

TOWN AND COUNTRY.

From *The Gazette*, Montreal, February 18th, 1898.

A letter from the Farmer's Sun on the subject of binder twine and farmers' interests, printed elsewhere, in its general argument covers more than the case of the industry, attacks upon which called it forth. Its plea that the cordage manufacturers should be put on the same footing as other manufacturers simply asks for justice, and injustice is involved in refusing it. The letter, however, deals with the larger issue of the union of interests between country and town and of the value to the former of whatever policy tends to the development of the latter. The idea that town and country must be opposed to each other, and that the man who invests his money in a manufacturing enterprise must be the fiscal enemy of the man whose capital is his farm, was assiduously cultivated for many years in Canada. It was practically abandoned, however, by the party that made most out of it, the moment its leaders had the responsibility of power placed upon them. A great deal has been said, in and out of Parliament, of the large growth in the pork packing industry, that followed the imposition in 1890 of a stiff protective duty. Not only did the imports into Canada of pork, bacon, hams and lard decline, but the exports rapidly expanded from about half a million in annual value to between three and four millions. The quality of the goods was also so much improved that Canadian Bacon now stands in the front rank in the British market, and commands a ready sale when other foreign meats are left in the warehouses. It is quite possible that for a time the increased duty caused the people in the towns and cities in