything can be.

"The barbarous instinct of the protectionist mind," is a splendid phrase coined years ago by Sir Richard Cartwright. It must worry him to see so much of that "barbarous instinct" so close to him.

There is again some talk of a tariff commission. There is not much need of a commission when the government has already carloads of expressions on the tariff from all parts of the country.

Col. Sam Hughes, in the House of Commons last week, said that the leaders of the Grain Growers were in the pay of the government. This was a statesmanlike utterance about the size of Col. Hughes.

In United States there are members of Congress who refuse to follow the dictation of party leaders, but who are determined to fight in the interests of the people. May insurgency become a habit in Canada?

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