

## Speech

agriculturists of this country. Generally speaking, they are the least likely to harbor such sentiments. There is, of course, a worthy socialism in which all right-speaking people should unite. I would add to above that it was understood when the Union government was formed and representatives from the West were included in the cabinet the tariff was to remain in the background during the period of the war. Personally, therefore, I have not since written or spoken in public on this topic, and, much as I would like to say some things in answer to the many statements and references of your editorial, I feel that I am debarred from entering into the discussion. In passing, however, would say that you may not be aware of the fact that the average rate of duty paid on imports of dutiable goods coming into the United States for year ended June 30, 1916 (under the reduced Democratic schedule) was 30.67 per cent. while in Canada for year ended March 31, 1917, it was only 23.78 per cent. outside of war tax, which, of course, manufacturers did not desire and in many cases have been made poorer by the amount of. If your sentiments became the conviction of the entire country probably half the industries in Canada would be destroyed and a very large section of our population would soon be included among the citizens of our neighbors to the south. It would ruin many of our towns and cities, paralyze our banking and transportation interests, and bring about national confusion. The manufacturing interests of this country are greater in value than the interests of all other producers put together and it is almost inconceivable to think that a purely agricultural country would be prosperous as Canada is to-day. We are compelled to face the fact that national and not selfish or sectional interests must receive first consideration.

I have no disposition to discuss the various combines mentioned in Canada, some of which have benefitted the people generally and some have resulted disastrously for all concerned, but judge that they are not all in Eastern Canada. Probably if the Grain Growers' Company and associated companies wanted to put their interests upon the market they would include an amount of water on account of their huge earning power that might be five to ten times the actual capital, judging by their published statements. It is probably wide of the mark to take up such questions as growing out of my address.

As to the production of millionaires in Canada, it might be well to keep in mind the statement of the "Manchester Guardian" recently that there were more millionaires in free trade England in proportion than in the United States. Evidently, therefore, a Canadian revenue tariff, more necessary than ever, which at the same time provides reasonable protection for the industries that are being built up alongside of a populous and wealthy protectionist country, cannot be held responsible for some men making fortunes.

Referring to your threat that the political strength of the West when sufficient will compel a recognition of western rights, etc., I have nothing whatever to say. If this is the spirit in which we approach our great problems I am afraid and sorry to think we will always be hopelessly divided.—S. R. Parsons, Toronto, president Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

## HUNDRED DOLLAR WAGER

In the Farmer's Advocate, London, Ont., March 28, Mr. Parsons replies to a correspondent and makes a wager on the honor of his association. His letter follows:—

Editor, The Farmer's Advocate: Someone has been good enough to send me a clipping from your paper dated March 14th in which a Mr. I. T. Lennox attempts to criticize some statements I made in an address recently delivered before the Canadian Club of Orillia. Mr. Lennox surely wilfully misrepresents my entire attitude. In that address I tried to show that producers of all classes should stand to-

gether in their mutual interests. My whole thought was to make it appear that all producers were doing fairly well at the present time and that they ought to have more confidence in and goodwill toward each other.

I pointed out that in the case of The Grain Growers' Grain Company and their associated companies (the three of which had been amalgamated according to newspaper reports) the total profits of the three concerns had amounted to over \$1,800,000 on a capital, it was stated, of \$2,000,000, which is equal to ninety per cent. profit. I also noted the well-known case of a certain packing house that was said to have made eighty per cent. profits on its capital. It must be remembered, however, that I made clear that these instances of making enormous profits on capital were altogether extraordinary and that neither in agriculture nor in manufacturing were large profits the rule but rather the exception. Notwithstanding Mr. Lennox's denial of the profits of The Grain Growers' Grain Company and associated companies, I must surely take the printed statements as given in the newspapers unless same are officially corrected. I may also state that I can furnish proof of the case I mentioned of the farmer being unwilling to purchase a buggy with one hundred bushels of wheat as his father had done in earlier years.

Mr. Lennox makes a statement as follows: "Some years ago the Secretary of the Manufacturers' Association stated in Winnipeg that they were two thousand five hundred strong, were like a young giant and did not know their own strength, and could paralyze the trade of the Dominion and bring seven million people to the verge of starvation." Now, if Mr. Lennox will bring proof of this statement, which I have never heard of previously, I will agree to devote one hundred dollars to any charitable institution that the Editor of The Farmer's Advocate may select.

Let me add a further well-known fact, among those who have had to consider national affairs in a large way, that if it had not been for the manufacturing industries of this country during the period of the war, Canada would have been bankrupt today. The time has come when great national interests must be considered first and foremost of all and all our petty, foolish, sectional, and selfish considerations give way to large questions and policies that alone will enable us to bear our war burdens and fulfil our destiny as a nation. Surely we cannot afford to be fighting with each other. I do not believe for one moment that either the agriculturists of this country or the manufacturers have any grudge against each other. These are the two great interests upon which all the rest of the country must depend. If they are prosperous well and good, but if not others cannot prosper. A large study and broader outlook of our great national questions will lead us to esteem each other to the fullest possible extent.

It may surprise Mr. Lennox to know that I was Chairman of a committee last summer that furnished thousands of men to the farmers from the manufacturing plants of Ontario, at a time when they could be badly spared, in order to help reap the harvest; further, that in many cases the manufacturers paid the difference in wages rather than that there should be crops not garnered. This is also to be our program for the coming season.—S. R. Parsons, President Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

Self-help goes a long way if fairly carried out. Co-operators accept the advice to do it. It is their intent, their policy, their method of procedure. They help themselves by honesty and industry. Let other classes do the same in the same way and give up the advantages the State has given them. Then there will be improvement all round. There will be neither pride, nor crime, nor want, and the State will have nobody squealing for its aid.—George Jacob Holyoake.

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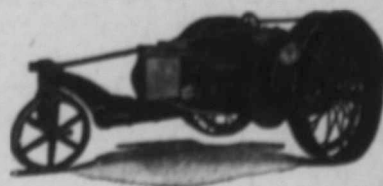
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